on Sunday



Chhattisgarh CM Baghel gets rousing welcome at Raipur airport



Doctors, academics urge govt. to reopen schools on priority



U.S. drone strike targets IS 'planner' in Afghanistan

Robinson bowls England to innings win, helps team pull level 1-1

heard back. "The situation is

still very fluid. There are a

number of issues on which

decisions will have to be ta-

ken," an official source said

when asked about the pro-

blem for students in general

and ICCR scholarship hol-

ders in particular. "We will

ghan students.



Mukhtar Ansari's brother, former Minister join SP

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday inducted controversial politician Mukhtar Ansari's elder brother Sigbatullah Ansari, who is a former MLA from Mohammadabad in Ghazipur, and former Uttar Pradesh Minister Ambika

Chaudhary into the SP. **NORTH & EAST** ▶ PAGE 5

Don't hire people with

record of violence: SC NEW DELHI The Supreme Court has held that public employers, especially the police, should take care not to induct criminals into their rolls while brushing off their violent past as "petty misdemeanours" of youth quite common in rustic India. The court said certain types of repetitive crimes such as molestation of women, assault, trespass. etc., point to its casteist, hierarchical underbelly.

CBI arrests 2 in Bengal

NEWS ▶ PAGE 7

post-poll violence case The CBI on Saturday arrested two persons in connection with post-poll violence in West Bengal. The duo, Bijoy Ghosh and Ashima Ghosh, are accused in the murder of Dharma Mondal at Chapra in Nadia district. They would be produced before a competent court, the agency said **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 8

MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES **CLASSIFIEDS** ▶ PAGE 4

Amid visa cancellations, uncertainty haunts 1,500 Afghan ICCR scholars

MEA has sought clarity from Home Ministry

SUHASINI HAIDAR SHINJINI GHOSH

It has been a month since 27year-old Shafiq Sultan spoke to his family, but what is troubling him even more is the silence from the Indian government about the future of thousands of Afghan scho-

lars like him. Mr. Sultan, who worked formerly for the Afghan government in the Customs Department, received the prestigious Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) Master's degree at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), as part of a programme launched by the Ministry of External Affairs in 2005, and has applied for a doctoral degree (PhD). However, he has received no response from the government about whether his visa and the stipend provided by the ICCR for his living expenses would be continued.

"At this point, if I return to my country, there is no doubt that I will be killed within a day. The Taliban have access to all kinds of database and they are literally going door-to-door," Mr. Sultan told The Hindu, adding that he hopes the government will consider giving him a "new life" by accepting his plea to let him and around 400 other students, who graduated in August, to stay on and continue their

Wait continues

About 800 students who were awarded the scholarship for the new term beginning in August are also waiting to hear about their visas to begin their degrees at various colleges and universities in India. Some had applied for the visas already, at the Indian Embassy in Kabul. The Hindu had reported earlier on the plight of those whose passports are either still stuck at the embassy or visa centre, or been mis-



Afghanistan Ambassador Farid Mamundzay with an ICCR scholar in April 2021. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

placed or stolen, and last week, the MHA announced that all "previously issued visas" to Afghan nationals not in India "stand invalidated with immediate effect", citing security apprehensions

leaving the country, as well as the loss of their degrees, and possibly future careers in the process. The Hindu spoke to several students with similar predicaments, and while all said they had applied for the new-

This also affects about 400

other students, who are at

present in the middle of their

studies in India, and had to

return to Afghanistan when

the COVID-19 pandemic led

to the closing down of un-

iversities. As educational in-

stitutions now re-open, these

students are the worst hit, as

they deal with the new fright-

ening realities of the Taliban

regime, the restrictions on

ly launched "e-Emergency X-Misc visa" online, none have

ensure that the interests of Afghan students are secured," the source added. Afghanistan's Ambassador to India Farid Mamundzay, who remains in place in Delhi despite the change in Kabul told The Hindu that he had now raised the issue of the students with the ICCR. and sources said the Ministry

of External Affairs (MEA) had

written to the Ministry of

Home Affairs (MHA) formal-

about 14,000 scholarships offered so far. MHA officials, who will take a final call on the issue, did not reply to requests for a

ly, seeking guidance for a to-

tal of more than 1,500 Af-

According to diplomats,

could affect the future of the

prestigious scholarship pro-

gramme that has been a ma-

jor source of goodwill for In-

dia amongst Afghans, with

government's move

comment. "If nothing else, we should keep our education, medical and trade relationship intact. along with the idea of a free and progressive Afghanistan," a former Indian Ambas-

India brought back people, holy books from Afghanistan: Modi

PM inaugurates renovated Jallianwala Bagh memorial, recalls valour of Punjab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Citing the teachings of Sikh gurus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India had not only brought back Indians from Afghanistan but also the sacred book

Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Speaking via video-conferencing at the ceremony to dedicate the renovated Jallianwala Bagh memorial, Mr. Modi said whether it was the COVID-19 crisis or the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, India stood ready to help Indians in trouble anywhere in the world. He said there were challenges and the situation was tough, but "gurukripa (grace of gurus) is

with us". New laws' find mention "Keeping the gurus' teachings of humanity at the forefront, the country has

passed new laws for its own



Sacrifices retold: The renovated Jallianwala Bagh Memorial in Amritsar will be open to visitors from Sunday. • AFP

people who were troubled by such circumstances," Mr. Modi said. Though he did not elaborate, "new laws" could be seen as a reference to the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, which seeks to fast-track citizenship for Hindu, Parsi, Buddhist, Christian and Sikh immigrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Recalling the April 13, 1919, massacre at Jallianwala Bagh, Mr. Modi said it was those "10 minutes" when the British troops opened fire that became the immortal tale for the freedom movement, which became the reason that India is celebrating 75 years of Indepen-

He spoke of the sacrifices of the people of Punjab, saying there was hardly a village or street in the State that would not have its own tale of bravery. The sons and daughters of Punjab always stood without fear against any danger facing the country, he said. He added that Punjab had always been an inspiration, and now it was important for it to progress in every way.

Mr. Modi said it was the responsibility of any nation to remember its history and not forget the horrors, like the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and Partition. He said the contribution of tribal communities in the freedom movement had not been highlighted; so the govern ment was setting up nine museums for the same.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

T.N. Assembly adopts special resolution against farm laws

Stalin says Central laws are against federal principles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Saturday adopted a special resolution, moved by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, urging the Union government to repeal the three farm laws.

While the legislators of the AIADMK and the BJP walked out opposing the resolution, their ally, the PMK, voted in favour of it.

The DMK government also announced that it would withdraw cases registered against farmer associations and political parties for their protests against these laws. The resolution said the

Farmers' Produce Trade and

(Promotion

Commerce

and Facilitation) Act, 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020, were "not suitable" for agri-

cultural development and



Making a point: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin speaking in the Assembly on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Police baton-charge farmers

The Haryana police on Saturday resorted to baton-charge on a group of farmers protesting against the visit of Chief Minister Manohar Lal and other BJP leaders in Karnal.

Four protesters and 10 police personnel suffered injuries, according to the police. Farmer leaders, however, claimed that several protesters suffered

serious injuries. ▶ PAGE 6

farmers' welfare and, therefore, urged the Union govern-

ment to repeal them. Mr. Stalin argued that the Union government having "arbitrarily" enacted the legislation without consulting the States was against federal

principles. "The Union government arbitrarily enacting laws for a department under the State government even without consulting any of the States is against federal principles. Hence, these laws

have to be rejected," he said.

'Centre using probe agencies for vendetta'

Mamata flags attack on federal set-up

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

KOLKATA Hours after reports of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) issuing notices to Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Baneriee in connection with a coal pilferage case, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre of using investigative agencies as a tool for politi-

cal vendetta. She also called for a meeting of Opposition Chief Ministers regarding the "attack on the federal structure" of

the country. "Federal structure has been done away with. I want to call a conference of all Chief Ministers on the federal structure. If the Chief Ministers agree, then I will call the meeting," Ms. Banerjee said at a virtual meeting on the occasion of the foundation day of the student wing of the Trinamool Congress.

United Opposition

"Let us all work together," the Trinamool chairperson said, emphasising that States were being denied their share of Central taxes, including the Goods and Services Tax. "Uddhav (Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray) is fighting, so is Arvind (Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kerjiwal),"

she added. Ms. Banerjee's address focused on allegations that the BJP was indulging in "vendetta politics", with Central agencies coming after the Trinamool Congress's leadership.

"You are showing me one ED notice. That very same ED I can send a bagful of papers... If you want to fight Abhishek then fight him politically," she said, and went on to name a number of leaders of her party, asking whether the BJP could pose a political challenge to

Warning note The Chief Minister said she had never indulged in vendetta politics and did not want to indulge in such kind of politics but issued a warning should things continue the way it is. "Bear in mind Bengal is a different place. There can be tit-for-tat."

Ms. Banerjee questioned the Centre's focus only on the Trinamool Congress in the coal theft case and accused the leaders of the saffron party of being in handin-glove with the coal mafia. "Amit Shah, please re-

member, during the elec-

tions a number of leaders of

your party came and stayed

at hotels owned by the coal

mafia," the Trinamool chief

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

Corridor in tatters



A portion of the under-construction elevated highway came crashing down on New Natham Road in Madurai on Saturday. Officials said one of the cables of a hydraulic jack snapped, leading to the collapse of a 70-tonne girder. A worker hailing

Gujarat to contest stay on conversion law

Will stop forcible conversion, says CM Rupani

MAHESH LANGA

from Uttar Pradesh died in the incident. • G. MOORTHY

A day after Gujarat's Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said the Constitution, secularism and the law will last as long as Hindus are in majori-

ty in India, while talking

about instances of "love ji-

marriages, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Saturday asserted that the State was committed to stopping forcible conversion through marriages. He said the State would

several sections of the Guja-

rat Freedom of Religion

(Amendment) Act, 2021.

had" through inter-faith

approach the Supreme Court against the High Court's interim order staying

arat's Minister of State for Home Pradipsinh Jadeja, in a statement, said the menace of "love jihad" was real and the State government would approach the top court challenging the interim order of the High Court, which has stayed the provisions of the anti-conversion law dealing with inter-faith marriages in Gujarat.

Earlier, on Thursday, Guj-

The assertive remarks by

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

amended anti-conversion law would be the ruling party's centrepiece for the campaign in the run-up to the Assembly poll to be held next year in the communally sensitive State, where polarisation along religious lines is always sharply shaping the political narrative.

three top functionaries in as

many days suggest that the

5 from T.N. held in Mysuru rape case

One of them is a murder accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Five persons from Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu, including a juvenile, have been arrested in connection with the Mysuru gang rape case at the Chamundi foothills on Tuesday. One of the arrested was involved in a murder in Erode district in Tamil Nadu

that occurred two years ago. The arrest comes within five days of the gang rape. A dragnet has been laid to nab the sixth person involved in

the crime. Director-General and Inspector-General of Police of Karnataka Praveen Sood said here on Saturday that based on scientific and technical clues ferreted out by investigating teams, they had arrested the five persons. However, Mr. Sood refused to disclose the nature of the clues pursued by the investigating teams.

Vehicle seized

Sources in the Tiruppur police told The Hindu that the police teams from Karnataka arrested four of the accused near Avinashi in Tidistrict. They nabbed the other accused from Talavadi in Erode district. The police also seized a mini-truck allegedly used by the accused and handed it over to the Karnataka The police teams left

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

DGP Praveen Sood announcing the arrest at a press conference in Mysuru on Saturday. • M.A. SRIRAM

along with the accused for Karnataka around 8 a.m. on Saturday, sources said. Mr. Sood said those ar-

rested used to be engaged in

carpentry, wiring and other works, and one of them was a driver. He used to visit Mysuru frequently to transport vegetables and other commodities to the Agricultural **Produce Market Committee** yard in the city and bring along his friends. "This time too, they had come to Mysuru, and were together after partying when the crime was committed. The gang had demanded ₹3 lakh from

Meanwhile, hospital sources confirmed that the victim had been discharged.

the victim's friend before

uncon-

rendering him

scious," he added.

Defamation case against BJP leader in DTC case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Delhi Cabinet Minister Kailash Gahlot has filed a criminal complaint against BJP MLA Vijender Gupta accusing him of defamation in a matter related to the procurement of 1,000 low-floor buses by the Delhi Transport Corporation.

The case was listed before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Pandey, who adjourned the matter for September 1 as the physical copy of the complaint was not produced in the court.

Mr. Kailash, who is the Transport Minister in the AAP government, has alleged in his complaint that Mr. Gupta defamed him and tarnished his reputation. "The accused intentionally, for mala fide purposes and to gain political mileage, has levelled defamatory, scandalous, mischievous, false and scurrilous allegations on the complainant both verbal as well as in writing," the complaint alleged.

Woman, lover among 7 held for killing husband, dumping body

Accused stuffed body in a trolley bag and threw it into a drain, say police

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old woman, her mother and her boyfriend have been arrested among seven persons for allegedly killing her husband and stuffing his body in a trolley bag before throwing it in a drain, the police said on Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) said that the accused have been identified as Muskan, her mother Triza alias Menu (48), her boyfriend Mohammed Jamaluddin alias Jamal (19), Koshlender alias Aman (18), Vishal alias Kallu (22), Vivek alias Bagadi (21), and Rajkumar alias Rajapal.

Tattoo found on hand

The police said that they received an information on August 10 regarding a body inside a suitcase lying in a drain. When the police reached the spot, a decomposed body of a man was found with a tattoo "Na-



■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

hand. The body was shifted to mortuary for post-mortem. A murder case was registered and probe started.

During the probe, the police found that Naveen was reported missing from Neb Sarai police station, two days after the body was found. The missing report was lodged by Naveen's wife Muskan, a resident of Devli, who had stated that he had been missing since August 8. The first red flag for investigators was that she didn't mention that Naveen had a tattoo on his right hand

while informing about his description. Eventually, the victim's brother confirmed his tattoo.

Quarrel broke out

The police also found that Muskan had left the couple's rented room a few days ago and was staying at her mother's house with her two-yearold daughter. A night before Muskan left, a quarrel broke out between the two. The police traced Muskan to Khanpur with the help of technical surveillance.

Muskan allegedly tried to

mislead the investigation. She said that the couple were living separately for the last seven months. The police said that on August 7, Naveen visited her and quarrelled with her to the point of physical abuse. She also called the PCR and was taken for medical examination. The next day, Naveen's brother told her that he hadn't returned after which she lodged a missing report.

When the police checked her version, it was found that she had made the PCR call but no medical examination was conducted. Her call detail records were analysed and it was found that she was in touch with a man who was later identified as Jamal.

During sustained interrogation, it was revealed that on the night of August 7, she was with Jamal at her residence and Naveen came there and became annoyed due to Jamal's presence. After a heated argument, Jamal along with his friends killed

Police file 400-page chargesheet against 4 in Dalit girl rape case

'Document has sufficient evidence against the four accused'

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi police on Saturday filed chargesheet in the Delhi Cantonment rape case in which a nine-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly raped, murderd and later cremated without her parents' consent on August 2.

The police said that a 400page chargesheet was submitted by Crime Branch and that they have sufficient evidence against the four accused who have been chargesheeted - Kuldeep Singh, Laxmi Narayan, Radhey Shyam and Salim Ahmad.

All the accused are currently in judicial custody. The accused were charged under Sections 302 (murder), 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), (gang rape), 342 (wrongful confinement), 506 (criminal intimidation), 201 (destruction of evidence) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC. The four have also been chargesheeted under Section 6 (aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the POCSO (Protection of ChilOn Union Home Minister Amit Shah's direction that investigation be completed expeditiously, the chargesheet has

within 30 days DELHI POLICE SPOKESPERSON

dren from Sexual Offences) Act and Section 3 (offences of atrocities) of the SC/ST

been submitted

The report was filed before Duty Magistrate Manu Shree, who kept it for the consideration of the court concerned for August 31.

SIT formed

The case was transferred from Delhi Cantt police station to the Crime Branch on August 5 following which a Special Investigation Team was constituted for professional and speedy investigation under the supervision of DCP (Crime Branch) Monika Bharadwaj.

"Scientific, technical and other evidences were gath-

ered and analysed, besides recording testimonies of relevant witnesses. Besides, assistance was taken from Forensic Science Laboratory, Rohini, as well as Delhi Police's Forensic Experts on Biology and Odontology. Forensic psychologists were also engaged during interrogation of the accused. After gathering sufficient evidence on record, the chargesheet has been filed," said a police spokesperson.

"It may be recalled that on Union Home Minister Amit Shah's direction that the investigation be completed expeditiously and chargesheet be filed within 30 days, the chargesheet has been submitted within 30 days, keeping in view the sensitivity of the case," he said.

"Filing of chargesheet by the Delhi police shows zero tolerance and commitment of the government under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi to act speedily to ensure stringent punishment to those committing crimes against women and girls,"

'No assistance given to DU Afghan students'

Students' bodies demand action

SHINJINI GHOSH

A joint statement issued by Development Women's Cells and Equal Opportunity Cells of various Delhi University colleges demanded maximum assistance to Afghan students studying at the university. The statement said that despite assurances from the university, students had not received any assistance yet.

Visa extensions

"There are around 200 Afghan students studying in DU in various undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Those students who are currently in Afghanistan and had been attending online classes are now finding it difficult to travel to India. The students who are still in India are afraid, not only for their families back home but also due to the prospect of their visas expiring soon," read the statement.

Stating that Afghan students had been raising concerns, the statement said,

We urge the administration, of not only DU but all universities with Afghan students, to assist them with visa extensions, family migration

JOINT STATEMENT BY WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CELLS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CELLS

"We urge that the university administration, of not only DU but all universities with Afghan students, assist the Afghan students with visa extensions, family migration, economic assistance such as providing scholarships from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations."

The statement added that following a meeting with Afghan students on August 19, the university had assured support on visa extensions and hostel accommodation. "However, as of yet, the students have received none of the assistance that had been promised during the meeting," the statement said.

CM opens cloverleaf on Mayur Vihar-I flyover

Project is part of the Barapullah elevated road corridor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday inaugurated the 'Cloverleaf' loop, ramps and service roads developed on the Mayur Vihar Phase-1 flyover which will save both time and distance for commuters between Akshardham, Noida and vice versa.

The project is part of the Barapullah elevated road corridor under Phase-Ill extension from Mayur Vihar to Sarai Kale Khan and the ramps and service roads are an essential part of the project.

Bring relief

"The service roads, cloverleaf loop, ramps, and cycle track are being inaugurated today. This will bring a huge relief to the people of this region as well as the entire East Delhi area from traffic jams," Mr. Keiriwal said.

The project has been constructed to avoid the red light signals at Mayur Vihar Phase-I Junction, which will further reduce carbon diox-



The newly inaugurated ramp, service road and cycle track on the Mayur Vihar Phase-1 flyover in east Delhi on Saturday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

ide emissions and noise pollution by the vehicles at red light, the government stated.

Save travel distance

These ramps and service roads will save approximately 1.5 km of the travel distance. Traffic congestion led to a huge mess and nuisance, especially during peak office hours, which will end after the opening of ramps and

E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 40/2021

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg. N.E. Railways Izatnagar For and beha

of president of India invites "OPEN" e

ender through on Line (E-tendering or the following work., SN.:- 1

Description of works:- Maintenance of Level Crossing road, Gate lodge etc. in jurisdiction of ADEN/PBE Section in

IZŃ Division, **Approx. Value (Rs.) Rs. 54,08,738.91, E.M.D. (Rs.)** :- Rs

Nil, Cost of Tender Forms **Rs. Nil**, Completion time / period from the date

of issue of acceptance letter 12

work: In situ Reconditioning of CMS

Crossing by translamatic Robotic nethod by RDSO approved firm

nder the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/II/IZN

Approx. Value (Rs.):- Rs 1,56,000.00, E.M.D. (Rs.):- Rs. Nil

Cost of Tender Forms **Rs. Nil** Completion time / period from the date

f issue of acceptance letter 03

work: - Maintenance of Level Crossin road, Gate lodge etc. in jurisdiction of ADEN/KPV Section in IZN Division

Approx. Value (Rs.):- Rs 52,02,410.14, E.M.D. (Rs.):- Rs. Ni

Cost of Tender Forms Rs. Nil

completion time / period from the da of issue of acceptance letter 12

work:- Balance work of R.C.C Over head tank at MRT near MTJ under the

sanctioned work of Provision of deep ube well along with R.C.C. Over head

ank at FBD, HTC & MRT near MTJ

Approx. Value (Rs.):- Rs. 28,87,626.58, E.M.D. (Rs.):- Rs. Nil, Cost of Tender Forms Rs. Nil,

Completion time / period from the date

of issue of acceptance letter **04 Months, 1.** On line e-tender can be

submitted up to 15.00 hrs of dated 20.09.2021, 2. For Full details and

ubmission of bid please see the

ndian Railways IREPS website

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

vww.ireps.gov.in

PRO/W-156

SN:- 3, Description of

SN :- 4, Description of

SN: 2, Description

service roads, the government also stated.

The Chief Minister also took to Twitter to share the news and said, "Inaugurated the new 'Cloverleaf' built on Mayur Vihar Phase-1 Flyover today. With the opening of these loops and ramps of the Barapullah Phase-3, the people of Delhi will experience a lot of convenience in travelling. Especially people travelling between Delhi & Noida will benefit a lot from it."

Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said on Twitter, "Today Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the ramp, cycle track and service road in Mayur Vihar Phase-1. This will give great relief to the people of East Delhi from traffic jams. Roads are being transformed all over Delhi by the Kejriwal Government [sic]."

No one above law: court raps singer Honey Singh

Gives him one last chance to appear

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A Delhi court on Saturday came down heavily on Punjabi singer and actor Yo Yo Honey Singh for not appearing before it in a domestic violence case filed by his wife Shalini Talwar.

"No one is above the law. Surprised to see how this case is being taken so lightly," metropolitan magistrate Tania Singh said.

Mr. Singh moved an application seeking exemption from appearance in the case, citing medical reasons. Meanwhile, his wife, Shalini Talwar, appeared physically before the court.

Expressing displeasure, the court told Mr. Singh's lawyer, "Honey Singh has not appeared. You have not filed his income affidavit and are not prepared with the arguments." The metropolitan magistrate gave Ms. Singh one last opportunity to ap-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Delhi Congress leaders on

Saturday discussed the road

map for next year's munici-

pal elections, but some of

NEW DELHI



Honey Singh

pear before the court, and asked him not to repeat this conduct again.

Shalini Talwar has sought -₹20 crore as compensation under the Protection of Women From Domestic Violence Act. Breaking down in the courtroom, she said, "I am left with no option. I gave him 10 years. I left everything. I stood by him. He has abandoned me."

In response, the judge said she is concerned about the petitioner's mental well-

month for each of the 14 dis-

tricts to prepare for civic

polls next year. "It was de-

cided that they will now take

feedback to suggest names

of block presidents. This ex-

Congress leaders discuss roadmap for civic polls

Office of **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAISINGHPUR DIVISION** H.P. Public Works Department, JAISINGHPUR 176095 Fax: 01894-228031, e.mail: <u>ee-jaipwd-hp@gov.in</u>

Tender Notice

The Executive Engineer, Division, HP.PWD. Jaisinghpur 176095 on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the online bids on item rate, electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved Contractors, Firms registered with HPPWD. Department.

| Sr. No. | Name of Work | Estimated Cost (Rs) | EMD (In Rs.) | Time limit | No. | Cost of Bidding Documents |
|------------|---|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Construction of Sub-Tehsil Building at Alampur Distt. Kangra (SH:-C/o Civil work, water supply & Sanitary installation, Rain water Harvesting tank, septic tank and site development including Boundary wall) | 1,43,53,082/- | 2,87,100/- | Eighteen Month | 6&8 | 5000/- |

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: - The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in Bidder would be required to register in website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to

have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD. May obtain the same from the websites-https://hptenders.gov.in . Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized Case can use the same in this tender.

| 1. | Date of Online Publication | 07.09.2021 10.00AM |
|----|--|---|
| 2. | Document Download Start and End Date | 07.09.2021 10.30AM upto 14.09.2021. 05.00PM |
| 3. | Bid Submission Start and End Date | 07.09.2021 10.30AM upto 14.09.2021. 05.00PM |
| 4. | Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document | 15.09.2021 upto 10.30 HRS |
| 5. | Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid | 15.09.2021 11.00 HRS |
| 6. | Date of Financial Bid Opening | 18.09.2021 11.30 HRS |

HP / 3690/21-22

TENDER DETAILS. The Tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover

Shall contain scanned copes of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility information". Shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid" where contractor will quote his offer for each item

Submission of Original Documents:- The Bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other technical documents in the o/o Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Jaisinghpur as specified in Key dates Sr.No.4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be

BID OPENING DETAILS: The bid shall be opened on 15.09.2021 at 11.00 HRS in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jaisinghou Division HP PWD Jaisinghpur HP. By the authorized officer. In their interest the tenders are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids

will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 90 days after the deadline date for bid submission. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the website for the latest informatic

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Jaisinghpur Division, HPPWD, Jaisinghpur

Executive Engineer

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION 📵 NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 40 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown has found dead near Kalka mode, near Modi Mill Flyover, Mathura Road, New Friends Colony, New Delhi on 08:46 AM. In this regard, a vide has been registered with FIR No: 287/21, u/s 279/304A IPC dated: 26.08.2021 at PS New Friends Colony,



Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue

has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Male, Age: 40 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Identification Mark: A tattoo of "Vakil" on the right hand, Wearing: Red colour shirt and half-pant.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/New Friends Colony, New Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639

DP/215/SE/2021

P.S. New Friends Colony, New Delhi. Ph. No. 011- 26934863, 26834563

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Manisha Jaiswal D/o Bindeshwar Jaiswal R/o H.No. IX-3, Gali No, 11, New Lahor Shastri Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 20.08.2021 from her house. In this regard, DD No. 4A, dated 21.08.2021 has been lodged at PS Geeta Colony, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the

Name: Manisha Jaiswal, Gender: Female, Age: 21 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Grey colour t-shirt and red colour palazzo. If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/Geeta Colony, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/545/SHD/2021

missing girl is as under:

P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-22506665, 22508164



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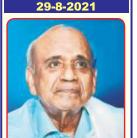
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TUESDAY, AUG. 31 RISE 05:59 SET 18:44 RISE 00:00 SET 13:53

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Delhi Palam Today

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Delhi govt. nominates three doctors for Padma awards

Panel headed by Deputy CM screened over 9,000 suggestions from public

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi government has decided to recommend the names of three city doctors for the Padma awards after screening close to 10,000 suggestions received from citizens, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday.

The names of doctors Shiv Kumar Sarin, Suresh Kumar, and Sandeep Budhiraja have been sent to the Centre, after suggestions were screened by a panel headed by Deputy CM Manish Sisodia.

This year, the Delhi government had decided to only recommend names of healthcare workers. Suggestions were invited from the public, and over 9,427 responses were filed.

"These suggestions were received in respect of 740 healthcare professionals. A committed headed by Mr. Sisodia scrutinised the suggestions and selected three



This year, the Delhi government had decided to only recommend names of healthcare workers for the awards. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

names," said Mr. Kejriwal.

ILBS Vice-Chancellor

Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) Vice-Chancellor Shiv Kumar Sarin launched India's first plasma bank and was instrumental in setting up the world's first fully dedicated deemed-tobe liver university in 2010.

Over 8,000 plasma units were issued from the plasma bank. Recently, Dr. Sarin also started Delhi's first COVID genome sequencing facility, Mr. Kejriwal said.

LNJP medical director LNIP Hospital treated the highest number of COVID-19 patients in the country under the supervision of medical director Suresh Kumar.

The hospital successfully treated a record 20,500 CO-VID-19 patients as well as setting up India's second plasma bank, the CM said.

Dr. Kumar also started a unique video-calling facility to enable COVID-19 patients to interact with their families, and a genome sequencing lab at the hospital.

On being nominated, Dr. Kumar said: "I am thankful to the Delhi government for giving me this respect and for honouring my hard work. This is an honour for all the doctors of Delhi who worked tirelessly during the

pandemic."

Max Healthcare MD

Group medical director at Max Healthcare Sandeep Budhiraja was India's first physician to use convalescent plasma for the treatment of COVID-19 patients and played a crucial role in delivering care and treatment to COVID-19 patients in Delhi, the CM said.

Dr. Budhiraja also provided guidance to COVID-19 patients via virtual consultancy when he himself got infected with the virus. He was also involved in spreading awareness and knowledge about COVID-19 through media, the Chief Minister added.

Reacting to his name being shortlisted, Dr. Budhiraja said: "I want to sincerely thank the Delhi government for recognising the great service and sacrifices made by healthcare workers during

Govt. sanctions over ₹130 cr. for ambitious HIMS project

Cabinet renews doorstep delivery scheme with new features

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said the Cabinet has approved the decision to award the contract for the Health Information Management System (HIMS) project to M/s NEC Corporation India Pvt.Ltd.

The Cabinet also approved sanctioning over ₹139 crore for the ambitious project, which will bring all city hospitals under one platform and eliminate the need for patients to stand in queues for appointments.

The system will enable all information about patients to be available at the tap of a button, allow doctors to give appointments over the phone, and allow patients to select appointment time as per their convenienc

"The platform will help us know how many beds are vacant in a hospital, the status of medicine stock, number of ventilators, and any other information about medical infrastructure," he said.

e-health cards

The Delhi government is also streamlining the process to obtain a eHealth Card, which will contain the entire medical history of the cardholder and they will be able to get treated at any hospital listed on the HIMS.

Private hospitals will also be connected to the system in a phased manner.

All patient care related services like hospital administration, budgeting and planning, supply chain management, back-end services and processes will be brought under the HIMS.

Doorstep delivery

In a related development, Mr. Kejriwal announced that the Cabinet had decided to renew the Doorstep Delivery of Public Services scheme with enhanced features and

livery provides people the facility to avail 150 services of the government from their homes. All they have to do is call 1076 and an officer comes to their home and gets their work done," he said.

"The Cabinet has decided to further extend the doorstep delivery of public services with new vendors. A lot of enhancements will be implemented in the next phase of the service. This includes making the 1076 number toll free and dividing the work between two vendors," he added.

Under the renewed scheme, mobile sahayaks responsible for visiting homes and providing services – will be aided with modern technology that will help them in facilitating the services to the citizens at a nominal fee of ₹50.

Mr. Kejriwal said that soon all services provided by the Delhi government will be made available online.

ASHA workers losing hope

Around 6,000 women in Delhi have not been paid monthly incentives since April for visiting COVID-19 patients under home isolation

NIKHIL M BABU

hen the pandemic hit Delhi, 48-year-old ASHA worker Sushila Devi was scared to go for COVID-19 duty.

Her husband, who works for the Border Security Force, was also not with her as he was posted in Srinagar. "He is doing service for the country over there and I am doing mine here. Initially, I used to be scared, but we have to work, right? We (ASHA workers) have risked our lives and worked during the CO-VID-19 period, but the government is not paying us. This is wrong," said Ms. Devi, mother of three.

Like Ms. Devi, around 6,000 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) in the city have not been paid incentives for COVID-19-related work done during the second wave, officials and workers told The Hindu. They have not been paid monthly incentives since April for at least two duties: visiting COVID-19 patients at their houses and carrying out sur-

veys in containment zones. ASHA workers do not get fixed salaries like government employees and are paid mostly through incentives, which are low in many cases. An ASHA worker gets just ₹100 for distributing tablets to around 200 children at their homes. They also said that their workload has increased since the pandemic.

An ASHA worker is to be paid ₹100 per visit to a COVID-19 patient under home isolation, along with ₹100 per day for refreshment, as per government rules. For surveys done in containment zones, an ASHA worker is to be paid ₹500 for surveying less than 50 houses in a day.

No clarification

"From April, both the incentives are pending. We have not received any clarification from the Health Department," a district official said. ASHA workers get payment from the district level offices. "These incentives are pending as we have not received money from higher levels. We will pay the ASHA workers when we get the money," an official of another district said.

Another official from a third district said they have paid incentives up to March and 'approvals are awaited' from April.

When contacted, a Delhi government spokesperson did not com-

ment on the issue. "No one is getting these two incentives. We have told officials about this, but nothing is happening," said Kavita Yadav, State coordinator of Delhi ASHA Workers' Association. She said they have written to the Chief Minister about problems being faced by ASHA workers, but there has been no help from

the government. Ms. Devi said her days are hectic **Meagre incentives** due to the pandemic. "There were days when I responded to calls at 10 p.m. and went to give medicines to patients at their house. What more

can we do?" she asked. "When I went for surveys, I used to buy sanitisers, gloves and masks





Leading the fight: ASHA workers conducting door-to-door thermal checks and surveys in a containment zone in Delhi. • FILE PHOTOS: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

We (ASHA workers) have risked our lives and worked during the COVID-19 period, but the government is not paying us. This is wrong

SUSHILA DEVI

with my own money. The government did not provide it," she added. Priya (name changed), 38, another ASHA worker, said she used to be worried about her two children, aged 12 and 16, when she went for COVID-19 duty. "I used to come home around 6 p.m. and went straight to the bathroom to bathe in hot water and then wash my clothes. After that also, I didn't go near the kids for a while. I was worried for them," she said, adding: "I used to wear PPE kits and go inside houses and measure temperature and pulse of COVID-19 patients under home isolation and give them tablets. We worked a lot, but we ha-

ven't got paid for it.' Ms. Priya said she has not got incentives for home visits since April. For surveys done in containment zones, she hasn't received any money since April 2020, the beginning

of the pandemic. "We have to work out of helplessness. If we complain too much, then they will say that 'if you don't want the job, then leave it and go'. So, most of us don't speak up about it out of fear," she added.

ASHA workers get incentives for different works they do and their monthly pay is an aggregate of points they acquire for such works. But they complain that incentives for many such works are too low. For instance, National Deworming Day is held biannually and Albendazole, a tablet, is distributed to children from one to 19 years of age. For distributing these tablets in her area, an ASHA worker is given only ₹100. In Delhi, each ASHA worker has to cover an average of 400 houses, as per officials. About 200 houses will have children in this age group, as per workers and officials, and the worker has to distribute a tablet each to them for just ₹100.

"I distributed Albendazole to about 200 children in my area for iust ₹100. I am vet to get that money," Ms. Priya said. Ms. Devi said she distributed tablets to around 400 children in her area for the promised ₹100, which she is yet to get.

When the pandemic hit the country, ASHA workers were roped in for various COVID-related works as routine works dipped.

The Delhi government gave ₹3,000 per month, irrespective of their performance score and work. This was apart from the incentives for individual works. But this has been stopped since March.

Officials say it has been stopped as routine work, from which ASHA workers used to earn incentives before the pandemic, have restarted

They still get a fixed ₹1,000, over and above their incentives, from the Central government every month for COVID-related work.

The government agreed to give ₹3,000 after we protested in August last year at Jantar Mantar. They also fixed ₹100 and ₹500 after it. Before that there was nothing and we worked for the ₹1,000 the Center was giving us a month. But the Delhi government did not give the ₹3,000 when the novel coronavirus came back this year," Ms. Yadav said.

Cabinet approves adding 6,836 ICU beds in seven govt. hospitals

Our vision is to

readily available in Delhi

instantly converted into

so that even a normal

oxygen bed can be

an ICU bed

SATYENDAR JAIN HEALTH MINISTER

make ICU facilities

The beds will be ready within six months, says Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Saturday said the Cabinet has approved adding 6,836 ICU beds in seven hospitals at a cost of ₹1,216.72 crore. The beds will be ready in six months, the Minister said.

"Almost 7,000 new ICU beds are being added to Delhi government hospitals, which at present have a capacity of 10,000 ICU beds, a 70% increase is being made to this number. The beds will be ready within six months," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said. The extra beds will help in

dealing with a possible third wave of COVID-19 and if the wave does not happen then it will act like additional beds for regular treatment, Mr. Keiriwal added.

Of the total 6,836 ICU beds, 1,430 will be added to Delhi government hospital in Shalimar Bagh, 458 in Kirari government hospital,

1,912 at GTB hospital, 1,565 in Raghubir Nagar hospital, 610 at Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, and 525 in Sultanpuri hospital.

"The addition of these

beds will not only ramp up ICU bed facilities by 70% but will also be monumental in achieving the target of 37,000 COVID-19 beds in Delhi," read a statement. Mr. Jain said the govern-

ment is learning from its experiences and trying its best to avoid a third wave.

"Our vision is to make ICU Delhi so that even a normal oxygen bed can be instantly converted into an ICU bed," Mr. Jain said during an event at the Delhi Vidhan Sabha on Saturday to felicitate health-

No deaths for third day Meanwhile, the city reported no new COVID-19 deaths over 24 hours for the third day in a row on Saturday. The toll remains at 25,080. Also, 29 new cases were reported in a single day, taking

the tally to 14,37,685. A total of 72,434 tests were done in 24 hours and facilities readily available in the test positivity rate was 0.04%. There are 393 active cases in the city.

IN BRIEF

AAP govt. playing with lives of children: BJP

The AAP government is playing with the lives of children by reopening schools without any preparation, Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta said on Saturday. He added that the government had also put the onus on schools to ensure safety of students as "the State so far has no framework of COVID-19 rules for schools". He also demanded that the report, on the basis of which the Kejriwal government has decided to reopen schools, be

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MS, Doing, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks Groom – Doctor / Eng – 7305810258

DOCTOR GIRL in chennai 32 seeks tamil speaking Hindu affluent edu-cated groom. Caste no bar Ct: 9884202884

ASST. PROF. TULUVA VELLAL MUDALIAR Good looking Girl 33, Uthirattathy, Meenam, Ph.D(Physics), Family Seeks Alliance from First and Legargier Repebber Ridgerom First and Legargier Repebber Ridgerom Research (1988). SMU GIRL: 25 years, BE (CE) working @ Bangalore seeks suitable groom. Ct: 9886597804, 9501673934. Email: 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | 128787618 | Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 33 - 36 Yrs, Employed, Caste No Bar. Contact : After 7 PM : Bar. Conta 7550245659

7200866346

HINDU YADAVA 33, MBA, Bharani Wheatish, Working @ Infosys, Seeks Groom Prefer IT. 9962601864/

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR Kongu Parayar 30 BE, M.Tech, Ph.D Seeks Educated Profnl Groom, 87608 83559/89733

9884191464

ALLIANCE FOR Doctor Girl Rich 17/

YADAVA GIRL 25/155 B.E. working in S/W Co Chennai getting 1.5L mseeks suitable Yada Groom:7010056280

PILLAI 29/163 Aswini wheatish M.E MNC Chennai 10Lpa. Seeks Corporate Professional Grooms Ct: 98407 40707 HINDU NADAR Poosam Kadagam 24/

153, Fair, B.Tech seeks Well Educated Chennai Based Groom.Ct:9840942228 WORKING PROFESSIONAL 36 M A/Eng/M Phil., looking for a 36–40yr old, well qualified & settled groom Vellalar/Mudhaliyar community contact :8072553100,6379881605

HINDU/SC-AD 31/160 MBA, ESIC(Govt) , seeks suitable groom(Govt. preferred) from SC-AD family, Ct:9941887824

HINDU NADAR, 29/160, M.Res(UK) Fair, Revathy seeks qualified employed India / Abroad Groom in same caste. Ct: 94864 86810. HINDU KARUNEEGAR 28/156 BE Non-veg

Pooram/Simmam seeks educated suitable Groom 9894978735 HINDU PILLAI Ayilyam 25/172 BE TCS 40K Chennai seeks Educated Employed Groom.Cont: 98842 19327

MUDALIAR (SENGUNTHAR) 30/155, Bharani, B.Tech, Working in US (H1B) Seeks Software Prof. Groom with Clean Habits.Call: 9840697596. Mail: vishnusuresh9816@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN / RC girl 45yrs, 5.5, Fair, HINDU AD 29/150, MBA, Chithirai, having vitiligo seeks suitable Groofrom Coimbatore. CT: 93900 10021.

> B.Tech, Father Busine & AffluentFamily, See n – India / Abroad 9994915406/7358510790

Contact, 9840495355 ucated Groom working Abroad (US/UK/ nada) Ct: 9790690593

HINDU SC PR Kongu 1984 MBBS in DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital, vel-seeks suitable groom. Ct:94436-80973 HINDU PILLAI 50/179 Eng Dip, Self Emp, Karthigai, 1st Patham, decent fa-

Job, Seeks Well Educated mily, 1st Marriage, delay due to comployed Groom. 8300867757 mitment, seeks Groom below 55yrs with clean habits from decent family preferably from Chennai/Divorcee/ 2nd Marriage avoid. Whatsapp Bio-data 94422 73407.

9444181129.

MUDALIYAR GIRL, 27Yrs/Doctor, Di- VISHWAKARMA TAMIL Bride Raghu Kethu Dosham Tiruvonam 24/157cm Fair M.Com., Net/Asst. Prof Seeks Suitable Groom age below 29 set-tled in Chennai Ct: 8428432112/

> ELITE MUDALIAR 22/M.B.A., Own3 Tex-Mills Coimbatore Only daugh-Rich Family seeks Groom9884510869

HASTHAM 33, 154 Fair MCA Upper Middle Class Seek Mudaliar/Pillai Professionaly Qualified Groom. tessionaly 8925640261

SC, AD, 38, Divorced Asst. Prof. REDDY DIVORCEE 1980 Hastham Kanni, Bcom, FCA, Manager Chennai 2Lpm, seeks suitable employed professional. Call: 9442370784

gmail.com.9445145455

9940507235 VEERASAIVAM (ANY Subcaste) Fair,

Good looking,25 yrs, Msc B ED,Star-Pooran, looking for Groom, CT-9894832989 VADAKALAI VADOOLAM Swathi August 1973/180cm, M.Com, MBA, Software USAH1B. Seeks Unmarried Brahmin

Girl Preferably tact: 044 -24714448, 09444628868 VANIYA CHETTIAR Girl Magam 26

26, ht: 5.6rt, MBBS, MUD parriorgy — studying Location : India or
Abroad seeks groom Age : 26yrs to
35yr, caste No bar well educated
Doctors CA Business Well settled
family send mail to
santameera.krish@gmail.com

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR (Vellore), Elite Family, 29/165, PG, Working HR in MNC Seeks MS/ M.Tech Groom 9176780777

DOCTOR (PAEDIATRICS) GOVT SERVICE DOB:1991 Vellore(TN) Hindu-SC (Caste no bar) Contact:9443685770/9840509914 Doctors/Civil servants 9840509914 Doctors/Civil servants

with photo and details.

MUDALIAR 34/PURAM/164/ B.E/ (with in Month) seeks Profesnlyqualified. Caste bar. 9600050102/ devimoogambikai@gmail.com

RICH MUDALIYAR/PILLAI 22/B.E.,Own Engineering Colleges ,Arts & NursingColleges seeksRich well settled Groom Profiles family 7200067015

TALL, FAIR, pretty Vadakalai, Shadamarsha, Nov 1974, MA, Ashwini seeks groom. Ct: 9444457862

8939012419

MUDALIAR 25 B.E. MBA, 162cm, Good Looking, well Settled Family Seeks Groom, CNB.Ct: 8778514465/ seighbor Seeks Groom, CNB.Ct: 8778514465/

GROOM WANTED DOCTOR MBBS MD

36/167 Fair **Protestant Tamil** Christian Nadar BC innocent divorcee

no issues seeks **Doctor Groom/PGs/ Professional Earning** 2 Lakhs per month. Caste no bar

GROOM WANTED

Ph: 98435 26370

KONGU VELLALAR (Nattugounder) Girl, 30 Yrs , Slim , Fair Doctor - M.D. (Path)

Working in **Corporate Hospital** Bangalore, Looking for Suitable Groom from same or equal

Community

443059274/8838112270 Christian girl, tamil, BE, CTS, 30/168 Chennai, seeks groom from CSI, Bor again, caste no bar, Ct: 9884201013.

Tamil Vanniyar girl, Canadian Citizen

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 28, 168 cms, Management Professional, Masters in Engineering. Lives in Abu Dhabi. Father is a working Professional. Looking for an amiable well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN, 30, 175 cms, Consultant, Masters in Management. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable well educated match from the samnunity. Contact: 6366448345 **MUDALIYAR**, 30, 180 cms, Medical Professional, pursuing MS Orthopaedics. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Doctor. Family is affluent. Looking for an amiable

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 28, 185 cms Businessman, Bachelors in Commerce. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a

well educated match from any community. Contact

good net worth. Looking for a compatible well educated match. Contact: 6366448343 PARKAVAKULAM, 27, 185 cms, Manager, M.Tech from a premier Institute. Lives in Chennai, Father is

an affluent Businessman and Mother is a Doctor

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 26, 165 cms, Professional, MBA from a premier Institute. Lives in Chennai, Parents are working Professionals. Looking for a like minded well educated match in India/Abroad. Contact:

BRAHMIN, 25, 168 cms, Masters from a reputed Institute. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible well educated match in India/Abroad. Contact: 6366448343

BADAGA, 33, 163 cms, Assistant Manager, M.Sc ir Finance from a premier Institute. Lives in Dubai Father is an affluent Businessman with a good ne

MUSLIM, 25, 160 cms, Medical Professional, MBBS from a premier Institute. Lives in Dubai. Father is an luent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable well educated match from the same community from UAE, Contact: 6366448345

Looking for a well educated match. Contact: 6366448346 Call for Free Consultation © 99629 76000 www.elitematrimony.com

VELLALAR PILLAI years, (Divorced) 168cm, affluent Business Women with good net worth. Looking for a compatible,

well Educated, Age: 31-34 Groom from any community

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The Big Affluent and Rich Business rahmin Family wish to have alliance for their beautiful girl (28 yrs) who has

Good Family Values. Contact: 9443415793 / 9486083271

NTER-CASTE, INTERFAITH (F-CSI, M-Saiva Pillai) Parents, Daughter-Kumbha (Aguarius). Poorattathi. cuse

> BALIJA NAIDU Widow No encumbrance well to do 51/ 5.7 seeks Govt employed below 58 Well settled Telugu Widower / Divorcee. Ct: ugu Widowi 8807703450

> Thirvathurai, Uthiram, Swathi, Vegeta rian only. 94431 06922 NAIDU DIVORCEE no issues born 1977

Slim job MNC caste No Bar, Wanted employed Bridegroom. Ph: 94433

GAVARA/BALIJA AVITTAM Kumbam 28 Fair-Good Looking,BE (E&I)seeks Suitable Groom India/ Abroad Sub-Caste No Bar. Ct:8056093838/

Industries well settled Groom 9884510761

SEEKING QUALIFIED GIRL FOR DUBAI BASED 34yrs /

173cm Handsome, Smart, Punjabi boy, Post Graduate, Data Scientist in

Reputed MNC CALL / WHATSAPP Mrs Suneja

+971 50 6753208 LOOKING FOR a suitable cosmopoli an match for my son currently working n Europe as a Robotics Engineer. Educated at premier institutes in Singapore & USA; Masters in Aeronautics & Aerospace Engineering. Has a penchant for building things, outdoor sports & reading. Born Nov 1989; parents in Mumbai. email:

nippocraticoath21@gmail.com

employed in global company looking for North / South Indian brahmin girls without issues. No demands simple marriage. Reply email myinbox81@hotmail.com

New Delhi. Seeks South Indian Doctor bride (less than 27 yrs)(Caste no Bar) Ph: 8618607705.

28 YR, Surgeon, M.S, MCh, AIIMS

HINDU ADI Dravida MBBS, Fair. 28/ 167/55 – Poorattadi – Kumbam. email: evmohanraj50@gmail.com

28 YRS. Dy Mgr @SBI.12 LPA Atheist,

WA:9789227517

LOOKING FOR suitable match for Rajput boy, 29 years, residing in Bangalore,(5'11"), MCA, The bride should hail from a decent, educatied family, Same caste Contact with details 8898414145 or Email to

PUNJABI/KHATRI MBA, 165/30 own house, own Business slim / fair Ph: 9603895009

SMU 20/5.3 chubby, smiling,brown skin, IGCSE practising Islamic schooling, pursuing Arabic studies.respectable family background. asmiletalks@gmail.com Emai

URDU SUNNI Parents(Well Settled & Educated) seek alliance for daugh-Urdu speaking parents invites alliance for their fair, good looking, religious, unmarried 41/152 cm PG graduate unmarried 41/152 cm PG graduate daughter from well settled family.
95972 67814

CHENNAI BASED Parents of Urdu Sun- SMU GIRL Fair 26/154 pursuing MD ni Muslim Girl 26/174 MS.,(US)H1- from upper middle class family Visa, seek Groom from US Ct from Chennai seek MD/MS completed/ pursuing only Contact: 9444010759

MADHWA BRAHMIN Born 1975/ 165 Re-

vathi Faculty, Bangalore seeks any Brahmin girl. 1st Marriage.

BRIDES WANTED

9449193825

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH.

Suitable match for Rajput 93 born 1985/175CM. IT. 25 Lakhs PA. Chen-B.Tech. boy from Ferozepur Punjab nai. Father Doctor. Seeks well edu-working in IT company at Banglore cated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248 with 20 LPA. Upper caste no bar. Doctor. / CA preferred. Ct: 9023180032.

COSMOPOLITAN MUSLIM SUNNI boy Kerala -Thrissur-Dist. date of birth 16-11-1982 height 175cm (5-10) Colour very fair BE,Ci-vil,Construction field seeks alliance

Kerala, Tamilnadu Karnataka 1988 - Karataka 1988 - Karataka HINDU GSB boy aged 27 years starswati residing in Chennai 5'5" DEEE graduate working in RoyalEnfold 7000991502 SC MALA, 28/5'10", Handsome, Telugu, B.Tech. & Masters (IISc), 30 LPA – top MNC Hyderabad. Father sefield 7299881503 nior government officer. Seeks Hindu/Christian bride well educated family. **TAMIL GOD** fearing bachelor 1972/175 MSc, PGDCA - IT Sr Manager Age:23-27, Caste/ language no bar. No Brokers. Send details to: Brokers. Send details to: seeks suitable Tamil Christian god-gaswara07@gmail.com or call at ly bride. Email: annvex@yahoo.com

LOOKING FOR south Indian brahmin family seeking bride for only Son Bride age 60 to 65 for widower retd public sector official 80000 Philadelphia from same community, 25 seeks professional groom below per month income 30. Send to: kpue1995@outlook.com Delhi 9811102789 per month income own house live in Delhi 9811102789 Green Card prfd any professional degree Ct: 9344380866

8328645024.

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BALIJA, 25, 180 cms, Entrepreneur, Bachelors in Advertising and Media. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded well educated match. Contact: 6366448346

worth. Looking for a suitable well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448344

RC CHRISTIAN, BE, MBA, Age: 38, 183cm, Own Business in Chennai seeks suitable Bride. Ct:

NADAR, 33/173CM, BE, MBA(IIM)

8300867757 RC 47 /5.5" MBA,ML Deputy collec-

SC HINDU Mithunam Thiruvadhirai 28/ 180, BE MBA Smart IT Chennai seeks Homely, Educated, Mingle with Join & Well settled Family. Caste No Bar. Mail: vela4293@gmail.com / 87785 46961

B.Tech MBA Software Business Owner Req Bride Subsect no bar Ct:9840358389 HINDU VISWAKARMA, 34yrs, B.E,

govt of India company seeks allian-ce from any graduates, no expectations. Caste no bar Contact 9489302145 Tamil seeks employed intellectually inclined Tamil/Malayali Woman 23–29 years.Caste/religion no bar. DIVORCEE 52 years, Government Teacher. Seeks Bride, Government Service. Caste no bar. Contact : 9498001707.

> able Bride. Call 9994934568 IYAR 30 Atreva Thiruvonam Tall.

SAIVA PILLAI 34/160/MBA CAIIB, Govt. Bank Officer, Bharani, Mesham, only son, well settled seeks suitably qualified Bride. Contact: 9443625846

HINDU VANNIYAR Groom, Affluent, 30 yrs , ht : 5.8ft , B.E., MBA, Project manager in Canada seeks bride age: 26 to 29yrs, ht: 5.2 & above, good looking, well edu-cated, with good family values, to settle in Canada, Call 9884055523

HINDU GOUNDER Groom, Business Affluent B.E.MBA 42 yrs Ht : 5.9ft , location: Coimbatore, seeks pleas-ant looking , well educated bride (No doctors) Call 9884055523

Hindu ISAI VELLALAR 44 M.Com Govt. 90000/- pm. Seeks divorcee / widow bride w/o issues. Sub caste no bar. 97880 58370

Seeks Suitable Bride 9360379051 Hindu Nadar, 28/183, B.E. MS (USA). Fair, Handsome, Family Business, Institutions, seeks fair looking Bride from affluent educated family. Prefers Doctors / Engineers from the same community. Contact: 9443801558.

VADALKALAI BHARATWAJAM Kruthigai

36,170cm, M.B.B.S, D.L.O Govt. Doc-

plex Mount road Anna Ngr etc 500 Crores family seeks Rich Bride CASTE NO Bar 1978/170 DCF well set-Midunam, Mirugaserishan ness seeks bride. Ct:

9087865951 MUDALIAR 34y/165cm Mca Poonarposam Emp Tirupur Wheatish Seeks Bride CNB 9486247057.

GRADUATED BRIDE Wanted for IT boy

(First Marriage) 6.2 ft h, 31 Yrs, born to inter-religious parents, working at UK, (Caste/Religious/Social Status NO Bar). kumareshmrg@gmail.com MUDALIAR HASTHAM Kanni 28/182 BE.TCS.SWE Affluent Family Chenna seeks Educated Bride. Ct:9629276108

IYER KAUSHIKA 29/178 MEng UFT Manager Gov Canada, bride 20–25yrs,

neer Seeks working girl Preferably BE contact 7598951763

RICH MUDALIAR 28/B.E, M.S, own Bus

CHRISTIAN NADAR well settled kanthiparam91@gmail.com, 9841092618. VANNAN TAMIL 29 BE Software Engi-

> Transport 100yrsBusiness etc.Elite Family seek Bride. Rathi:9884510869 MBBS MS (Govt Dr) age 31 1Lakh per month Good Looking, Well Settled Need Dr / BE any PG. Ct: 6374767370

MUDALIAR,1972/180CM UTHIRADA/ MAKARAM, M.E.Ph.D, Asst Prof, Di-vorcee seeks Divorcee/ Widow with-out Child. Ct:9840371485/ 9789955895 HINDU THIRUVADHIRAI Age 30/167 BE,MBA Pvt Bank Chennai 60K seeks BE Graduate Goodlooking Bride.Caste No Bar. Contact: 9445991958

VAANIYAR - 35 Visagam / 175cm / MS (Sweeden) Working Sweden. 60L/ pa. (Swedish Citizen Ship) Seeks BE/ pa. (Swedish Citizen Ship) Section 2_ MS Prof. Bride CNB. Ct: 9790913450 HINDU AD - 28 yrs /174cms, Fair BE (SW), MNC only son, Affluent Decent family, Vellore - seeking any degree, Good family, Age 23 to 25, Ht: 5.0 to 5.5ft Ct: 8124071315, 9489740959.

Government Job, Samayapuram Temple, Trichy. Ct: 9345476947, 8973241667 HINDU - Velar. 56. BA. 35000/- Pm Divorce, Seeks Suitable Bride. Ph: 9487651544

MBA, Polymer Industry, Construction Business, Elite Family, Only son,Seeks Bride- Any degree 8925019776

MUDALIAR: 26/180, Handsome, B.E.

Star Hotel-3) Own (Hospital-4)Business Etc., very elite Family Seeks Rich Bride Ct: 7200067015 Vadama Vaadholam Swathv 35/5'7 MBA 90000 Subsect No Bar Contact 9865934938 / 9965991434.

54 YRS Old State Tax Officer (GST) CSI CHRISTIAN Boy 30/153 cm B.E in CBE lyengar Vadakalai Bharathva:
(Electrical) Working/Settled in Jam Tiruvonam 5ft Seeks lyer lyengar Vadakalai Bharathva:

[Seeks lyer lyengar Vadakalai Bharathva: 1, 2007/20/20/20/20 gar Bride from 45 yrs. Ct: 87786 14458

> HINDU SC,AD Magam 39/172 Diploma Private Chennai seeks SameCas Homely Bride, Contact: 97109 40735

59, FAIR, Educated, Well Settled

Seeks Good Looking, Issueless Wid-

ow/Divorcee. Ct: aaramam900@

ALLIANCE FOR our son, 34, 5'11' B.E. (College Of Engineering Guindy), IT professional in Chen-nai,16 LPA. Interfaith parenting (Father is Hindu and Mother is Christian) but he has no religious beliefs. Caste no bar. Writes freelance on movies as a hobby. Contact 9600174846

per annum Seeking educated good ooking girl from good family. Cast No Bar. Contact: 9349222324.
 → BRIDES WANTED

NAIDU/ POOSAM Age-39, Height-177, B.E Working at Cisco Systems

Bangalore Technical Leader 45 lacs

CANADA PROFESSOR 48Yrs/ 170, Christian

issueless divorcee sought 40Yrs without issues, RC. Protestant, Born again, Pentecostal, all divisions ok. Caste No bar. Early marriage.

دواه اعلی **Bride Wanted**

Hindu Pillai 24 yrs, 179cms, Handsome BBA.LLB HONS, LLM Rich, Affluent, Family Business, well settled, Chennai

Looking for beautiful bride from an affluent rich family, prefers Pillai, Mudaliar, Udaiyar Phone - 9841053008

-Gerec Dogin.

KAMMANAIDU SUBDIVISION Consent BE Age: 32years Own Software Company Chennai. Contact: 93444 29752.

NAIDU, 26/180CM, BTech, MS, Pu-Working in Sweden. Seek Bride from any sub sect of du or Reddy, Contact 8220014155 ROYAL NAIDU 27/B.E (Builders &

Flat promoters)Own commercial com-

9884510761 YADAVA, TELUGU 32 yrs, 168 cm, M. Tech

9790925350

09444902432

85K pm Chennai good networth seeks qualified fair bride 9677003920 NAIDU HINDU Boy, 39 Yr, B.Com MBA, Asst. Mgr (Big 4), Veg, seeks Reli-gious, Educated Girl. Ct:

GENERA

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56 kg Slim, Fair

& beautiful

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URDU SPEAKING Sunni Muslim, 30, 6'2", Cambridge educated, working in Chennai, innocent divorcee look-ing for good natured, modest Mus-

LIRDU SPEAKING- Chennai Sunni Muslim parents invite alliance for their son 30/170 Dentist MDS. Seeking educated and religious girl 25 years & above. Email: sa45462@

GROOM / BRIDE from Elite Family

Indiranagar, Bangalore, invites well decipliant family for their Daughter Son B. Tech, MS(UK)

Contact: 9845489161 / 998007996

30 Years

70 kg Well built &

handsome

175 cm

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INDEX OF

BRIDES WANTED BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common

Bhojpuri

Haryanvi

TAMIL GOD fearing spinster 1970/ 165 M.Com, M.Phil Ex-Lecturer seeks suitable Tamil Christian god-

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair.

MUDALIAR/PILLAI 25/168CMS, Punar-

50000PM Seeks Suitable Groom KA RA-MAN NADAR Whatsup 9380791999 HINDU GOUNDER Bride Affluent, 27yrs, ht: 5.4ft good looking, working location: India UK US,

Divorcee/ suitable

Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

GROOM WANTED



business family / corporate group kssgrand20@gmail.com

GAVARA NAIDU 26/155, Mirugaseeri dam (3) Midunam M.Com and doing Ph.D. Seeks Suitable Groom. Aswini,

RICH NAIDU 27/M.B.A., OwnGranite

anjeetarksingh79@gmail.com TELUGU JOGI Kirthigai 37/152 M.Com, B.Ed,Veg seek Employed groom CasteNoBar, BC,MBC prefd. Ct: 8056012713

COSMOPOLITAN

travel industry professional, 35, issueless divorcee, working in Chennai, seek brides (issueless divorcees or first marriage), from respectable Tamil Muslim families with Islamic values. Ct: 98427 44882

MNC Bangalore, 35L / annum seeks Employed, Fair Bride. Ct: 9994247184. MARUTHUVAR - 45, MSc. MA, Govt. Job – Salary 60K, Seeks Well Edu-cated and Employed Bride.

AGAMUDAIYAR 37 MSc IT Consultant MUDALIYAR POORAM 35/172 Fair

Fair, Handsome BCom MBA Well employed Chennai Wanted Goodlooking qualified employed Girl 9340045460/ 6380357575

DEVENDRAKULAM K.SUKUMAR B.E, TNEB

VANNIAR, 30/180, Handsome, B.Tech, T.L, MNC, 12.Lac.PA, Well Settled Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666 RICH MUDALIYAR 27/B.E., M.S. Own(5 Salem-based Tamil Muslim parents of

(Electrical) Working/Settled in Chennai with Own House Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct 7305641418 CHRISTIAN MUDALIYAR, 39yrs, Divorcee, Principal in Pvt.school, Madurai, Rs. 30,000/pm. Ct: 98945 72404.

BRAHMIN IYER, 31/178cm Postgraduate SWE, Chennai 25L/per Annum seeks Any Brahmin Iyer Girl. Ct:9840864534

tor St. Govt Never married well seeks suitable bride TAMIL BRAHMIN divorcee 40/180 NRI 9444934393 / 9444252852

> Engineer, 20000 pm, seeks Bride caste no bar, Contact: 96003 03385. HINDU SC, B.E, MBA, 45, working in

IYER.VADAMA, 40YEAR, Self Employed Chartered Accountant. Right slightly short. He can walk and drive vehicle normally. Need suit-

groom BE, ME, PhD, Rich, Own properties, **Package** good looking bride below At par with or exceeding the best industry standards for exceptional candidates.

> 8921250251 what's App CANADA: 0016475737315.

Contact

8122090357.

Character.

lim girl. contact 8939943132 200000

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A ND-NDE



Kerala districts today

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Kerala is likely to see brisk rainfall activity on Sunday also, a India Meteorologica Department (IMD) forecast indicated on Saturday. A low pressure area has formed over the Bay of Bengal, which is contributing to the current spell. Nine districts - Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Idukki and Kottayam — are on orange alert on Sunday for isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall. Kasaragod, Alappuzha, and Pathanamthitta are on yellow

No compulsion to attend offline classes: Sabita

Telangana Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy said though the State government was opening educational institutions, there was no compulsion for parents to send their children if they were not satisfied with the arrangements. The Minister. who was inspecting the arrangements and sanitation measures at a government school here, said all safety measures in view of COVID-19 were being taken in educational institutions.

Telangana BJP's Praja Sangrama Yatra takes off

Telangana president of the BJP and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Saturday set off on the Praja Sangrama Yatra, a padayatra taken up to expose "corruption in the Telangana Rashtra Samithi [TRS] government, to question its failures and to strengthen the organisation [party] to bring it to power in Telangana in 2023." The programme was flagged off at the Bhagyalaxmi temple near Charminar here.

Varsity lifts curbs on women after uproar

An order had imposed curbs on the movement of women students on the Manasagangotri campus

KARNATAKA BUREAU MYSURU/BENGALURU

A day after issuing a controversial order imposing curbs on the movement of women students on the Manasagangotri campus here after dusk, in the wake of a gang rape incident at Chamundi foothills, the University of Mysore on Saturday withdrew the directive.

The decision came hours after Karnataka Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan directed the university to withdraw the directive. "University campuses are normally big, but that does not mean we should curb the movement of girl students on campuses. Instead, we should work towards creating a safe atinside campuses," he said.

In a note issued here on Saturday, Registrar R. Shivappa said Friday's order issued by him stood withdrawn. The university had instead issued an advisory to all students to be watchful on the campus after dusk as a safety precaution. Also, the order said public entry to the Kukkarahalli lake premises would be restricted after 6.30 p.m. as a precautionary

More patrolling

The Registrar said security guards had been asked to patrol the campus from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The university's earlier order had drawn flak from various quarters as it specificallv enforced curbs on women students, who were told not to sit alone or go around un-



Security increased: The Registrar said guards had been asked to patrol the campus from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • M.A. SRIRAM

accompanied on the campus after 6.30 p.m. The Registrar had said the curbs were issued on the oral instructions

The university diktat was criticised as it restrained only women students instead of taking steps to provide adequate security on the campus.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) women's wing president Pushpa Amarnath on Saturday sought to know why the university tried to curb the free-

ICG K. Natarajan said the

force had 157 ships and 66

aircraft in its fleet. "Our en-

deavour is to have 200 ships

and 100 aircraft by 2030," he

He said all its ships were built in India and the Ad-

vanced Light Helicopter Mk-

III, manufactured by Hindus-

tan Aeronautics Limited,

was a testimony to the fact.

General M.M. Naravane, Ta-

mil Nadu Minister for Indus-

tries Thangam Thennarasu,

and Chief Secretary V. Irai

Anbu took part in the event.

based out of Visakhapatnam

der, Coast Guard Region

ICGS Vigraha will be

Chief of the Army Staff

dom of women on the campus. "On whose pressure was the order imposing curbs on the movement of girl students on the campus after 6.30 p.m. issued," she asked.

Ms. Amarnath asked why there were no such curbs issued for men. Such restrictions should be imposed on them, she said. "Is it possible to build a bright future for girls by curbing their freedom?" she asked.

Meanwhile, Dr. Narayan said he had also instructed the vice-chancellors of all universities to strengthen safety measures by installing more CCTV cameras and improving patrolling within the campuses. Universities could also consider the use of drones to tighten vigilance, he said.

A.P. returns to marks system in SSC exams

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Andhra Pradesh government has dispensed with the existing grading system in the SSC Public Examinations and reintroduced the system of awarding marks due to difficulties during admissions and recruitment faced by students, as a large number of them were securing similar grades.

"It has become difficult for students who are seeking admission in neighbouring States such as Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, as institutions are insisting on marks for admissions," said Education Minister A. Suresh.

The system would be implemented from the SSC

Telangana, Chhattisgarh, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Karaikal

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Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated

places over Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Odisha,

(Rainfall data in mm: temperature in Celsius)

| Pollutants in the air you are breathing | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|----|-------|------|------|--|--|
| CITIES | SO ₂ | NO ₂ | со | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE | | |
| Ahmedabad | 9 | .60 | 37 | 74 | 76 | | | |
| Bengaluru | 6 | .37 | 57 | 13 | 38 | | | |
| Chennai | 4 | .32 | 82 | 21 | 34 | | | |
| Delhi | 11 | .67 | 21 | 142 | .222 | | | |
| Hyderabad | 6 | .74 | 20 | 15 | 24 | | | |
| Kolkata | 13 | .23 | 16 | 47 | 58 | | | |
| Lucknow | 18 | .34 | 96 | 78 | .105 | | | |
| Mumbai | 13 | .10 | 20 | 69 | .103 | | | |
| Pune | | .41 | 93 | 97 | 86 | | | |
| Vicakhanatnam | 17 | 61 | 49 | 67 | 91 | | | |

502: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and prematu

Rajnath commissions ICGS Vigraha

The seventh Offshore Patrol Vessel was built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The augmentation of India's security capabilities has ensured that the country has not suffered any terrorist attacks by sea route since the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on

Commissioning the seventh Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), *ICGS Vigraha*, built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro for the Coast Guard (ICG), the Minister said the Coast Guard was continuously enhancing the capacity of the nation.

Mr. Singh said in the last two years, in cooperation with the neighbouring nations, the force had recovered goods worth more than ₹10,000 crore in anti-



New entrant: The seventh Offshore Patrol Vessel, which was commissioned in Chennai on Saturday. • s.r. raghunathan

smuggling operations. He said changes happen-

ing around the world would certainly impact the Indian Ocean region and also India, whose interests were directly linked to the Indian Ocean. "Changes happening around the world often become a matter of concern for us. We, as a nation, must keep our guard high during

these times of uncertainties and upheavals around the world."

equipment was increasing continuously, with reports expenditure on security around the world would Mr. Singh said.

The demand for military

suggesting that by 2023, the reach around \$2.1 trillion, Director-General of the

and will operate on India's Eastern Seaboard under the operational and administrative control of the Comman-

batch of March 2020.

NORTH & EAST

Tribal beaten up, tied to vehicle and dragged, dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A 40-year-old tribal man was allegedly thrashed by eight persons who tied him to a vehicle with a rope that dragged him some distance in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district, police said on Saturday, adding five accused were arrested.

The tribal, Kanhaiyalal Bheel, died during treatment on Friday. The incident occurred on Thursday morning after a minor road accident involving the victim and a milkman. "Chhitar Mal Gurjar, a milkman, was riding a motorcycle which knocked down Bheel when he was standing on the Neemuch-Singoli road," Superintendent of Police Suraj Kumar Verma told reporters here. He said Mr. Gurjar lost his cool after the milk spilt and beat up Bheel. He then called up his friends who also roughed up Bheel and tied him to a vehicle passing by. Bheel was dragged for some distance, Mr. Verma said.

Ansari's brother Sigbatullah, former Minister Ambika join SP

The Ansari family has political clout in parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW

In 2016, amid an internal feud in the Samajwadi Party (SP), Akhilesh Yadav had opposed the merger of the Quami Ekta Dal of controversial politician Mukhtar Ansari with his party, to guard his clean image ahead of the 2017 Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Akhilesh, who was then the Chief Minister, even sacked a senior Minister, Balram Yadav, for facilitating the merger, which was eventually revoked despite intervention by his uncle, Shivpal

Joined the BSP

Naga women draw criticism

tribes.

for tying rakhis on jawans

As Mr. Akhilesh took control of the SP, the Ansaris who have clout in parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh, went on to extend support to the rival Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), vowing to teach him a lesson. They called him an egotistic person and accused



with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow on Saturday. • PTI

the Ansaris and humiliating them for his own "brand-In a shift from an image-

conscious approach to a politically opportunistic one, Mr. Akhilesh on Saturday inducted Mukhtar Ansari's elder brother Sigbatullah Ansari, a former MLA from Mohammadabad in Ghazipur, into the SP.

Mr. Sigbatullah lost the 2017 election on a BSP ticket, seat, Mau, but his son and debutant Abbas Ansari lost by a thin margin.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, Mukhtar's second brother Afzal Ansari contested from Ghazipur on a BSP ticket and won as part of the SP-BSP alliance.

The support of the Ansari family, which has been under the radar of the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government in the State, is expected to boost the SP in Ghazipur, Ballia, Mau, Azamgarh, Varanasi and surrounding areas, and is also seen as a move to prevent a division of Muslim

Ambika Chaudhary back Along with Mr. Sigbatullah, Ambika Chaudhary, former U.P. Minister from Balia and a former aide of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, returned to the party after spending more than four years in the BSP. Mr. Chaudhary, who

served as Minister during the tenures of both Mr. Mulayam and Mr. Akhilesh, was overwhelmed with emotions at his joining ceremony.

"There are ups and downs in politics. But who stands by you at the right time, is your friend," Mr. Akhilesh

The SP chief said be would try to bring back all those leaders who were close to Netaji, his father, to the party as it looks to challenge the BJP in 2022.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age: Approx. 45 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Identification: Scar mark left on cheek, wearing orange colour shirt and blue colour

pant, was found dead on 23.08.2021 at ICB cut, Near V.P. Singh Camp, MB Road, Pul Prahladpur, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 17-A dated 23.08.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Pul Prahladpur, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO: P.S. Pul Prahladpur, Delhi Tel. No. 011-26366100, 26366801

Odisha to increase vaccination pace

Collectors to ramp up vaccination drive to achieve administration of 3.5 lakh doses per day.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has now nearly doubled the monthly vaccine allocation to States, and faster vaccine consumption will lead to higher allocation for the State," Pradip-

ta Mohapatra, Additional Vaccination of all pregnant Saturday directed all District all district and urban body heads.

> syringes was raised by some said Mr. Mohapatra.

He directed the Collectors

The Odisha government on said in a communication to priority. Though the scarcity of

districts, it was resolved,

to vaccinate all the beneficiaries and teachers and nonteaching staff of government and private schools who are due to get second doses.

Chief Secretary (Health), women should also be given

had administered 2.07 crore doses - 1.58 crore as first dose and 49 lakh as second dose. About 14.5 lakh beneficiaries were due for second dose vaccination.

The Centre assured to allocate 9,92,380 doses of Covishield and 1,24,590 doses of Covaxin as additional quantity for August 2021.

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HP / 3670/21-22

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Barsar on behalf of Governor of H.P invited the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of Contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

| Sr. No. | Name of work | Estimated Cost | Starting date for downloading Bid | Earnest Money | Deadline for submission of Bid |
|------------|--|-------------------|--|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | C/o link road from Ghangot to Palata Chalara roadnkm. 3/0 to 4/600 (SH:formation cutting in km. 3/525 to 3/870, C/O R/Wall at RD. 3/965 to 3/990, P/L 900 mm dia R.C.C hume pipe culvert at RD. 3/795, P/L 600 mm dia R.C.C hume pipe culvert at RD. 3/945 & P/L GSB, WMM & SDBC in km. 3/525 to 4/020) (Under SCSP Head) Time:-Two Months, Class of Contractor:- Class-D. | | 03-09-2021 From 10.30A.M | 21,600.00 | 10.09.2021 Up to 10:30 A.M |
| 2. | C/O link road form Gwald Khad to Samella (Jangal DPF Chek Samella) via Jatta Tajiar Km. 0/0 to 2/0 (SH:formation cutting at km. 0/0 to 0/500, C/O R/Wall at RD. 0/030 to 0/165 & P/L soling in km. 0/0 to 0/165) (Under SCSP Head) Time:- Two Months, Class of Contractor:-Class-D. | 10,34,832.00 | 03-09-2021 From 10.30A.M | 20,700.00 | 10.09.2021 Up to 10:30 A.M |
| 3. | C/O link road to Dugh Nallah Dhiman Basti km. 0/0 to 1/400, (SH:- Balance work of 6.00 mtr span slab culvert with wing wall at RD. 0/155) (Under NABARD RIDF-XXIII). Time:- Two Months, Class of Cntractor:- Class-D. | 9,62,321.00 | 03-09-2021 From 10.30A.M | 19,300.00 | 10.09.2021 Up to 10:30 A.M |
| 4. | C/C Nadaun Bhota Kangoo Galore at RD. 0/700, link road to village Jhalari (Shahid Sanjay Kumar Gate) G.P. Badehara Km. 0/0 to 0/450, (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD. 0/060 to 0/073, 0/150 to 0/160, 0/260 to 0/265 and P/L interlocking paver block at RD. 0/120 to 0/450) (Under OTMNP). Time:- Two Months, Class of Contractor:- Class-D. | 12,93,161.00 | 03-09-2021 From 10.30A.M | 25,900.00 | 10.09.2021 Up to 10:30 A.M |

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in **Executive Engineer,**

HPPWD, Division Barsar Distrit Hamirpur H.P Pin.174305 On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

A ND-NDE

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Bandhan celebration.

The flak is linked

to Armed Forces

Special Powers Act

A section of Naga women in

Nagaland and Manipur has

been slammed for tying rak-

his on the personnel of the

paramilitary Assam Rifles

during the recent Raksha

The Naga Mothers' Asso-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ciation, an apex women's organisation catering to all Naers Act (AFSPA), it is a shame

"questionable" act of some women was shameful when "Nagas are yet to see justice for war crimes and human rights violations allegedly committed by the armed "For us Naga women, trau-

said the

matised by a genocidal history of rapes, molestation, killings, village groupings, inhumane atrocities at the hands of Indian armed forces under the impunity of Armed Forces Special Powand a black day to witness our women tying rakhis and felicitating these very armed forces," the association said in a statement. The BJP had organised the Raksha Bandhan celebration in Nagaland's Dimapur. A students' body had taken the initiative in Manipur's Tamenglong.

"It is unacceptable and questionable in the continuing violations of human rights as long as Nagas are forced to live under AFSPA in these Naga areas and without justice," the association said.

DP/217/SE/21

FROM PAGE ONE

India brought people, holy books, says Modi

Earlier during the event, Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh said though the whole world was aware of the incident, 102 years later the exact number of fatalities were still un-

He said a research team had been deputed to work on the issue.

He urged the Prime Minister to have the pistol and diary of freedom fighter Udham Singh brought back from the United Kingdom. Udham Singh had assassinated Michael O'Dwyer, who had been the lieutenant-governor of Punjab in 1919, in the U.K. in 1940 in retaliation to the massacre.

The Jallianwala Bagh memorial, which had been closed to the public for about a year-and-a-half due to the renovation, would reopen to visitors from Sunday, with four new galleries, a light and sound show and new amenities.

Due to COVID protocols, Culture Ministry officials said only the descendants of the victims were present at the ceremony in person, with the rest of the dignitaries joining virtually.

'Centre using probe agencies for vendetta'

The Central Bureau of Investigation, in 2020, lodged an FIR in a multi-crore coal pilferage scam related to Eastern Coalfields Ltd. mines in the State's Kunustoria and Kajora areas in and around Asansol. The CBI has questioned Abhishek Banerjee's wife Rijura Banerjee in the

The ED is probing aspects of money-laundering in the

The agency has issued summons to Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rijura Banerjee to appear in their office in Delhi on September 6 and September 1 respectively. Some Indian Police Service (IPS) officers have also been summoned to appear on different dates next month in the same case.

The ED has arrested two persons in the scam that the agency estimates to involve around ₹1,352 crore. Vinay Mishra, the brother of Trinamool youth leader Vikas Mishra, has been arrested along with former inspector in charge in the Bankura case Ashok Kumar Mishra.

At the event, Mr. Abhishek Banerjee also spoke about the central investigating agencies trying to threaten the leaders of the party. "Those who think they can threaten us with ED, CBI, let me tell them, we will not be cowed down," he said.

Gujarat to contest stay on conversion law

On August 19, the Gujarat High Court in an interim order stayed Sections 3, 4, 4A to 4C, 5, 6 and 6A of the amended Act pending further hearing, saying that they "shall not operate merely because a marriage is solemnised by a person of one religion with a person of another religion without force or by allurement or by fraudulent means and such marriages cannot be termed as marriages for the purposes of unlawful conversion".

On Saturday, Mr. Rupani said, "The State government is firm to protect Hindu girls who are made to elope, and later forced to undergo religious conversion. The law against love jihad was brought in this very context and to take strong action against such acts."

Reiterating the State government's commitment to take the legal fight to the highest court, he added, "The State government will certainly approach the Supreme Court against the High Court's order staying Sections of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021, and will do all that is required."

The amended law enacted in the State legislature in 2021 penalises forcible or fraudulent religious conversion through marriage, and was notified by the Gujarat government on June 15.

The original Act has been

in force since 2003 and its amended version was passed in the Assembly in April 2021.

Plea challenged law

In July; the Gujarat chapter of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind filed a petition in the HC, challenging some of the amended Sections of the new law, calling them unconstitutional.

Among the other Sections, which mainly deal with religious conversion through interfaith marriages, the Division Bench of the High Court also stayed the operation of Section 5, which according to the BJP government is the "core" of the entire Act and a stay on it effectively stays the entire legislation.

The government on Wednesday told the High Court that Section 5 has nothing to do with marriage per se. A stay on Section 5 would actually stay the application of the entire law itself, and no one would approach the authorities for seeking permission before getting converted.

However, the HC on Thursday turned down the State government's plea seeking rectification of its

Section 5 of the Act mandates that religious priests must take prior permission from the District Magistrate for converting a person from one faith to another.

Five men arrested in Mysuru gang rape case

There were seven teams working on various angles of the case and the police did not have any statement or description of the suspects from the victim, who continues to be trauma-

Though Mr. Sood said it was possible that some of the accused may have a criminal background, the Tiruppur police said four of the accused, including the juvenile, did not have any criminal case history, but one of them was a murder accused.

"The police will file a chargesheet based on scientific and forensic evidence, and we will request the High Court to expedite the trial of the case. We are also confident of securing the cooperation of the victim as well during the trial stage and with whom we will continue to be in touch," said Mr.

In Bengaluru, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said a recommendation would be made to appoint a Special Public Prosecutor to ensure befitting punishment to the accused. He announced a cash prize of ₹5 lakh for the investigating team for cracking the case.

Rajesh Ram may be new **BPCC** chief

AMARNATH TEWARY

Amid hectic political developments in the Chhattisgarh unit of the Congress party, the Bihar Pradesh Committee Congress (BPCC) is likely to get party MLA Rajesh Ram its as new president replacing the incumbent Madan Mohan Jha, who had put in his papers shortly after the party's dismal performance in the Assembly polls last year. The BPCC is also likely to have eight working presidents.

Mr. Rajesh Ram is the MLA from Kutumba in Aurangabad district and also chairman of the SC/ST cell of BPCC. Some of the candidates likely to be named working presidents of the BPCC are Pravin Singh Kushwaha, Kumar Ashish, Manoj Kumar Singh, Amita Bhushan and Chandan Yadav. Rajesh Ram as the potential BPCC chief is said to be the choice of Bhakt Charan Das, who is in charge of the Congress in Bihar.

"If Mr. Ram becomes the new BPCC chief, then it will be a one-sided decision taken by the party incharge of the State," said Kishore Kumar Jha, All India Congress Committee member from Bihar.

Baghel gets massive welcome in Raipur

Some decisions take time, says challenger T.S. Singh Deo

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached Raipur airport on Saturday along with 46 MLAs and other Congress leaders to a grand welcome. Later in the day, Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo, who also returned to Raipur, said the decision on the question of the leadership change remains pending with the Congress central leadership.

The Chief Minister was returning after meeting former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday to resolve the ongoing power tussle between him and Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo. The Congress did not issue a conclusive statement weighing in either Mr. Baghel or Mr. Deo's favour but the Baghel camp has declared victory.

Hundreds of his supporters, Congress workers and youth Congress functionaries were waiting at the airport for hours to receive Mr. Baghel amidst strong security arrangements.

Despite clear instructions from the Congress central



Capital visit: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, left, and Congress' State in-charge P.L. Punia after meeting Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Friday. • PTI

leadership, 55 MLAs landed in Delhi over the last two days to build pressure on the leadership. However, neither Mr. Gandhi nor party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal met the legislators who were camping at the Congress headquarters in 24 Akbar Road.

On arrival, breaking the security cordon, Mr. Baghel waded into the crowd to shake hands with scores of

At 8 p.m. Mr Deo also re-

turned from Delhi after over a week awaiting a response from the Gandhis on his claim to the Chief Minister's post as reportedly promised by then Congress president Rahul Gandhi in 2018.

"The issue has been discussed with Mr Gandhi in detail. Some decisions take time. As of now, the decision on this, remains pending with the central leadership. We shall accept whatever decision they make," he told reporters at Raipur.

Rawat meets Rahul post Sidhu outburst

AICC's Punjab in-charge briefs Sonia too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A day after recently appointed Punjab Congress President Navjot Singh Sidhu said that if he was not given the freedom to take decisions for the party, he would smash the Congress in the State, the AICC State incharge Harish Rawat met former party president Rahul Gandhi.

Mr. Rawat had a similar meeting with Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Fri-

"I have briefed him on whatever the situation in Punjab is," Mr. Rawat told reporters after his meeting. He said that by next week he would visit Punjab where he will meet both Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and

Mr. Singh and Mr. Sidhu have been at loggerheads for several months now. In the last few days the situation has further worsened with dissident MLAs meeting Mr. Sidhu, seeking Mr. Singh's ouster. Punjab is scheduled to hold Assembly polls in a few months.

Mr. Rawat also summoned these MLAs to Dehradun where he heard them out, although he has already



Harish Rawat

clarified that the election will be fought under Captain Singh's leadership.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rawat has also sought to be relieved of his party position in charge of Punjab since his own State, Uttarakhand, is also going to polls around the same time.

Power struggle

Mr. Rawat himself is in a power struggle with Uttarakhand Congress Legislative Party leader Pritam Singh. But so far, the party has not considered his re-

"In the Congress, whatever the party leadership decides, that is the final decision. I will continue working as long as they ask me to," Mr. Rawat told reporters.

Police baton-charge farmers during protest in Haryana

Mild force used after requests went unheard: Karnal IGP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Haryana Police on Saturday resorted to baton-charge on a group of farmers protesting against the visit of Chief Minister Manohar Lal and other BJP leaders in Haryana's Karnal, the Assembly constituency of the Chief Mi-

Four protesters and 10 police personnel suffered injuries, according to the police. Farmer leaders, however, claimed that several protesters suffered serious

"An event was scheduled today in Karnal, in which the Chief Minister and BJP leaders were to participate. As a part of our ongoing agitation against the new farm laws, we had decided to peacefully oppose and demonstrate against the BJP leaders. In this series, farmers assembled at Bastara toll plaza, near Karnal. But they were lathicharged by the police without any provocation. Several farmers have been seriously injured," said Gurnam Singh of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Chaduni).



Long journey: Farmers have been engaged in a continuous stir along the Delhi border, and in Haryana and Punjab. • FILE РНОТО

Mamta Singh, Inspector Range, told *The Hindu* that said. mild force was used by the protesters after blocked the national highway near Bastara. "There was heavy traffic congestion and inconvenience to the public. We made several announcements asking the protesters to clear the road. Section 144 of CrpC, restricting assembly of five people or more, was already in place. But despite our repeated requests, the protesters were refused to budge. Stones were thrown at the police and thereafter, to

maintain law and order, very General of Police, Karnal mild force was used," she

> Ten police personnel and four protesters were injured in the incident," she

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha in a statement alleged that the duty magistrate was heard asking the police force to "break the heads" of the protesters. It demaned that the officer be booked.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh also condemned the IAS officer. He demanded immediate dismissal of the officer and strict action against him.

Security upgrade led to some interruption: UIDAI

System has not stabilised, it says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) acknowledged on Saturday there were "some intermittent service interruptions" in its systems over the last week and attributed them to "an essential security upgrade".

The authority, which is in charge of the Aadhaar identification system, said the upgrade was carried out in a phased manner, and the reported service interruptions occurred only in its enrolment and mobile update service facilities.

The authority's statement comes a day after The Hindu reported that the UI-DAI's IT systems were down according to many users who were unable to update their Aadhaar particulars to correct mismatches with other identity documents. Matching of the citizen's demographic details, such as name, gender and date of birth, in both the documents is a key requirement for linking Aadhaar with

UIDAI "was going through an essential securi-

phased manner over the last week, some intermittent service interruptions were reported only in the enrolment and mobile update service facility at a few enrolment/update centres, which too is working fine now, after upgradation," a statement said.

ty upgrade in its systems in a

Monitoring on It added that all its services

are "stable and functioning fine. There have been no outages in its Aadhaar -PAN/EPFO linking facility which is an authenticationbased facility". UIDAI further said that even though the system has stabilised, it is monitoring the same to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the residents. It may be noted that more than 51 lakh residents have been enrolled in the last nine days since the beginning of the upgradation process on August 20, 2021, at an average of 5.68 lakh enrolments per day while authentication transactions have taken place as usual on an average of more than 5.3 crore authentications per day," it added.



Man booked for death threat to Mamata KOLKATA

A case was lodged against a professor of the Calcutta University for allegedly threatening on social media to kill Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee, police said on Saturday. The case was registered against Arindam Bhattacharya, a professor of the Zoology Department, on the basis of a complaint filed by PhD scholar Tamal Dutta. a police officer stated. PTI

Nityanand Rai interacts with Ladakh groups

SRINAGAR Ladakh-based organisations called for a shutdown in the Union Territory, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on Saturday met the protesting members in Leh and heard their demands for statehood and special constitutional position on the lines of the Sixth Schedule. Mr. Rai triggered sharp reactions from local organisations when he invited only the elected members of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.

Why are hydropower projects in the Himalayas risky?

Environment Ministry told the SC earlier this month that seven hydel projects in the region can go ahead

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ NEW DELHI

The story so far: The Environment Ministry, in an affidavit placed in the Supreme Court earlier this month, has disclosed that it has permitted seven hydroelectric power projects, which are reportedly in advanced stages of construction, to go ahead. One of them is the 512 MW Tapovan Vishnugadh project, in Joshimath, Uttarakhand that was damaged by a flood in February.

What's the history of hydel projects in the Himalayas?

In the aftermath of the Kedarnath floods of 2013 that killed at least 5,000 people, the Supreme Court had halted the development of hydroelectric projects in Uttarakhand pending a review by the Environment Ministry on the role such projects had played in amplifying the dis-

A 17-member expert committee, led by environmentalist Ravi Chopra, was set up by the Ministry to examine

the role of 24 such proposed hydroelectric projects in the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi basin, which has the Ganga and several tributaries. The Chopra committee concluded that 23 projects would have an "irreversible impact" on the ecology of the Following this, six private

project developers, whose projects were among those recommended to be axed, impleaded themselves in the case on the ground that since their projects had already been cleared for construction before the Kedarnath tragedy, they should be allowed to continue.

The SC directed a new committee to be set up to examine their case. This committee, led by Vinod Tare of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, concluded that these projects could have a significant environmental impact. The Environment Minis-

try in 2015 set up yet another committee, led by B.P. Das, who was part of the original committee, but had filed a mum levels of water flow in



floods in February 2021. • v.v. KRISHNAN

"dissenting report". The Das committee recommended all six projects with design modifications to some.

EXPLAINER

The Water Resources Ministry, then led by Minister Uma Bharti, has been consistently opposed to hydropower projects in the Ganga. In charge of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, the Water Ministry has maintained that the cleanliness of the river was premised on miniall seasons and the proposed projects could hinder this. By 2019, however, the renamed Jal Shakti Ministry had changed its stance to accommodate seven out of the 24 projects. Its current position is that barring these, it is "not in favour" of new projects in the Ganga river ba-

Supreme Court are ongoing, this is the first time that the government has a formal uniform position on hydropower projects in the Uttarakhand region.

Though hearings in the

such projects face? Following the break in the

What are the challenges

Raunthi glacier that triggered floods in the Rishiganga river in Uttarakhand on February 7, which washed away at least two hydroelectric power projects – the13.2 MW Rishiganga hydroelectric power project and the Tapovan project, environmental experts have attributed the glacial melt to global warming. Glacier retreat and permafrost thaw are projected to decrease the stability of mountain slopes and increase the number and area of glacier lakes. Moreover, with increased instances of cloudbursts, and intense spells of rainfall and avalanches, residents of the region were also placed at increased risk of loss of lives and livelihood.

How can these conflicts be resolved? The challenges facing deve-

lopment in the Himalayan region are multi-faceted. The Uttarakhand government has said that it's paying over

them to meet their development obligations. Several environmentalists and residents of the region say that the proposed projects being built by private companies allot only a limited percentage of their produced power for the State of Uttarakhand itself. Thus the State, on its own, takes on massive environmental risk without being adequately compensated for it or its unique challenges accounted for. Though the Centre is committed to hydropower projects because it's a renewable source of power, the ecological damage combined with the reduced cost of solar power means that it has in recent times said that it is not in favour of greenfield hydropower projects in the region. But several environmental activists say that the Centre will continue to prioritise infrastructural development in the region, even if it comes at a heavy environmental cost.

₹1,000 crore annually to pur-

chase electricity and there-

fore, the more such projects

are cancelled, the harder for

'BH' vehicle registration series notified

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

To ensure seamless transfer of personal vehicles across States, the Road Transport Ministry has come up with Bharat Series (BH-series), a new registration mark for new vehicles.

In this regard, the government has notified a new vehicle registration regime that will free vehicle owners from re-registration process when they shift from one State/Union Territory to another.

"This vehicle registration facility will be available on voluntary basis to defense personnel, employees of central government/ State government/ central/ State public sector undertakings and private sector companies/organisations, which have their offices in four or more states/union territories," the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) said in a state-

The statement further said that an IT-based solution for vehicle registration is one such effort as "one of the pain points in the vehicle registration process that needed attention was re-registration of a vehicle while moving to another

Flood fury



Water world: A submerged house in Morigaon district of Assam on Saturday. Over 2.25 lakh people in 15 districts have been affected by floods in the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. • PTI

Congress slams ICHR for 'omitting' Nehru's role in India's Independence

Body has launched celebrations on 75th year of freedom

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Congress leaders have criticised the Indian Council for Historical Research for 'omitting' the contribution of Jawaharlal Nehru during the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate the 75th year of Independence.

Sabha member Tharoor shared a

screenshot of the main page of ICHR's website that displayed personalities such as Mahatma Gandhi, B. R. Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, Netaji Subhash Bose, Rajendra Prasad, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Bhagat Singh and Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. However, Pandit Nehru was

conspicuously missing. "It is not merely petty but absolutely ahistorical to celebrate Azadi by omitting the pre-eminent voice of Indian freedom, Jawaharlal Nehru," Mr. Tharoor tweeted with the screenshot.

Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh added, "Not surprising from this regime and its toadies masquerading as scholars, but atro-

ISKP has been trying to recruit Indian citizens for past few years

The outfit mainly comprises former cadres of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba

DEVESH K. PANDEY

Operatives of the Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP), which has claimed responsibility for the twin blasts outside the Kabul airport in Afghanistan, have been making attempts to recruit Indians for the past few

outfit comprises The mainly former cadres of the Pakistan-based banned outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), in coordination with the intelligence agencies, has busted an Indian module which was in contact with some ISKP operatives, and also some others from Syria, Iraq and Africa, through an Instagram channel named 'Chronicle Foundation'.

The channel had more than 5,000 members. Instigated by Pakistan-based recruiters, some members had attempted to join the outfit in Afghanistan via Iran in April 2019.

Since March, the NIA has conducted searches in Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Kerala, resulting in the arrest of 10 members of the module headed allegedly by



Seeking aid: Medical and hospital staff bringing an injured man on a stretcher for treatment after the blasts outside the airport in Kabul, Afghanstan, on August 26. • AFP

Mohammed Ameen, who is from Malappuram in Kerala.

Radicalised through the posts circulated via social media platforms and messaging applications like Hoop and Telegram, they were recruiting new members and were also raising funds.

Smokescreen

Earlier, after ISKP was floated in the Nangarhar province of Afghanistan in 2015, more than two dozen Indians had flown out of the country to join the outfit.

While initially it was being projected as an Islamic Stateaffiliate, counter-terrorism experts now believe that ISKP is a smokescreen creatduring the attack. ed to conceal the role of elements within Pakistan in raising a group for targeted strikes in Afghanistan while ensuring deniability. With the same objective, attempts

involvement. ISKP had claimed responsibility for the attack at a gurdwara in Kabul on March 25, 2020, carried out allegedly by an Indian nationalled module.

were made to rope in In-

dians and highlight their

The person – identified as Mohammed Muhasin, originally from Kerala - was killed by the Afghan forces

The United Nations Security Council, in its report this Iune, stated that the ISKP continued to pose a threat to Afghanistan and the wider region.

A counter-terrorism expert pointed out that the outfit's former chief, Aslam Farooqi alias Abdullah Orokzai, is a Pakistani citizen. He was captured by Afghan forces in April 2020 in connection with the gurudwara attack. During interrogation, he confessed to his links with the LeT.

Don't hire people with record of violence, SC tells employers

Condoning 'petty' crimes by rural applicants is not right

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held that public employers, especially the police, should take care not to induct criminals into their rolls while brushing off their violent past as "petty" misdemeanors of youth quite common in rus-

A Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and S. Ravindra Bhat said certain types of repetitive crimes committed in rural society like molestation of women, assault, trespass, etc., point to its casteist, hierarchical under-belly.

The judgment authored by Justice Bhat came on the basis of an appeal filed by Police Delhi Commissioner.

The police' screening committee had refused entry of some candidates, mostly drawn from rural areas, to the post of constable on the ground that they had a criminal past. One of the candidates to the post of a woman constable was accused of abducting her husband. The husband is still untraceable.

Reversal of decision The Delhi High Court made

general remarks about how felonies form a part and parcel in rural settings.

The High Court's approach, evident from its oband age of the candidates, appears to hint at the general acceptability of behaviour

which involves petty crime or misdemeanour. The impugned order indicates a broad view, that such misdemeanour should not be taken seriously, given the age of the youth and the rural setting. This court is of opinion that such generalisations, leading to condonation of the offender's conduct, should not enter the judicial verdict," the Supreme Court observed its disagreement with the casual tone taken by the High

The court said the emplover must scrutinise every detail from the candidate's servations about the youth past. The judgment said the criminal conduct of the candidates indicates a larger social malaise.

Indian pilots to return to Russia soon for stitching customised space suits

Moscow is also helping with the design of view ports and life support systems

DINAKAR PERI

In March this year, four Indian Air Force (IAF) officers completed a year-long training in the Russian Space Academy as part of India's Gaganyaan human space flight programme. They will soon return to Russia for getting their space suits made as per individual specifications.

"Having completed their training, they returned home... We also expect our astronauts to return to Russia for very specific tasks. The space suits are being stitched in Russia and they will be coming here to Moscow to undertake tailoring measurements," Ambassador of India to Russia D.B. Venkatesh Varma told The Hindu. So this will be a happy occasion when we will see our astronauts back in Moscow though for a brief time, he stated. In addition to the train-

ing, Russia is also assisting the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in other "India-Russia Coopera-

tion in the space field, on Gaganyaan would continue in certain other aspects. Russia is helping us with the design of view ports and life support systems," Mr. Varma said.

Stating that space and nuclear power continue to be

DIPR/C/8544



astronauts from extreme temperatures and vacuum.

two important pillars of our cooperation between India and Russia, the envoy said that when Indian astronauts, Gagannauts as they are called, travel into space, they will be on board an Indian spacecraft, largely using Indian technology and Indian training. '

According to the portal

SPMU, ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA

discoveryspace.org, space suits serve as "self-contained spaceships that protect astronauts from extreme temperatures, micrometeoroids and the nearly pure vacuum of space for hours at a time, so that they can take a stroll outside the confines of their spacecraft or enjoy a brisk walk on the Moon."

However, space suits shouldn't be confused with the pressure suits worn by astronauts, test pilots and others during launch and landing, it stated.

The space suits are being made by Russian research, development and production enterprise Zvezda under the contract of Glavkosmos, a subsidiary of Russian space corporation Roscosmos, with the Human Spaceflight Centre (HSC) of ISRO.

TMC leader attacked in Agartala

A CORRESPONDENT AGARTALA

A senior leader of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and two party workers were wounded in an organised attack in Agartala on Saturday. The incident occurred at the residence of party leader Majibur Islam Majumdar, who had arranged a programme at his house to commemorate the foundation day of the All India Trinamool Chhatra Parishad or the TMCP.

Majibur Islam Majumdar and two workers, identified as Shubhanka Debnath and Ronnie, sustained injuries when a group of hooligans attacked the programme venue.

The attackers also ransacked the programme venue and dismantled a video projector.

IN BRIEF



Gaganyaan demo model BENGALURU

ISRO said it successfully conducted the first hot test of the System Demonstration Model (SDM) of the Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System at the test facility of Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu, on Saturday. PTI

Guwahati airport not to be renamed, says Scindia

The Guwahati airport will continue to be named after Assam's first Chief Minister Gopinath Bordoloi despite being handed over to the Adani Group, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has said. In a letter to the Assam Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, he has also assured that the ownership of the civil aviation facility will remain with the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

ED attaches properties worth ₹363.51 crore

NEW DELHI The Enforcement Directorate has attached 45 immovable properties worth ₹363.51 crore of MBS Jewellers Private Limited, MBS Impex Private Limited and others in a money laundering case. The attached assets also belong to Sukesh Gupta, Anurag Gupta, Neetu Gupta, Vandana Gupta and their other group entities.



GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU



Co-operation, Food and Consumer **Protection Department, Chennai.**

HIGH COURT OF MADRAS

NOTIFICATION No.01/2021 DATED: 29.08.2021 Applications are invited from Indian Citizens, in the prescribed format, from qualified

and eligible candidates for filling up of the following posts sanctioned to the Tamil Nadu State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission:-

| SI.No. | Name of Post | No. of Vacancies | Salary | | | | | |
|--------|--|------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. | Judicial Member | | As per Rule 4 of the Tamil Nadu Consume Protection (Salary, Allowances and Conditions of Service of President and | | | | | |
| 2. | Non-Judicial Member | 1 | Members of the State Commission and District Commission) Rules, 2021. | | | | | |
| | For data to the control of the contr | | | | | | | |

For details like age, Minimum eligibility, term of office, fees, selection procedure etc., refer to detailed Notification available in http://www.consumer.tn.gov.in https://www.scdrc.tn.gov.in and https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in Last date for submission of applications is: 13.9.2021.

சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்" DIPR/767/DISPLAY/2021

Member-Convener, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department, Chennai - 600 009.



भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान कोलकाता INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (IISER)
KOLKATA

मोहनपुर / Mohanpur - 741 246 Advt. No.: IISER-K/DoFA/SRD/2021/1

Date: 26.08.2021

SPECIAL RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR FACULTY POSITIONS FOR SC/ST/OBC/PWD/EWS

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For further details please visit the Institute website [http://apply.iiserkol.ac.in/faculty/]

The last date for submission of ONLINE applications is 15.10.2021. **Dean of Faculty Affairs**

OFFICE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR, SPMU, ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA GROUND WATER DEPARTMENT, JAIPUR 72-B, JHALANA INSTITUTIONAL AREA, JHALANA DOONGRI, JAIPUR

EMAIL ID: PD ATAL @RAJASTHAN GOVIN NO.F.2(37)/ATAL/PO/SPMU/JPR/2021/711 DATED: 26,08,2021

Notice Inviting Bid 12/2021-22

Bid for On Construction of Piezometers along with Cement Concrete Platform and In formation Board in Atal Bhuial Yoiana with two years defect liability period are invited from interested bidder upto 11.00 A.M. of 06.09.2021. Other particular of bid may be visited on procurement portals (www.eproc.raiasthan.gov.in

http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) and http://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in/Departmental website. UBN: GWD 2122WLOB00166

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भरतपुर क्रमांकः - न.न.भ./बिद्युत/2021-22/253 दिनांकः - 24/08/2021 ई-विविदा सूचवा

नगर निगम, 'भरतपुर द्वारा निम्न कार्य कराये जाने हेतु केन्द्र सरकार व राज्य सरकार के विभागों में E-I श्रेणी (विद्युत) में पजीकृत संवेदकों/अनुभवी फर्मों से निर्धारित प्रपन्न में ई प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की महत्वपू शर्तें एवं विवरण वेबसाईट http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/ प http://bharatpurmc.co.in पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यों की संख्या

कार्यों की कल लागत 301.00 लाख वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से निविदा दिनांक 27/8/2021 से 26/09/2021 डाउनलोड करने की समय व तिथि नक एवं साय 6.00 बजे Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time दिनांक 8/9/21 समय दोपहर 12.00 बजे वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से ऑन-दिनाक 26/9/2021 साय 6.00 बजे लाईन निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम समय व तिथि नगर निगम में प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क निविदा शुल्क की यू.टी.आर. दिनाक 27/09/2021 दोपहर 12.00 बजे भौतिक रूप से जमा कराने की तिथि दिनांक 27/09/2021 साय 4.00 बजे तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की समय व तिथि



UBN Number :- DLB2122WS0B13183

_____ மன்டல அலுவலகம் / क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय / Regional Offic 143, ஸ்டெர்லிங் சாலை, நுங்கம்பாக்கம், சென்வ 143, स्टर्लिंग **रो**ड, नुंगमबाक्कम, चेन्नै-600034. 143, Sterling Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034 Phone: 28306300 (100 Lines)

आयुक्त नगर निगम, भरतपुर

No:51-W-11-Tender Documents-ARM/SR-2020-21 **E-TENDER NOTICE**

Additional Commissioner & Regional Director invites Online Bids / Expression of Interest rom Eligible Central / State PSUs / Autonomous Bodies for the following works. Name of work

Annual Repair and Maintenance / Special Repairs of Civil and Electrical Works including Operation of various Electrical / Electro-Mechanical Services. Equipr and plants in ESI Establishments of Tamilnadu Region.

Tender ID: 2021_ESIC_645289_1

Interested PSUs / Autonomous Bodies may submit online tender at https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app Bid document can also be viewed at ww.esic.nic.in and www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Additional Commissioner/ Regional Director

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala) Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number: 96461-18774)

Tender Enquiry No. MQP-187/2021-22/PO(M) Dated: 28.08.202 Chief Engineer/Meeting, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-tender fo Design, Supply, Testing, Commissioning, Integration, Reading, Analysis and 5 year O&M of 3,00,000 nos. 'ISI' Marked LT AC, Single Phase 2-wire, Whole Curren DLMS compliant, (Category C-3) Static Intelligent Energy Smart Meters of rating 10-60 Amps (or better). 50 Hz, 240 V of Accuracy Class-1 (in default Pre-Paid mode with 'Optical Port', AMI system & Communication infrastructure with a network platform across Punjab. For detailed NIT and tender specification, please refer to

nttps://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 28.08.2021 from 03:00 PM onward Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online a

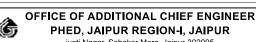
https://eproc.punjab.gov.in C - 319/21 DPRPB 76155/12/418/2021/7283

INVITATION OF BIDS

Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) formerly known as Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, ovt. of India, HIL Colony, Edayar Road, Pathalam, Udyogamandal P.O., Kochi, Kerala – 683 50 Email: kochi@cipet.gov.in, cipetkochi@gmail.com, www.cipet.gov.ir

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Online) No.: CIPET-IPT/KOCHI/E-TENDER/TOOL.MAC/2021-22/02 CIPET invites technical & commercial bids separately item-wise from the reputed suppliers manufacturers for the supply & installation of Tool Room Equipment / Machinery / Software for CIPE^{*} Kochi centre, Interested and eligible bidders are requested to apply through e-tender (online), website www.tenderwizard.com/CIPET, also visit CIPET website & CPPP for complete details on technical specification and commercial terms. CIPET reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders either in part or in full without assigning any reasons thereof.

CIPET-IPT/KOCHI/E-TENDER/TOOL.MAC/2021-22/02 Last date for the online submission of the bid 20/09/2021, 03.00 p.m. After Evaluation of Technical Bids



or further clarification, please contact 0484 -2547741- Extn : 203

PHED, JAIPUR REGION-I, JAIPUR jyoti Nagar, Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005 $Phone: 0141\hbox{-}2740170 (o) \hbox{ e-mail: acel.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in}\\$

No :F./ACE/PHED/Ar Khetri/NIT-89-92/2021-22/7395-7419 Date: 20/08/2021

(e-NIT NO.89-92/2021-22)

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan online tenders are hereby invited from eligible bidders for the "Work of Augmentation of various RWSS to provide FHTC including one year Defect Liability period of various SVS & MVS under JJM in the jurisdiction of PHED Division Khetri, District Jhunjhunu, Block Buhana". Rs. 4.34 Crore-NIT No.89/2021-22, Rs. 3.07 Crore-NIT, No.90/2021-22, Rs. 4.68 Crore-NIT No.91/2021-22, Rs.10.70 Crore-NIT No.92/2021-22 as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/tender document available on websites: https://eproc.rajasthan.gov in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in as per prescribed schedule.

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| 89/2021-22 | PHE2122A2867 | PHE2122WSOB06337 |
| 90/2021-22 | PHE2122A2867 | PHE2122WSOB06338 |
| 91/2021-22 | PHE2122A2867 | PHE2122WSOB06339 |
| 92/2021-22 | PHE2222A2867 | PHE2122WSOB06340 |
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SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE

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(Arun Srivastava PHED, Jaipur Region-I, Jaipur

Joint Director & Head

'Plasmid DNA vaccine ZyCoV-D is safe and effective for adolescents'

The reactogenicity of the three-dose vaccine is lesser than that of other COVID-19 vaccines currently used in India, says member of National COVID-19 Task Force

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

N.K. Arora, a senior member of the National COVID-19 Task Force, speaks about the ZyCoV-D vaccine – the world's first plasmid DNA vaccine for human use – and how it could be the beginning of a vaccine revolution. Excerpts:

How is Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV-D vaccine different from the existing COVID-19 vaccines, especially the mRNA vaccines?

■ ZyCoV-D is the world's first plasmid DNA vaccine for human use. DNA, or Deoxyribonucleic Acid, contains the genetic code of various components of an organism. For the vaccine, the part of the COVID-19 virus that helps it enter the cell and causes disease is coded. When the vaccine is injected into the human body, it produces that particular part of the virus and stimulates the immune system to generate antibodies and T-cells immunity against the virus.

This DNA piece is enclosed by a membrane called plasmid, and it disintegrates after it has completed its action. This DNA is a laboratory-made structure and is unable to interfere with the genetic composition of humans. The mRNA vaccines are also made with the same principle. These again are laboratory-made structures and not obtained from the actual virus.

Is the vaccine approved for children?

■ Any new vaccine is first tested on adults and then on children. This holds true for all the currently used paediatric vaccines. Similarly, the

COVID-19 vaccines, for example, Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik, have been used in adults. Covaxin is now being tested in children aged 2-18 years. The key assessment criteria are the safety of the vaccines and their immunogenic capacity in children. ZyCoV-D has also been tested in adolescents between 12 and 17 years. Now, we have the first approved, safe and effective vaccines for adolescents in India

Is this vaccine safer than the previous one?

■ The Phase I, II and III trials of ZyCoV-D demonstrated its safety in all age groups. In fact, the reactogenicity of the vaccine, that is, fever, pain, feeling of illness, is much lesser than the other currently used vaccines in

Like vaccination for adults,



I strongly feel that parents should send their kids to school without waiting for COVID-19 vaccine

will there be a prioritisation in the paediatric age group as well?

■ Prioritisation of adults was based on occupation, comorbidities and age. Two criteria were used for the prioritisation: exposure probability and risk of severe disease and death. In children, CO-

matic or mild; severe disease and death are rare. Like for adults, for children too, the priority will be given to those with comorbidities such as heart disease, chronic kidney, liver, lung diseases and other illnesses.

Secondly, there are 44 crore children in India, out of them 12 crore are in the 12-17 age group. We intend to prioritise adult immunisation and simultaneously start immunising children with comorbidities.

When will the vaccine be available for people? What is the current production capacity of this vaccine?

■ We are expecting to begin inoculating adults and adolescents with comorbidities by mid-October. For healthy children, COVID-19 vaccination is likely to be launched by the first quarter of 2022.

pacity of ZyCoV-D is 1 crore doses per month. It is expected that it will be ramped up to 2-3 crore doses a month in the coming months. We need to understand that the DNA vaccine production line is a slow process and might require tech-

Tell us about the dosage and intervals between doses?

nology transfer to other

companies as well.

■ This is a three-dose vaccine, given with a needleless device called jet inject/Pharmajet, which is also painless. Every dose is 2 mg, split into two parts administered at two separate sites to get maximum immune response. All three doses will be given in the same manner at an interval of four weeks each. The vaccine is associated with negligible side-effects and the recipient does not feel any pain or discomfort at the injected site. Even fever or fais post-vaccination.

Now that the vaccine for children will soon be available, do you think it will be a good idea to send children to school only after they get vaccinated?

As explained earlier, paediatric vaccination can wait. Based on Indian as well as global data, the risk of severe disease and death are rare in children. However, children can spread infection. Adults have almost 15 times higher risk of death and severe disease compared with children below 18 years. So, if adults around them at home or at school are vaccinated, it will form a protective ring around them. There will be limited virus and disease transmission in that condition.

I strongly feel that parents

school without waiting for COVID-19 vaccine for two reasons: one, their risk of developing a severe disease is rare; second, going to school is important for their cognitive, physical and mental development.

Some parents are afraid of sending their children as they fear the third wave. Is the third wave for real?

Personally, I feel that based on the current virus and disease epidemiology, sero-positivity rate and the fact that 90% of the circulating virus is Delta variant, and no new variant of concern has been reported in the past four weeks, it seems we are at the tail-end of the second wave.

The risk of the third wave is there only if people show complacency in following COVID-appropriate behaviour, especially during the coming festival season.

Overcrowding in Odisha jails a concern: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Orissa High Court has directed the State Directorate of Prison and Correctional Services to address the issue of overcrowding in jails by adopting best practices in vogue in other parts of the world.

Hearing a public interest litigation, a Division Bench of Chief Justice S. Muralidhar and Justice B.P. Routray said it was important to find out how far such practices could be adopted for implementation in Od-

The Bench observed that the situation continued to be a cause of great concern, as a large number of prisons in the State had 20% more inmates than they should accommodate and in a substantial number of prisons this was beyond 50%.

Reopen schools, say 56 experts

There is global evidence to support resumption of in-person classes, they say

A group of 56 academicians, doctors and other professionals have written an open letter to the Chief Ministers and administrators of Union Territories, requesting them to urgently consider reopening schools and resuming inperson classes. In their letter, which has

also been marked to the Prime Minister's Office, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and the National Disaster Management Authority Chairperson, the signatories said COVID-19 vaccination of children should not be a prerequisite for reopening schools. "A number of governments have not yet reopened schools for all classes because of concerns including students are not vaccinated, schools appear



Virus shield: A school staffer spraying disinfectant in a classroom at a governement school in Hyderabad. • AFP

to be 'super-spreaders', fear of a third wave and a rise in cases in areas where schools have been opened.... There is global evidence to support school opening and governments should urgently consider opening schools and resuming in-person classes," the letter read.

India is among only among four or five countries across the world where schools have been closed for such a long time (one-and-ahalf years), the letter said.

"There is an urgent need

to bring children back to school. Since younger children are least at risk, we urge you to permit primary schools to open first, in line with ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) recommendations, and then higher classes. We look forward to leaders across political parties coming together for the sake of our children," the letter stated. The signatories said vaccination is not a prerequisite for reopening schools. They said the purpose of vaccination is to prevent severe illness and death, and children are at relatively low risk of severe or fatal COVID-19.

"It is well known that lack of education for students, particularly girls, affects the health and livelihood of the next generation too. These are extreme costs. Governments and task forces must strike a balance of risks, and such balance is overwhelmingly in favour of opening schools," the letter added.

The signatories include epidemiologist Chandrakant Lahariya, Lancet Commission COVID-19 India Task Force member Suneela Garg, former president of the Indian Academy of Paediatrics Naveen Thacker, and Teach For India CEO Shaheen Mistri.

Flyers from Europe need negative report

STAFF REPORTER

The Maharashtra government has made negative RT-PCR reports mandatory passengers coming from Europe, West Asia and South Africa.

Chief Secretary Sitaram Kunte issued an order which stated that all rules for international passengers arriving into the State, including passengers from European countries, West Asia and South Africa, would be in line with the guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Passengers who have taken two doses of COVID-19 vaccine would also have to produce a negative RT-PCR report, a sample for which should have been taken 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of landing at any airport in the State.

Centre extends COVID-19 guidelines till Sept. 30

'Case count in some districts a concern'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Home Affairs has extended the implementation of COVID-19 management guidelines till September 30.

The overall pandemic situation at the national level appeared to be largely stable, except for the localised spread of the virus in some States. The total number of active cases and high case positivity in some districts continued to remain a matter of concern, the Ministry said in an order. Containment measures should be taken in the districts recording high positivity.

"It is important to identify warning signs of potential surges early on and take appropriate measures to curb the spread. This will require a localised approach," the Ministry said.

Observing that there was slackening in enforcement measures of authorities to ensure adherence to CO-VID-19-appropriate behaviour, the Ministry said they were required to be implemented stringently.

"The country has made significant progress in vaccination. The State governments/UT administrations should continue with their vaccination programme so as to inoculate maximum number of eligible persons," it noted, advising that large gatherings during the festive season be avoided. Local restrictions could be imposed to curb such gatherings, it added.

It reiterated the need to +continue focus on the fivefold strategy of test-tracktreat-vaccination and adherence to COVID-appropriate

Webinar on challenges faced by animal husbandry sector tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER

BusinessLine and Godrej Agrovet will organise a webinar on the topic, 'What ails India's Animal Husbandry Sector?', at 4 p.m. on Monday The webinar will focus on

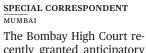
the measures that can can be undertaken to improve the productivity of the animal husbandry sector and also the challenges the stakeholders face.



Experts who will speak at the webinar include R.S. Sodhi, managing director, GCMMF (Amul); Nadir Godrej, chairman, Godrej Agrovet; B. Soundararajan, managing director, Suguna Holding; Ashish Modani, vice-president, Corporate Ratings, ICRA; and Sandeep Kumar Singh, CEO, Animal Feed Business and Godrej Maxximilk.

To register for the webinar, please vihttps:// bit.ly/ GDJBLA2





cently granted anticipatory bail to the owner of a restaurant for prima facie abetting the suicide of the man who was running it.

The court noted: "This is an instance of how a common man has suffered on account of the economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic and particularly, those in the hospitality

Justice Bharati Dangre said, "The economic effects of the pandemic in India, led to the reduction in economic activities, subsequently forcing businesses to scale or shut down their operations. It impacted many individuals, families, enterprises being affected due to sharp

existential threat." The court was hearing a petition by the owner of a restaurant seeking protec-

rise in unemployment. Mil-

lions of enterprises face an

tion from arrest for allegedly abetting the suicide of a 48vear-old man who was running the restaurant.

Bombay HC highlights COVID impact, allows bail plea

The owner of a restaurant was accused of abetting the suicide of the man who was running it

The wife of the deceased alleged that after the lockdown was declared, the business reached its nadir and her husband was not able to fulfil the terms of agreement with the owners. However, he was repeatedly asked to contribute his share, which he was unable to do so, and subsequently he committed

The five-page order read, "Prima facie the situation can be very well guessed from the narration of the complaint and as it can be seen that this was one instance how a common man has suffered on account of the economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic and particularly, those in the hospitality business, when millions of restaurants/small hotels suffered financial distress and left their owners, staff, em-

ployees, lost their productive assets during lockdown." While granting anticipatory bail, the court recorded, "The allegations require investigation, but in my considered opinion, since the situation is an unfortunate and unprecedented one, even the applicant cannot be completely held responsible for the economic crisis and fi-

nancial constraints being

faced by them and they seek-

ing their share from the de-

SUDOKU

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★公公

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| 5 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 |
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| 1 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 8 | | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
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Democracy and truth go hand in hand: Justice Chandrachud

'Act of speaking truth obviates the predisposition to tyranny'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge Justice D.Y. Chandrachud highlighted the necessity of speaking truth to power, be it even an "imperial power" or an "allpowerful state".

"Democracy needs truth to survive. Democracy and truth go hand in hand. Speaking truth to power is a right of every citizen in a democracy. It is equally a du-Justice Chandrachud said in his address at the Sixth M.C. Chagla Memorial online lecture on Saturday.

He said truth was both a sword and a shield in a democracy.

Justice Chandrachud said the Supreme Court acted like a "Truth Commission" for posterity, using its ability to document the truth on whether or not due process was followed during the pandemic.



D.Y. Chandrachud

He said a nation's shared public memory should be founded on truth.

The top court judge said the act of speaking truth counteracts power and obviates the predisposition to tyranny.

Spaces of reason Justice Chandrachud said

ern democracies to survive. Democracies are seen as "spaces of reason" where every decision taken by the people in power should be backed by adequate reasons. Any reason based on a falsehood would be no reason at all, the judge said. Noting that totalitarian

governments were linked to "constant reliance on falsehoods in order to establish dominance", Justice Chandrachud said truth in governance was important to instil a sense of public trust in democracy.

The judge said the fact that our founding fathers were aware of it was evident in our motto Satyameva *Jayate* (truth shall prevail). "As citizens of a democra-

cy, we need to commit ourselves to the search for truth as a key aspiration of our sospeaking truth to power was ciety," Justice Chandrachud absolutely essential for modsaid.

Calcutta varsity waives fees due to pandemic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The University of Calcutta has decided to waive all kinds of fees for its students for the year 2021-22.

The decision, taken in view of the ongoing CO-VID-19 pandemic, will ensure practically a free education for thousands of students.

"In view of the present pandemic situation, the University has waived all fees like admission fees, tuition fees and examination fees of the students (PG and University UG students) for the academic year 2021-22 for different semesters and it is not required for the students to pay fees for collecting the marksheets/grade sheets of different semester examinations," the university said in a circular issued earlier this week.

The decision has been widely welcomed, particularly by affiliated colleges.

CBI arrests 2 in Bengal post-poll violence case

The agency has registered 21 FIRs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT DELHI/ KOLKATA

The CBI on Saturday arrested two persons in connection with post-poll violence in Chapra in Nadia district

of West Bengal. The duo, Bijoy Ghosh and Ashima Ghosh, are accused of the murder of Dharma Mondal. They will be produced before a competent court, the agency said in a

statement. The agency also registered 10 more cases pertaining to post-poll violence in West Bengal, taking the total number of cases registered so far to 21. It registered FIRs for incidents at Sitalkuchi and Dinhata in Cooch Behar, Jagadal in North 24 Parganas, Jamuria in Bardhaman, two cases in Birbhum and two in Liluah in Howrah district, among others. The CBI also conducted search-

es at 15 different locations. A CBI team visiting Chapra faced protests by Trina-

mool Congress supporters, who raised slogans and alleged that the officials were being helped by local BJP leaders.

"The agency has been taking over the cases based on the information shared by the West Bengal police, following a directive from the Calcutta High Court. Members of the four teams set up for the purpose are in the State to record the statements of victims and witnesses," an official of the agency said.

Of the 11 cases earlier registered by the CBI, eight pertains to murder. The others are related to attempted murder, assault, gang rape and sexual abuse.

The Calcutta High Court on August 19 directed the CBI to probe cases of murder and sexual assault in connection with the violence that erupted after the declaration of the Assembly election results.

U.S. drone strike targets IS in Afghanistan

Two 'ISIS-K planners and facilitators' killed, another wounded, says Pentagon spokesman John Kirby

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A U.S. airstrike in Afghanistan killed two high-profile IS targets and left another wounded, the Pentagon said on Saturday.

No civilians were hurt in the attack early on Saturday, which followed the suicide bombing on Thursday that killed scores of people, including 13 U.S. troops at Kabul airport, Major General Hank Taylor told a news conference.

The Pentagon declined to say if the people targeted in the U.S. strike were directly involved in the suicide bombing

"They were ISIS-K planners and facilitators. That's enough reason there alone," said spokesman John Kirby.

"The fact that two of these individuals are no longer walking on the face of the Earth, that's a good thing," Mr. Kirby added.

Thursday's attack was



Securing the area: Taliban fighters blocking a road with a Humvee near Kabul airport on Saturday. • AFP

claimed by a regional Islamic State chapter.

The suicide bombing injected further stress and tension into a situation already fraught with panic and despair for those wanting to leave and for the U.S. forces tasked with securing the operation.

The bombing followed a chorus of warnings about an imminent threat and, as peoport on Saturday, the United States issued a fresh alert for its citizens to leave areas around the main gates "immediately"

'Future attempts'

In recent years, the Islamic State's Afghanistan-Pakistan chapter has been responsible for some of the deadliest attacks in those countries massacring civilians at mosques, shrines, public squares

poised to take over when the At the White House, Presilast U.S. plane leaves Kabul, dent Joe Biden's press secrediscussions have begun on resuming normal flight tary Jen Psaki said U.S. nasecurity experts operations. consider another attack is

Turkish officials have held initial talks with the Taliban in Kabul about helping get the airport back up and running. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the Taliban offer was for them to oversee security at the airport, while Ankara runs logistical operations. The United Nations said it

was bracing for a "worstcase scenario" of up to half a million more refugees from Afghanistan by the end of 2021. "We are preparing for around 500,000 new refugees in the region. This is a worst-case scenario," she said. She stressed the need to boost support for neighbouring countries that already host more than 2.2 million Afghan refugees, and which could soon see the

Biden: China still withholding 'critical' details on virus origins

U.S. intelligence split on whether it escaped from a lab

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden said on Friday that China was withholding "critical information" on the origins of CO-VID-19 after the U.S. intelligence community said it did not believe the virus was a bioweapon - but remained split on whether it escaped from a lab.

The U.S., however, does not believe Chinese officials had foreknowledge of the virus before the initial outbreak of the pandemic that has now claimed 4.5 million lives, according to the unclassified summary of an eagerly awaited intelligence report.

"Critical information about the origins of this pandemic exists in the People's Republic of China, vet from the beginning, government



worked to prevent international investigators and members of the global public health community from accessing it," Mr. Biden said in a statement.

'Not a bioweapon'

"To this day, the PRC continues to reject calls for transparency and withhold information, even as the toll of this pandemic continues to

U.S. intelligence has ruled out that the coronavirus was developed as a weapon, and most agencies assess with "low confidence" it was not genetically engineered.

But the community remains divided on the pathogen's origins, with four agencies and the National Intelligence Council judging in favour of natural exposure to an animal as the like ly explanation, and one agency favoring the lab leak theory. Analysts at three agencies were unable to reach a conclusion.

The intelligence community and global scientists lack clinical samples or epidemiological data from the earliest Covid-19 cases, it added.

Mr. Biden said the U.S. would continue to work with allies to press Beijing to share more information.

U.S. forces keep up airlift under threat of attacks

Taliban add new layers of checkpoints on roads leading to the airport, largely sealing off the area

ASSOCIATED PRESS

American forces working under heightened security and threats of another attack pressed ahead in the closing days of the U.S.-led evacuation from Afghanistan after a devastating suicide bombing.

The next few days "will be our most dangerous period to date" in the evacuation, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said, hours before the U.S. issued a security alert for four of the airport

The U.S. evacuation of vulnerable Afghans has continued, with Major General Hank Taylor saying there were around 1,400 at the airport on Saturday who have been "screened and manif-

ested for flights today." Altogether, around 1,17,000 people have been flown out of Afghanistan since August 14, the day before the Taliban seized

The Taliban deployed extra forces around Kabul's airport on Saturday to prevent crowds

New layers of checkpoints sprang up on roads leading to the airport, some manned by uniformed Taliban fighters with Humvees and nightvision goggles captured from Afghan security forces.

The death toll rose to 169 Afghans, a number that could increase as authorities examine fragmented remains, and 13 U.S. service

Many Western nations have already completed their evacuation operations ahead of Tuesday's deadline for the withdrawal of all U.S. forces.

An Afghan who had worked as a translator for the U.S. military said he was with a group of people with permission to leave who tried to reach the airport late Friday. After passing through three checkpoints they were stopped at a fourth. An argument ensued, and the Taliban said they had been told by the Americans to only let passport-holders

and even hospitals.

"likely" and the next few

days will be "the most dange-

Taliban spokesman Bilal

Karimi said in tweet that the

group's fighters had already

moved into parts of the mili-

tary side of Kabul airport,

but the Pentagon stressed

that U.S. forces retained con-

trol over the gates and airlift

Racing to meet the Tues-

day withdrawal deadline has

required close cooperation

with the Taliban on evacuee

movements and the IS

The head of U.S. forces at

Hamid Karzai International,

Rear Admiral Peter Vasely, is

in constant contact with the

Taliban official overseeing

security around the airport.

with the Taliban

operations.

threat.

rous period to date".

"I am so hopeless for my future," the man said after returning to Kabul, speaking on condition of anonymity because of security concerns. "If the evacuation is over, what will happen to

Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed to bring more Afghans to the U.K.

"There will sadly be people who haven't got through, people who might qualify,"

Mr. Johnson told reporters. "What I would say to them is that we will shift heaven and earth to help them get out, we will do whatever we can in the second phase."

Baby on board

Turkish media reported that an evacuation flight from Afghanistan has landed in the U.K. with an extra passenger - after cabin crew delivered a baby girl mid-air.

When the traditional cry of "Is there a doctor on the flight?" went unanswered, Turkish Airlines staff helped Soman Noori, 26, give birth at 30,000 feet, Demiroren News Agency said.

U.S. Navy ships in Taiwan Strait pose threat: China

This comes after China conducted drills

ASSOCIATED PRESS

China's Defence Ministry protested on Saturday the passage of a U.S. Navy warship and Coast Guard cutter through the waters between China and Taiwan, a self-governing island claimed by China.

A statement posted on the Ministry's website called the move provocative and said it shows that the U.S. is the biggest threat to peace and stability and creator of security risks in the 160-km wide Taiwan Strait.

"We express firm opposition and strong condemnation," the statement said. The USS Kidd guided-

missile destroyer and Coast Guard cutter Munro sailed through the strait on Friday in international waters, the U.S. Navy said.

Such exercises are seen as a warning to China, which recently conducted drills near Taiwan and has not renounced the use of force if needed to bring the island under its control.

"The ships' lawful transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," U.S. Navy's Japan-based 7th Fleet said.

U.S. Gulf Coast braces for Hurricane Ida

Hurricane Ida intensified over warm Gulf of Mexico waters and took aim at the U.S. Gulf Coast on Saturday, prompting tens of thousands in Louisiana and offshore energy workers to flee to safety.

Forecasters said it could make a U.S. landfall as an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 storm on the fivestep Saffir-Simpson scale, generating winds of 225 km per hour, heavy downpours and a tidal surge that could plunge much of the Louisiana shoreline under several feet of water.

⁺ 'Biden is making same demands as Trump'

Khamenei slams U.S. over nuclear deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Iran's supreme leader Ava tollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday accused U.S. President Biden's Ioe administration of making the same demands as his predecessor Donald Trump in talks to revive a nuclear accord.

The multilateral deal that offers Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear programme was torpedoed by Mr. Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from it in 2018.

A last round of negotiations between Iran and the deal's remaining parties to revive the 2015 accord concluded in June with no resumption in sight.

"America's current administration is no different from the previous one, because what it demands from Iran on the nuclear issue is



different in words, but the same thing that Trump demanded," Mr. Khamenei said, quoted by his official website.

"The Americans truly have no shame on the nuclear issue, and even though they withdrew from the JCPOA... they now talk in a way and make demands as it was (Iran) that withdrew," he added, referring to the deal by its official name, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of

Afghanistan overshadows key West Asia summit

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

fa al-Kadhemi.

Iraq and France "are kev partners in the war against terrorism," Mr. Kadhemi replied.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah II flew in for the summit, while the Foreign Ministers of regional foes Iran and Saudi Arabia were also present.

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, as well as Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah and Turkey's Foreign Minister

were also present. Iraq has been caught for years in a delicate balancing act between its two main allies, Iran and the U.S.

Baghdad has been brokering talks since April between U.S. ally Riyadh and Tehran on mending ties severed in 2016.

"It was really not easy to put the Saudis and Iranians in the same room," a French diplomatic source said.

Macron warns against IS threat

The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan overshadowed a summit in Iraq on Saturday attended by key regional leaders, with French President Emmanuel Macron warning of the threat Islamic State group jihadists pose.

The meeting comes as Iraq, long a casualty of jihadist militancy, tries to establish itself as a mediator between Arab nations and Iran. "We all know that we

must not lower our guard, because Daesh (IS) remains a threat, and I know that the fight against these terrorist groups is a priority of your government," Mr. Macron said, after a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Musta-

Scientists find 'northernmost' landmass

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Scientists have discovered what is believed to be the world's northernmost landmass – a yet-to-benamed island north of Greenland that could soon be swallowed up by seawa-

Researchers came upon the landmass on an expedition in July, and initially thought they had reached Oodaaq, up until now the northernmost island on the planet.

m north of Oodaaq.

Copenhagen University said the "yet-to-be-named island is... the northern-



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ELSEWHERE Robert F. Kennedy's assassin granted parole The man convicted of

LOS ANGELES

shooting dead Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 was granted parole Friday. Sirhan Sirhan, now 77, has been behind bars for five decades — despite doubts that he fired the shots that likely changed the course of U.S. politics. Kennedy, the younger brother of slain President John F. Kennedy, was campaigning for the Democratic nomination when he was gunned down in a Los Angeles hotel. Sirhan was sentenced to death in 1969 after pleading guilty. His death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment several years

later. AFP

Nearly 100 abducted Nigerian students freed

They reunite with families after 3 months

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Nigerian kidnappers have freed scores of students abducted from three schools in the northwest this year, officials said Friday, following a burst of sudden releas-

The mass abductions were part of a string of kidnapping for ransom attacks on Nigerian schools and colleges this year by heavily armed gangs known locally as bandits.

Nearly 100 pupils abducted from an Islamic seminary in Tegina, Niger State were reunited with their families on Friday after three months in captivity.

Wearing blue headscarves and tunics, the male

younger than 10 years old, were met by the State Governor and their families. "I have a child and I am

and female students, some

very happy. I give God all the glory," said one father Fasilat Jimoh Danjuma. "Thank God they are back hale and healthy and we are

During the Tegina seminary kidnapping on May 30, around 200 motorcycle-riding gunmen stormed the town in Niger State's Rafi district before transporting the pupils to a rural hideout.

pupil had died during captivity. In a separate case, gunmen also released 32 more students kidnapped in July.

School officials said one

Oodaaq is some 700 km south of the North Pole, while the new island is 780

most point of Greenland.



Lonely flies

Lone fruit flies quarantined in test tubes tend to sleep too little and eat too much after only about one week of social isolation. The findings, which describe how chronic separation from the group leads to changes in gene expression, neural activity, and behaviour in flies, provide one of the first robust animal models for studying the body's biological reaction to



Missing gap in time More than one billion years' worth of rocks have gone missing from the geologic record of Grand Canyon. A

series of faulting events may have rocked the region during the breakup of an ancient supercontinent called Rodinia. This likely tore up the earth around the canyon, causing rocks and sediment to wash away and into the ocean.



AI predicts ice loss

A new artificial intelligence tool is set to enable scientists to more accurately forecast Arctic sea ice conditions months into the future. The improved predictions could underpin new early-warning systems that protect Arctic wildlife and coastal communities from the impacts of sea ice loss as per a report in Nature Communications



Storms across Europe

mate experts have there will be a significant future increase in the occurrence of slow-moving intense rainstorms across Europe. The scientists estimate that these slow-moving storms may be 14 times more frequent across land by the end of the century. It is these slow-moving storms that have the potential for very high precipitation accumulations.

India unlikely to witness a surge in cases in September

The Delta variant will spread steadily through the population in some States without cases rising at the speed and intensity of the second wave

NITI Aayog's penchant for projecting unrealistic trends of daily COVID-19 cases without sharing the basis on which such projections are made continues.

On April 24 last year, at the daily Health Ministry briefing, NITI Aayog member Dr. V.K. Paul presented a chart predicting the trend of COVID-19 cases in India. With over 1,500 daily new infections, it showed the cases peaking on May 3, 2020 and then dropping to 1,000 cases by May 12 and down to zero by May 16, 2020. In reality, on May 16, India saw 4,987 cases, the highest single-day spike. In the fourth week of May last year, Dr. Paul clarified that no one had ever said that the number of cases would go down to zero on a particular date. He called it a

"misunderstanding". Now, when the daily fresh cases are under 30,000 since it peaked at over 4.14 lakh cases on May 6 this year, Dr. Paul has come up with a dire warning that India might witness a staggering four to five lakh cases a day next month.

With all States except Kerala witnessing a steady decline in daily cases, it is unrealistic to expect daily fresh cases to reach such high numbers in a day in Septem-

For it to come true, the daily cases should very soon begin to increase sharply and all in a matter of three-four weeks.

"This strikes me as nearimpossible. Delhi, for example, is seeing a record low number of cases in a situation where crowds have certainly increased with respect to a month ago. The situation is the same in all major cities of India," says Dr. Gautam Menon, Professor of Physics and Biology at Ashoka University and co-author of CO-VID-19 modelling studies.

Existing protection The fourth sero survey of ICMR found that on an average over 67% of the population nationally have antibodies against the virus. Despite the many limitations of the sero survey, it cannot be denied that a sizeable population have some form of protection against the virus unlike the case early this

Also, the vaccination coverage has been increasing with every passing day about 35% have received one dose and less than 10.5% are fully vaccinated as of August 26. Therefore, it appears very unrealistic that the daily cases would not just reach the peak of the second wave but also exceed it to reach five lakhs a day.

Unlike the U.S., the U.K. and other countries where it is the third or fourth wave that is being caused by the Delta variant, in Indi it is the second wave that is driven primarily by the Delta var-

Daily cases in September

The reasons why India may not see 4-5 lakh daily cases in September

- All States, except Kerala, are witnessing a steady decline in daily cases since the second wave peaked in May
- For four-five lakh cases in a day in September, the rise in daily cases should begin very soon and grow exponentially in three-
- On an average, over 67% of the population nationally have antibodies against the virus, and vaccination pace is increasing

iant. Despite unrestricted

movement of people in al-

most all parts of the country

and almost all businesses be-

ing open, the daily new cases

have not witnessed any surge

in India since the second

"Given that the bulk of infec-

tions in the second wave

came from the Delta variant,

India's present situation is

substantially different to that

in other countries. Serosur-

veys suggest that more than

67% of Indians have antibo-

dies to SARS-CoV-2. Since the

larger fraction of them would

have been infected recently

with the Delta variant, it

seems inescapable that most

wave peaked in early May.

Different situation



In India, the second wave that began in February-end has been driven primarily by the highly transmissible Delta

spread steadily through the population and not furiously as seen in April/May

at a low level

■ The Delta variant is likely to

■ Breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated people have been recorded in India too but

■ The latest INSACOG's genomic sequences report does not indicate the presence of a new, extremely transmissible variant in India

Indians are already protected, either by infection or by vaccination, against the disease," Dr. Menon says. But is there a possibility

that the Delta variant might again cause a huge number of cases each day despite daily new cases steadily declining since it peaked in early May? "It is more likely that the Delta variant will spread steadily through the population at least in some States, picking those who have not encountered the virus yet, but without cases rising at the speed and intensity of the second wave. We are already seeing this in Kerala where serosurveys suggest an overall lower seropreva-

But Dr. Giridhara Babu, epidemiologist at the Public Health Foundation of India, Bengaluru, thinks otherwise. "The Delta variant can spread faster and result in a high number of cases, especially in areas that had lower seroprevalence and poor vaccination coverage. We cannot rule out a high number," he cautions.

No evidence

It is indeed possible for India to witness a large number of daily cases in September if a variant that is even more transmissible than the Delta variant has already emerged. According to Dr. Babu that doesn't appear to be the case. "According to the latest INSACOG's genomic sequences report of August 16, there is no supporting evidence for the emergence of extremely transmissive variants other than the Delta variant," he says.

Another scenario where a huge number of daily cases can arise is when breakthrough infections in the fully vaccinated and reinfections in the unvaccinated become rampant. For instance, about 25% of infections among Los Angeles County, California residents occurred in fully vaccinated residents from May through July 25; over 71% were in unvaccinated persons. "On July 25, infection and hospitalisation rates among unvaccinated persons were 4.9 and 29.2 times, respectively, those in fully vaccinated persons," the report said. The New York Times reported that breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated people accounted for at least one in five new cases in six States in the U.S.

Breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated people have been recorded in India too but at a low level. But two doses of the vaccine still confer reasonable protection against symptomatic disease and are highly protective against severe disease and death.

"That a substantial fraction of the population might turn susceptible again in the month of September seems unlikely. That protection against disease should evaporate altogether, even more so," Dr. Menon says.

So is the dire warning a ploy to ensure that people don't lower their guards but follow COVID-appropriate behaviour so India does not once again experience the terrible situation in terms of new cases, hospitals turning away patients due to lack of beds, and oxygen shortage? "Models don't always predict the exact number of cases for the future wave. Assuming the worst-case situation and preparing for it is the best thing a planning agency can do. If anything, NITI Aayog should be complimented for this effort," says Dr. Babu defending the agency. But Dr. Menon counters the alarmist projection saying: "I fully understand the need for preparation, but preparing for an unrealistic scenario diverts resources that could be better spent elsewhere."

In all probability, with a large proportion of the population possessing antibodies against the virus either through natural infection and/or vaccination, it is reasonable to expect a milder wave nationally, especially if there is good adherence to COVID-appropriate behaviour and if no new highly contagious variant arises. There is a possibility that places where the earlier infections were few and most people are unvaccinated would record more cases.

IISc completes technology transfer of oxygen concentrators to 24 companies

System's stability, performance monitored continuously for over eight months

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Over the past year, researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have been working on solutions to address the oxygen shortage due to COVID-19. Two key efforts in this direction have been the development of oxygen generation systems and oxygen concentrators. The oxygen concentrator

is an indigenous design deveby Praveen Ramamurthy, Professor in the Department of Materials Engineering. The group had already been working on oxygen concentrators since March 2020. A prototype capable of producing oxygen at more than 93% purity at five litres per minute (LPM) and 82% at 10 LPM was developed by August 2020 itself. The researchers then modified this prototype which now delivers more than 93% purity oxygen at 10 LPM within three minutes. The stability and performance of the system was monitored continuously for more than eight months. Clinical trials have been completed, and the system was found to perform on par with compressed oxygen

Till date, the technology companies, and about 35 units have been supplied to various hospitals. Recently, the Government of Karnataka issued a circular for the supply of two units each to 2,508 public health centres from the licensees, says a press re-

Another solution catering to needs of the hospitals is an oxygen generation system



Quick fill: The oxygen generation system can fill about ten 47-litre cylinders within 24 hours. ■ REUTERS

based on technology developed by an IISc team including researchers Arashdeep Singh and Anand M Shivapuji, and led by S Dasappa, Professor at the Centre for Sustainable Technologies. The process is based on a twinbed swing adsorption system integrated with storage and discharge vessels, and various safety systems. In one

of the variants, a cylinder-filing mechanism has also been incorporated using a boost pump. The oxygen produced fulfills the quality requirements prescribed by Indian Pharmacopeia and can be used in ICUs/CCUs/OTs and other clinical wards. Last month, the first unit based on this system was installed the Pobbathi Medical Centre in Bengaluru.

On 15 August 2021, Prof Rangarajan, the Director of IISc, inaugurated an opensource design for a medical oxygen generation system with 50 LPM capacity. The system will be installed at St Mary's Polyclinic in Lucknow. A unique feature of this system is the capability to fill about ten 47-litre cylinders at 200 bar pressure within 24 hours, apart from supplying arations are underway to ship the system to the Lucknow hospital.

IISc has also signed technology transfer agreements with four agencies from across the country for installing oxygen generation systems at various capacities (50 LPM-1000 LPM) to meet the requirements of hospi-

U.S. to press China on COVID-19 origin probe

ANI/SPUTNIK

The U.S. will continue working with others to press China to cooperate with investigations into the origins of the COVID-19, President Joe Biden said."The U.S.will continue working with likeminded partners around the world to press the China to fully share information and to cooperate with the WHO's Phase II evidencebased determination into the origins of COVID-19 - including by providing access dence," Biden said.

Biden's statement came shortly after the release of an unclassified summary of the US intelligence community's assessment on the novel coronavirus origins that was largely indeterminate apart from the determination that it was likely not a bioweapon. The US Intelligence Community said that

the cooperation of China will be needed to reach a conclusive assessment on the origin."China's cooperation most likely would be needed to reach a conclusive assessment of the origin. Beijing, however, continues to hinder the global investigation, resist sharing information and blame other countries, including the United States," the unclassified summary of the report on assessment on the novel coronavirus origins said.

The US Intelligence Co munity has concluded that China's unwillingness to participate in the investigation reflects its own uncertainty about the possible consequences of the probe as well as Beijing's frustration with the international community that uses the issue to exert political pressure on China, reported

BCG vaccine: 100 years and counting

BCG works well in some geographic locations and not so well in others

M.S. JAWAHAR & LALIT KANT

The centenary celebrations of the discovery of insulin have eclipsed another seminal event in the history of medicine that has had significant impact on human health - the first use of BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin), the vaccine against tuberculosis (TB) in humans.

TB is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis, belonging to the Mycobacteriaceae family consisting of about 200 members. Some of these cause diseases like TB and leprosy in humans and others infect a wide range of animals. Mycobacteria are also widely dispersed in the environment. In humans, TB most commonly affects the lungs (pulmonary TB), but it can also affect other organs (extra-pulmonary TB).

TB is a very ancient disease and has been documented to have existed in Egypt as early as 3000 BC. Sadly, unlike other historically dreaded diseases like smallpox, leprosy, plague and cholera that have been either eradicated or controlled to a large extent due to advances in science and technology, TB continues to be a major public health problem in the world. According to the WHO's Global TB Report, 10 million people developed TB in 2019 with 1.4 million deaths. India accounts for 27% of these cases. BCG was developed by

two Frenchmen, Albert Calmette and Camille Guerin, by modifying a strain of Mycobacterium bovis (that causes TB in cattle) till it lost its capacity to cause disease while retaining its property to stimulate the immune system. It was first used in humans in

Sole vaccine

Currently, BCG is the only licensed vaccine available for the prevention of TB. It is the world's most widely used vaccine with about 120 million doses every year and has an excellent safety record. In India, BCG was first introduced in a limited scale in 1948 and became a part of the National TB Control Programme in 1962.

One intriguing fact about



became a part of the National TB Control Programme in 1962. ■ PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

BCG is that it works well in some geographic locations and not so well in others. Generally, the farther a country is from the equator, the higher is the efficacy. It has a high efficacy in the UK, Norway, Sweden and Denmark; and little or no efficacy in countries on or near the equator like India, Kenya and Malawi, where the burden of TB is higher. These regions also have a higher prevalence of environmental mycobacteria. It is believed that these may interfere with the protective effect against TB. However, in children, BCG provides strong protection against severe forms of TB. This protective effect appears to wane with age and is far more variable in adolescents and adults, ranging from 0-80%. A large clinical trial between 1968-1983, by the ICMR's National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (then called the Tuberculosis Research Centre) in Chengalpattu district of Tamil Nadu, indicated that BCG offered no protection against pulmonary TB in adults, and a low level of protection (27%) in children. India is committed to

eliminate TB as a public health problem by 2025. To achieve this goal, we would not only need better diagnostics and drugs but also more effective vaccines. Over the last ten years 14 new vaccines have been developed for TB and are in clinical trials. Of particular interest is a Phase 3 clinical trial by the ICMR, of two vaccines; a recombinant BCG called VPM 1002 and Mycobacterium indicus pranii (MIP). MIP was identified and developed into a vaccine in India. Results of this trial are eagerly awaited.

In addition to its primary use as a vaccine against TB, BCG also protects against respiratory and bacterial infections of the newborns, and other mycobacterial diseases like leprosy and Buruli's ulcer. It is also used as an immunotherapy agent in cancer of the urinary bladder and malignant melanoma.

In progress

Interestingly, it has been observed that in some countries that have had BCG vaccination as a national policy, the burden of SARS CoV-2 morbidity and mortality was significantly less compared to countries which did not. Clinical trials to know if this is indeed true, are underway, including in India.

In these distressing times of Covid-19, it is interesting to compare development of vaccines for Covid-19 and TB. For Covid-19 in about 18 months,17 vaccines have received emergency use authtries, and 97 are in clinical trials. For TB, a single vaccine has been in use for the last 100 years and 14 new vaccines are in clinical trials. For R&D of Covid-19 vaccines, US\$ 8.5 billion have been earmarked (Global Contributions to ACT- Accelerator, Vaccines category); for TB the amount is US\$ 0.117 billion (Global Funding for TB Vaccine Research, 2019). If viewed in the backdrop of the deaths caused by these two diseases (Covid-19 -1.7 million in 2020; TB - 1.4 million in 2019), one can see the stark inequity in investment vaccine development.

orization in various coun-

While we commemorate the centenary of BCG vaccine use in humans, we need to acknowledge that more effective vaccines are needed to reach the targets of TB elimination. The experience and success of development of new vaccines for Covid-19 have shown that this is possible if TB gets similar political, financial and pharmaceutical

(Dr. M S Jawahar is Former Deputy Director, ICMR-NIRT, Chennai and Dr. Lalit Kant is a former Head, Division of Epidemiology & Communicable Diseases, ICMR)

Question Corner

Fin design

What makes fish fins so strong yet flexible?

Peer into any fishbowl, and you'll see that pet goldfish and guppies have nimble fins. With a few flicks of these appendages, aquarium swimmers can turn in circles, dive deep down or even bob to the surface.

Researcher from the University of Colorado Boulder have uncovered (Science Robotics) the engineering secrets behind what makes fish fins so strong yet flexible. The insights could one day lead to new designs for robotic surgical tools or even airplane wings that change their shape with the push of a button. The fins are remarkable as they achieve feats of dexterity even though they don't contain a single muscle.

The fins are made of many stiff 'rays' and each

of the rays can be manipulated individually just like the fingers, but there are 20 or 30 of them in each fin. They report that the

key to fish fins may lie in their unique design. Each ray in a fin is made up of multiple segments of a hard material that stack on top of much softer collagen, making them the perfect balance between bouncy and



Each of the rays in a fin in Goldfish has a layered structure, a bit like a bakery éclair: The spikes include two layers of stiff and mineralized materials called hemitrichs that surround an inner layer of spongy collagen. But those layers of hemitrichs aren't solid. The engineer and his team decided to use computer simulations to examine the mechanical properties of fins. They discovered that those segments can make all the difference.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in



In the lead: A successful LIC IPO will help the government meet its disinvestment target of ₹1.75 lakh crore for

The 10% edge

How will the IPO of India's largest insurance firm, LIC, benefit policyholders?

K. BHARAT KUMAR

The story so far: The Centre is set to list India's largest insurance firm, state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India, on the stock exchanges to help meet disinvestment targets for the year. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the IPO in July. Earlier, actuarial firm Milliman Advisors was appointed to assess the embedded value of LIC. Currently, at least 16 merchant bankers, including global players HSBC, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, Citigroup and BNP Paribas, are in the race to help manage the public issue. The government is expected to announce its choice shortly. Next, a Group of Ministers constituting the alternative mechanism on strategic disinvestment will approve the actual quantum to be placed on offer.

Why is LIC coming out with a public offering? The government has in recent years found it difficult to meet disinvestment targets. Divestment of stakes in Air India and BPCL has been delayed for various reasons, including COVID-19, and may see fruition this financial year. The Centre has an ambitious disinvestment target of ₹1.75 lakh crore for FY22. A successful LIC IPO, in which the government will sell a sizeable stake, will help it meet this goal. While a date has not been announced, the listing of LIC is expected in the third or fourth quarter of 2021-22.

How much could the Centre mop up via the IPO?

Chief Economic Adviser K. Subramanian had said in March that the LIC IPO could fetch up to ₹1 lakh crore. While the LIC Act of 1956 has been amended to allow the listing, details as to the number of shares on offer or the price band are not yet out. The amendments allow for an increase in the authorised share capital of LIC to ₹25,000 crore divided into 2,500 crore shares of ₹10 each.

How will it benefit those with policies?

The government has said it would reserve up to 10% of the issue size in the IPO for LIC policyholders. The 2021 amendments to the LIC Act states "any reservation made by the Corporation in favour of its life insurance olicyholders on a competitive basis in a public issue... shall be made in a manner similar to that applicable to a reservation on a competitive basis for employees in a public issue". Markets regulator SEBI's rules state the

Market rules set out that an issuer company can offer shares to employees at a discount of maximum 10% to the floor price. The government could offer a discount on the issue price for LIC policyholders

aggregate of reservations and firm allotments for employees in an issue shall not exceed 10% of the proposed issue amount. Market rules also set out that an issuer company can offer the shares to employees at a discount of maximum 10% to the floor price. There are reports that the government could offer a discount on the issue price for LIC policyholders. Currently,

LIC pays 5% of its surplus to the government and the rest to policyholders. That could change as it will become accountable to shareholders for dividend payments. The sovereign guarantee by the government for policies, though, will continue post-IPO.

Why is there talk of a split IPO?

The stock market has seen numerous public offerings recently, such as food delivery facilitator Zomato's ₹9,375 crore mop-up. Overall, investors were hungry enough to absorb ₹27,000 crore in IPOs between just April and July. Financial services provider Paytm has also lined up an IPO worth ₹16,600 crore – making it the largest so far in India, topping Coal India's ₹15,200 crore offering in 2010. By the time the LIC IPO hits the road, investors may not have enough appetite to absorb the entire offering at one go. Splitting the IPO in two parts with the second tranche being a follow-on offer would make it a first-of-its-kind offering in the country.

What changes did SEBI make to smoothen LIC IPO path?

In February, SEBI tweaked its rules to allow promoters of companies with a market capitalisation of ₹1 lakh crore post-IPO to reach 10% public shareholding in two years and raise that figure up to 25% in five years. Earlier, any company with a market cap of ₹4,000 crore and above had to achieve 25% public shareholding in three years.

Why is the market agog with expectation for this IPO?

Life insurance in India is still nascent, with only about 2.82% penetration as of 2019, according to insurance regulator IRDAI. So, the addressable market is huge. Two, about two decades after private players have been allowed entry, LIC's market share is still at a high of 66.2%, as per IRDAI's FY20 report. According to primeinfobase.com, the value of equity holdings of LIC, India's largest institutional investor, touched an all-time high of ₹7.24 lakh crore as on March 31, 2021 – across almost 300 companies in which it had at least 1% stake.

Why is there a push for asset monetisation?

What does the government expect to earn from leasing of public assets like airports, roads, coal mines and hotels? Will it help to boost economic activity?

PRASHANTH PERUMAL J.

The story so far: On Monday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), which is expected to fetch around ₹5.96 lakh crore to the government. Following through on the Budget's plan to monetise public assets to fund fresh capital expenditure on infrastructure, the government released a list of projects and facilities to be offered to private investors over the next four years through structured leasing and securitisation transactions.

What is the National Monetisation Pipeline?

The NMP names a list of public assets that will be leased to private investors. Only brown-field assets, which are assets that are already operational, are planned to be leased out under the NMP. So, to give an example, an airport that is already operational may be leased out to an investor. Assets that are yet to be developed, such as an undeveloped piece of land, for example, may not be leased out. Importantly, there won't be any transfer of ownership from the government to the private sector when assets are leased out. The government only plans to cede control over its assets for a certain period of time, after which the assets must be returned to the government unless the lease is extended.

Will NMP help the economy?

The government believes that leasing out public assets to private investors will help free capital that is stuck in these assets. For example, say the government has invested thousands of crores in a road project. It may take the government decades to recover its investment through the annual toll revenues. Instead, the government can recover a good chunk of its investment by leasing out the right to collect toll for the next 30 years to a private investor. The government can use this money, in turn, to build fresh infrastructure under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). In fact, the proceeds from the NMP are expected to account for about 14% of the total outlay for infrastructure under the NIP. The



For better use: The government believes leasing out its assets to private investors will help it build fresh infrastructure under the National Infrastructure Pipeline. ■ GETTY IMAGES

government believes all this spending will boost economic activity. Analysts also believe that the government has now through the NMP found the right model for infrastructure development. The government, they say, is best suited to tackle the ground-level challenges in building infrastructure, while the private sector can operate and offer indirect finance to these projects through the NMP.

What are the risks?

The allocation of assets owned by governments to private investors is often subject to political influence, which can lead to corruption. In fact, many in the Opposition allege that the NMP will favour a few business corporations that are close to the government. The expected boost to economic activity due to higher government spending may also need to be weighed against the opportunity costs. For one, the money that the government collects by leasing out assets comes from the pockets of the private sector. So higher government spending will come at the cost of lower private spending. The NMP also does not address the various structural problems such as legal uncertainty and the absence of a deep bond market that hold back private investment in infrastructure. However, it is worth noting that assets are perceived to be better managed and allocated by the private sector than by the government. To the extent that the NMP frees assets from

government control, it can help the economy. There are also concerns that the leasing of airports, railways, roads and other public utilities to private investors could lead to higher prices for consumers. If the government merely cedes control of public utilities to private companies without taking steps to foster greater competition, it can indeed lead to poor outcomes for consumers.

What lies ahead?

The success of the NMP will depend on the demand for brown-field government assets among private investors. The government's past disinvestment projects such as the sale of Air India did not catch the fancy of investors owing to the stringent conditions set by the government. In the case of Air India's sale, the buyers were supposed to possess a certain minimum net worth and stay invested in the airline for at least three years. Many analysts also believed that the government was expecting buyers to pay too much for a debt-ridden airline. The pricing of assets and the terms of sale will thus determine the level of interest that private investors show for assets leased under the NMP. $\bar{\ln}$ the past, doubts have been raised about the allocation of airports and other assets to certain private business groups. So the process that the government adopts this time to allocate assets may come under scrutiny. There is likely to be the demand for an open, competitive auction of assets.

How was the backward classes policy restored?

What did Parliament do to overcome the SC ruling stripping States of the power to identify BC communities?

K. VENKATARAMANAN

The story so far: The 105th Constitution Amendment was notified on August 19 after it received the assent of President Ramnath Kovind. It is aimed at restoring to the States their power to identify socially and educationally backward classes. The Opposition set aside its differences with the government and supported the Amendment, which was passed during the stormy monsoon session with the required special majority. The Amendment became necessary to undo the effect of a Supreme Court verdict that States had lost their power to include or exclude communities in the 'Backward Classes' list after Parliament enacted the 102nd Constitution Amendment.

Why was the Amendment required?

Through the 102nd Constitution Amendment, Parliament created a National Backward Classes Commission, vesting it with the power to be consulted by the Centre as well as the States in all matters concerning the 'socially and educationally backward classes' (SEBCs). In a bid to clothe the Commission with the same powers as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission, Parliament used wording identical to the existing provisions relating to the SC/ST Commission. Thus, under Article 342A, it was laid down that the President shall notify a list of SEBCs in relation to each State and Union Territory in consultation with the Governors. This was called the 'Central List', and once it is notified, only Parliament alone could make changes to it. Based on this, the Supreme Court, while considering a challenge to the Maratha reservation in Mah-

arashtra on various grounds, concluded that after this Amendment came into force, States can no more notify or identify backward classes, and only the President could do so, and further changes could be made by Parliament.

What was the reaction of political parties?

The Union government had argued vociferously in court that neither the Centre nor Parliament intended to take away the State's power to identify SEBCs. The use of the term, 'Central List', meant that what the President notified was a list of backward classes for the purpose of the Central government and its instrumentalities, and did not affect the lists maintained by the various States. Political parties in the Opposition blamed the Centre for enacting a ment clarifies that every State or Union Territory may, by flawed law that led to the court coming to such a conclusion. As there was a political consensus that the Supreme Court's interpretation required to be undone by law, it was decided to amend the Constitution once again to clarify the State's role in identifying SEBCs. It was introduced as the Constitution (127th Amendment) Bill, 2021. After its passage and on receiving presidential assent, it was notified as the Constitution (105th Amendment) Act, 2021.

What does the 105th Amendment do?

Parliament adopted fresh legislation to undo the effects of the Supreme Court's interpretation. Therefore, it contains specific clauses that seek to restore the original intention of having a 'Central List' for the purposes of the Union and letting States retain their respective lists. It first adds a proviso to the effect that the requirement that the National had argued vociferously in the Supreme Court that neither the Centre nor Parliament intended to take away the State's power to identify SEBCs.

The Union government Backward Classes Commission should be consulted on policy matters will not apply to the State lists of SEBCs. It specifies that the list of SEBCs notified by the President shall be only for the purposes of the Central government alone, and that the 'Central List' means only the list "prepared and maintained by and for the Central Government". Further, the 105th Amend-

law, prepare and maintain for its own purposes a list of SEBCs and this may be different from the Central List. These changes are aimed at undoing the conclusion of three judges on the five-Judge Bench in the Maratha reservation case that the term 'Central List' applied to all SEBCs notified by the President and that it was the only List "for the purposes of the Constitution". Finally, to end all debate on how SEBCs are defined, the latest Amendment also changed the definition given in the 102nd Amendment. Originally, "socially and educationally backward classes" were described as "such backward classes as are so deemed under Article 342A for the purposes of this Constitution", that is, those found in the List notified by the President under Article 342A. This has now been changed to the effect that SEBCs are those so deemed under the same Article for the purposes of the Central government, or the State or the Union Territory.

What has the Supreme Court ruled on 'creamy layer'?

Why has the court said economic criterion cannot be the sole basis to identify the rich in a backward class?

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The story so far: On August 24, a Division Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao, observed that economic criterion cannot be the sole basis for identifying the 'creamy layer' of a backward class, and that other factors like social advancement, education, employment, too, matter. The judgment came on a writ petition filed by a group from Haryana, the Pichra Warg Kalyan Mahasabha, challenging two notifications issued by the State government in 2016 and 2018, under the Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Services and Admission in Educational Institutions) Act,

What were the notifications?

The 2016 notification identified as 'creamy layer' backward class members whose gross annual income exceeded ₹6 lakh. It said backward class sections whose families earn less than ₹3 lakh would get priority over their counterparts who earn more than ₹3 lakh but less than ₹6 lakh. The Supreme Court struck down the notifications as a "flagrant violation" of the 2016 Act. It said Section 5 (2) of the Act required the State to consider social, economic and other factors together to identify and exclude

backward class members as 'creamy layer'.

Who belongs to the 'creamy layer'?

The 'creamy layer' concept was introduced in the Supreme Court's Indra Sawhney judgment, delivered by a nine-judge Bench on November 16, 1992. Though it upheld the government's decision based on the Mandal Commission's report to give 27% reservation to Other Backward Classes, the court found it necessary to identify sections of backward classes who were already "highly advanced socially as well as economically and educationally"

The court believed that these wealthy and advanced members form the 'creamy layer' among backward classes. The judgment directed the State governments to identify the 'creamy layer' and exclude them from the purview of reservation. However, certain States like Kerala did not promptly implement the judgment. This led to the Indra Sawhney-II case, reported in 2000. In this, the court went to the extent of determining the 'creamy layer' among backward

> classes. The judgment held that persons from backward classes who occupied posts in higher services such as IAS, IPS and All India Services had reached a higher level of social advancement and economic status, and therefore, were not entitled to be treated as

backward. Such persons were to be treated as 'creamy layer' without any further inquiry. Likewise, people with sufficient income who were in a position to provide employment to others should also be taken to have reached a higher social status and treated as "outside the backward class". Other categories included persons with higher agricultural holdings or income from property. Thus, a reading of the Indra Sawhney judgments shows that social advancement, including education and employment, and not just wealth, was key to identify the 'creamy layer'.

Why is it difficult to draw the line?

The identification of 'creamy layer' has been a thorny issue. The basic question here is how rich or advanced should a backward class section be to invite exclusion from reservation. Justice Jeevan Reddy, in the Indra Sawhney judgment, wondered "how and where to draw the line" between the deserving and the creamy layer among backward classes. "The basis of exclusion should not merely be economic, unless, of course, the economic advancement is so high that it necessarily means social advancement," he pointed out.

Justice Reddy highlighted the pitfalls of identifying the creamy layer merely on economic basis. For example, a person who earns ₹36,000 a month may be economically well-off in rural India. However, the same salary in a metropolitan city may not count for much. Here, Justice Reddy warned that "while the income of a person can be taken as a measure of his social advancement, the limit to be prescribed should not be such as to result in taking away with one hand what is given with the other. The income limit must be such as to mean and signify social advancement".

ILLUSTRATION: R.RAJESH

MALABAR REBELLION

The many shades of the Mappila insurrection

To some, 1921 represents a fight for freedom; to others, it is a case study of class oppression; and to yet another set, it is about a 'Hindu genocide'

MANU S. PILLAI

In Focus

■ Starting in

the 1500s,

Portuguese

terror at sea

damaged the existing

trading

networks

Mappilas

resisted, but

in the long

■ 'Poverty

general

pattern'

among

Mappila

the 18th

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40,000

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If the 19th

century saw a

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run, they lost

mong the witnesses whose names are in-****scribed in Arabic on the Kollam Syrian copper plates of 849 CE are men called Muhammad, Ibrahim, Mansur and Ismail. Oral tradition claims that Islam's arrival in Kerala dates to the Prophet's own lifetime. Whether one accepts the idea or not, by the ninth century, Muslims were a definite presence on the coast. In the times that followed,

as Arab traders married locally, not only did they father a community of Malayali Muslims - Mappilas - their offspring were also woven into the region's narrative fabric. In the story of the sage Vararuchi's children by a Parayar wife, for example, one is a Brahmin, another a Muslim. If the legendary King Bana Perumal chose Buddhism, Cheraman Perumal sailed to Mecca. The veracity of these tales is not really the point as much as what they seek to communicate. They were, in other words, a device by which a new group was legitimised, as the Mappilas became a familiar and respected element in Kerala's cultural landscape.

The Mappila identity, now much discussed in the context of the 1921 rebellion, was first rooted in trade. The rise of Kozhikode, for long a seat of power and prosperity in Kerala, relied a good deal on Arab networks of commerce. Mappilas, local in their social practices like matriliny, and yet joined by a common faith with foreign Muslims, were an important link in the political economy. Indeed, a Muslim stood beside the Za-

morin rajah at the great Mamankam festival at Tirunavaya. Hints of religious tension appear now and then, but the economic alliance between Hindu elites and Muslim traders meant that these were contained. Brahmin texts like the Kera*lolpathi* offered Islam a place in their worldview, likening the Ouran to a Veda, and works such as Zayn al-Din's sixteenth century Tuhfat al-Mujahideen framed Hindu rulers as good, ideal monarchs. That is, however, till new (European) flies appeared in the ointment through the sixteenth century, and upset prevailing socio-economic balances.

Different facets

Although the 1921 rebellion is often discussed in isolation, this prehistory is integral to making sense of its economic, social, and religious facets. For by the 20th century, the Mappilas had been marginalised in the very land where they were once es-

Starting in the 1500s, Portuguese terror at sea damaged the trading networks on which so much had been built. And while Mappilas resisted – including militarily and by subverting European efforts to police maritime traffic – in the long run, they lost out. Local Hindu Kings were forced to come to terms with successive European trading companies to protect their turf, with the result that their erstwhile Muslim associates were cornered. As the scholar Roland Miller wrote, "poverty became the general pattern" by the 18th century, and in crisis, some in the community turned towards a more distinct sense of self and religious identity. At first, Mappila spokesmen such as Zayn al-Din had called for jihad against Europeans; in time that language would be turned against those who represented regional economic injustices also. In other words, as the Mappila stake in society was

painfully diluted, religious

ideology offered a method by

which to valorise resistance. In 1742, for example, British East India Company officials recorded how there were Mappilas who "selected themselves to Murder any Christian" and who, if they died in the process, saw it as "meritorious". Into the 19th

The 1921 revolt offered an occasion for Mappilas to attempt to overthrow not only the colonial government but also the Hindu feudal classes they saw as allied with the Raj

century, which saw colonial laws disproportionately favour landlords against tenants-at-will, the former too became targets.

......

Scholars have noted how as much as 77% of the produce could be demanded by the landlord. The fact that a large section of the peasantry in South Malabar – the nucleus of the 1921 rebellion also – was Mappila while landowners were typically Hindus caused an overlap between economic grievances and religious divisions.

The result was a series of "outrages" in which individual Mappilas or small bands launched ritualised suicide missions, killing Hindu grandees and officials. The triggers may have been economic but instances such as in 1852, when a temple was "festooned" with the entrails of a cow, show that these violent outbreaks had religious overtones too. The tendency among some to victimise present-day Muslims for the "sins" committed by "their ancestors" has generally resulted in a hesitation to acknowledge this religious element, with the focus limited to economic aspects. But the fact of the matter is that economics, radical religious ideology, and a historical sense of lost greatness all played a role. The 1921 revolt, thus,

dian Khilafat Movement, to which even Mahatma Gandhi pledged support. It became a means by which to mobilise as part of a larger struggle. But all at once, it also offered an occasion for Mappilas in British-ruled Malabar to attempt to overthrow not only the colonial government but also the Hindu feudal classes that, in ostensible alliance with the Raj, pressed down on them. The scale of the event cannot be understated: over 2,000 rebels were killed, and nearly 40,000 surrendered. And if the 19thcentury "outrages" were isolated flare-ups, this was a large-scale insurrection, validated in a religious vocabulary.

began as a part of the pan-In-

'Gangs' of Malabar

Sober students of history – if not politicians prone to rhetorical excesses - must be cautious, however, when it comes to labelling the event. Revolts of this nature tend to be messy in terms of even basic organisation. In 1921,

there was no clear chain of command among the Mappilas, no single leader but "gangs" holding different areas, and no standard policy. During the months in which much territory was under rebel control, some factions espoused forced conversions of Hindus, for example, while others spoke pointedly against such ten-

To some, 1921 represents a fight for freedom and a chapter in India's anti-colonial struggle; to others, it is a case study in the consequences of class oppression; and to yet another set, it is about a "Hindu genocide" at the hands of "terrible" Muslims. The facts suggest, however, that to varying degrees all three elements manifested here. A century on, acknowledging this is perhaps critical to making better sense of the Mappila Rebellion – a bloody but complicated event with many roots and a long back story.

(Manu S. Pillai is an author



The challenger within

The Chhattisgarh CM's one-time ally is now his key rival within the Congress

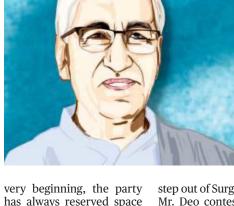
SOBHANA K. NAIR

n 1983, when 31-year-old Tribhuvaneshwar Saran ■ Singh Deo decided to contest the municipal council elections, his father Madaneshwar Saran Singh Deo wrote him a long letter, dissuading him from joining politics. He felt his son should concentrate on managing the family assets, instead of indulging in the rough and tumble of polit-

The letter did not stop Mr. Deo from contesting the municipal polls from Ambikapur in today's Chhattisgarh. He stayed put in politics. After the 2013 Assembly election, he took over as the leader of opposition of a demoralised Congress party, which had lost three straight Assembly polls to the BIP.

Power is not an alien concept for Mr. Deo, who is also the titular Maharaja of Surguja, a former princely state. The state was spread over a vast mountainous area, covering the entire Surguja Lok Sabha constituency of today. Mr. Deo's grandfather, Maharaja Ramanuj Saran Singh Deo, was the last ruler of this princely state and he had signed the accession to the Indian Union on January 1, 1948.

Mr. Deo's mother, Devendrakumari Singh Deo, who passed away in February last year, was a two-time Minister in undivided Madhya Pradesh. "The Congress party has been very kind to our family. Right from the



has always reserved space for someone or the other from our family," he says. His younger sister, Asha Kumari, is a senior leader from Himachal Pradesh.

Humble Raja

Mr. Deo says he did not have a royal or a political upbringing. He revels in the role of 'humble Raja'. "Me and my siblings were brought up like any bureaucrat's children would be," he says. His father retired as the Chief Secretary of the undivided Madhya Pradesh. The family sent him to the Scindia School in Gwalior, which is reserved for scions of the royal family.

Mr. Deo went on to study History from Hindu College in Delhi University and returned to Bhopal for his M.A. from Hamidia College. Politics, he says, was the last thing on his mind.

It was after Chhattisgarh was carved out in November 2000 that he decided to step out of Surguja. In 2008, Mr. Deo contested his first Assembly poll from Ambikapur, the erstwhile capital of Surguja state. Youth Congress leader Rajesh Tiwari, who is currently the secretary in-charge of Uttar Pradesh, had brought Mr. Deo and the current Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel together to the party. "Chhattisgarh had no senior leadership. Three of us came together to create a pressure group. We projected tribal leader Mahendra Karma for the Chief Minister's post," Mr. Tiwari told The Hindu.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

Mr. Karma lost the race to Ajit Jogi, who went on to become the first CM of the State. In 2013, Mr. Karma, along with other senior leaders of the Congress, was killed in a naxal attack in the Jhiram valley in Bastar.

Mr. Baghel and Mr. Deo are known for their different working styles. While Mr. Deo is sauve, sophisticated, soft-spoken and urbane, Mr. Baghel has childlike energy

and is blunt, aggressive and rustic. Today, they find themselves caught in a bitter fight for the top post in the State. But it wasn't always like this. "We were inseparable," Mr. Deo says.

Mr. Tiwari says Mr. Baghel had fully supported Mr. Deo when the latter desired to take the leader of opposition's position. In turn, Mr. Deo lobbied for Mr. Baghel for the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress president's post. "I distinctly remember Mr. Deo used to say that whenever the Congress comes to power, Baghel would be the CM," Mr. Tiwari adds.

Turning point In the run-up to the 2018 Assembly poll, Mr. Deo played the crucial role of chairing the manifesto committee. He is also credited for raising funding for a cashstarved State unit. It was also the first time a deeply divided Chhattisgarh Congress stood together with Mr. Baghel and Mr. Deo, putting up an united front.

But the Congress's emphatic victory was a turning point in Mr. Deo's relationship with Mr. Baghel. Mr. Deo was no longer ready to play the supporting role.

Speaking to The Hindu in 2018, when the speculation was rife on who should be the CM, Mr. Deo said: "This is not a singles match where one person can take credit for the victory. We all worked for it. The decision has to be taken by us collectively now."

B.V. NAGARATHNA

Beyond the glass ceiling

The judge is poised to be the first woman Chief Justice of India in 2027

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

ustice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was once asked J how many of the nine judges of the U.S. Supreme Court should be women.

"Nine," she said. She believed that if nine men could adorn the Bench of the Supreme Court, nine women would do equally well. If 48 men can be Chief Justices of India, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, scheduled to be sworn in as a Supreme Court judge and poised to be Chief Justice of India in 2027, will historically interrupt the unbroken line of

male Chief Justices. As Chief Justice, Justice Nagarathna, if appointments follow the seniority norm, may have a tenure of little over a month. Her ascendancy cannot be cynically viewed as a token gesture to hush the gender talk linked to the highest judicial office. It has to be seen as a signal fire lit from the court's watchtower for women to aspire for the

pinnacle. The entry of Justice Nagarathna, a vocal champion of women's rights, into the Supreme Court coincides with the rise in crimes against women. In her farewell speech at the Karnataka High Court, Justice Nagarathna urged women to have faith in themselves and stride ahead

The Bar knows her as a tough judge. In 2009, shortly after being unlawfully detained by agitating lawyers, she retorted with a public



statement, "we cannot be cowed down like this. We have taken the oath of the Constitution". That day, she was hailed as the spokesperson for an independent and

strong judiciary. Rather than live and practise as a lawyer out of the government accommodation of her father, former Chief Justice of India E.S. Venkataramiah, she chose to leave Delhi for Bengaluru. After three decades, Justice Nagarathna returns to the Capital where she had read Law at the Campus Law Center.

Born in 1962, Justice Nagarathna started practice in 1987. She was elevated as judge in 2008. Her legal practice covered a wide variety of law from arbitration to land acquisition, constitutional law, family cases and commercial disputes, among others.

Landmark decisions

Justice Nagarathna's administrative calibre matches her judicial work. As the Ad-

ministrative Judge of the City Civil Court Bangalore, she approved the establishment of a crèche in the City Civil Court complex. In her role as chairperson of High Court Buildings Committee, Justice Nagarathna authorised the installation of sanitary pad vending machines in the High Court premises. She was the architect of a training module for trial judges on gender and the law during her tenure as the president of the Karnataka Judicial Academy.

During the pandemic, when civil liberties and human rights were in distress, Justice Nagarathna was part of the Karnataka High Court Bench led by Chief Justice A.S. Oka, which ensured that migrants were provided food and transport. The Bench rejected a State government proposal to withdraw mid-day meals in CO-VID-affected areas, saying "students cannot study on a

hungry stomach". It coaxed the government

to bridge the digital divide to ensure that children have access to online classes and directed teachers and nonteaching staff to be treated as frontline workers. The Bench issued directions to protect journalists covering COVID-19 while observing that freedom of speech and free press was a vital pillar of democracy. The Bench directed stores supplying essentials to be opened up and ordered the setting up of helplines to report domestic violence, for mental health counselling and brought re-

lief for transgenders. Her decisions range from upholding the timely consideration of representations made by persons under preventive detention. She held that delay would not entitle a POCSO accused to bail and issued directions to set up special courts for POCSO cases. In the field of family law, Justice Nagarathna rendered a decision elucidating the concept of shared parenting of children whose parents separated.

Speaking on the occasion of Justice Indu Malhotra's retirement from the Supreme Court, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud flagged the need to diversify the Bench. He said there was only one woman judge left in the Supreme Court was a "deeply worry-

ing fact". "As an institution whose decisions shape and impact lives of everyday Indians, we must do better," Justice Chandrachud said. This time, they did better.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

In a move that will aid closure of retro tax demands against companies such as Cairn Energy and Vodafone PLC, the Income Tax Department on Saturday released a draft of rules to drop such demands provided the companies concerned gave an "irrevocaundertaking to withdraw all legal cases against the government as well as undertake not to pursue any action in future.

Earlier this month, the government enacted the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act 2021 to scrap a tax rule that gave the tax department power to go 50years back and slap capital gains levies wherever ownership had changed hands overseas but business assets were in India.

Future files new case against Amazon in SC over retail deal

Group argues in plea of possible job losses for 35,575 staff, risk to ₹280 bn in debt

Future Retail on Saturday filed a new case against Amazon at the Supreme Court in its latest effort to seek clearance for its \$3.4 billion retail assets sale, which the U.S. firm has challenged.

The Supreme Court this month dealt a blow to Future when it said an interim decision by a Singapore arbitrator in October 2020 that put its deal with Reliance Industries on hold - following Amazon's complaint - was valid in India.

The top court had also said Future could not appeal a lower court's decision against it. The retailer is now asking the top court to hear the challenge, people familiar with the case said.



Fresh trouble: Future said if the deal with Reliance doesn't go through, it will cause 'unimaginable' damage. • REUTERS

In its over 6,000-page filing, Future has argued that if the deal with Reliance doesn't go through, it would cause "unimaginable" damage, including possible job losses for 35,575 employees, and put at risk approximately ₹280 billion in bank loans

"There is extreme urgency to hear this petition," Future counsel Yugandhara Pawar Jha said in the court filing, which is not public. Reuters has seen the filing.

Amazon and Future spokespersons did not respond to requests for comment on

Amazon has for months been locked in a dispute with Future, and accuses the Indian firm of violating contracts when it sold its retail assets to Reliance last year. Future denies wrongdoing.

The outcome of the tussle involving two of the world's richest men, Amazon's Jeff Bezos and Reliance's Mukesh Ambani, is seen as reshaping India's pandemic-hit shopping sector and deciding whether Amazon can blunt Reliance's dominance of the country's almost trillion-dollar retail market.

The dispute started after Future, India's second-largest retailer, with more than 1,700 stores, entered a deal last year to sell its retail businesses to Reliance.

Indian Terrain realigns business, goes digital

Unveils D2C, partners leading e-tailers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hit by the first and second On Saturday, Volkswagen

Digitalisation and e-com-

marketplaces such as Amazon, Flipkart and Myntra, Mr. Rajagopal said. The explosive growth of

the D2C business is going to play a significant role in pivoting ITFL's business model to 'reach far and wide'.

Towards this, ITFL was investing resources on technology, people, digital and social media marketing and customer service, he added.

The fruition of such expansion plans would not only aid revenues for the future, but also improve the profitability profile which, in turn, would create value for shareholders, the branded apparel company said in INTERVIEW | ANIL VALLURI

'Ransomware will dominate the cybercrime landscape'

REvil is one of the latest RaaS operators: Palo Alto Networks

MINI TEJASWI

Cyberthreats are evolving rapidly and becoming more sophisticated and complex. Operators leverage realworld events to deceive individual victims, enterprises and governments all over the globe, including in India, says Anil Valluri, regional VP - India and SAARC, Palo Alto Networks. Excerpts:

What is the latest from the world of 'bad actors'?

■ Ransomware Evil, REvil or Sodinokibi, a ransomwareas-a-service (RaaS) operation has emerged as one of the world's most notorious and latest ransomware operators. This criminal group provides adaptable encryptors and decryptors, infrastructure and services for negotiation communications. and a leak site for publishing stolen data when victims don't pay the ransom demand.

As per our observation of cases, REvil and its affiliates pulled in an average payment of \$2.25 million during the first six months of 2021.

Last month, it extracted \$11 million payment from the U.S. subsidiary of the world's largest meat packing company based in Brazil, demanded \$5 million from a Brazilian medical diagnostics firm and launched a large-scale attack on dozens, perhaps hundreds, of companies that use IT management software from Kaseya VSA. Unit 42, a response-ready global team comprising threat researchers and cybersecurity consultants, has been monitoring threat actors involved in ransomware attacks and has worked over a dozen REvil cases so far this year.

What kind of cyberthreats are likely to increase?

■ Ransomware is going to dominate the cybercrime landscape. A report prepared by Unit 42 and The Crypsis Group incident response and digital forensics firm, notified several disturbing threat trends.

In 2020, the average ransom payment by organisations increased nearly threefold (\$1,15,123 in 2019 to \$3,12,493 in 2020); the highest ransom payment doubled (\$5 million in 2019 to \$10 million in 2020), and the highest ransomware demand also doubled (\$15 million in 2019 to \$30 million in 2020).

At least 16 different ransomware variants are now exploiting victims by encrypting and stealing/threatening to expose data. The NetWalker ransomware gang leveraged this tactic the most, having leaked data from 113 victim organisations globally. Industry data indicated

healthcare was the most targeted and vulnerable sector in 2020 and the sector continues to be under further attacks by RaaS models.

India too has witnessed similar attempts of attacks happening around COVID and vaccination.

Data witnessed a humongous growth in the last 18 months. Do we have any statistics available?

■ As per an annual study by IDC, DataSphere and StorageSphere forecasts, the quantum of data created and replicated experienced unusually high growth in 2020 due to a dramatic increase in the number of people working, learning, and entertaining themselves from home. Surprisingly, less than 2% of this new data was saved and retained into 2021. The rest was either ephemeral (created or replicated primarily for consumption) or temporarily cached and subsequently overwritten with newer

The cyber mafia has always been trying to keep pace with protection technology.

How can we widen the gap? ■ The need of the hour is an integrated platform using ML (machine learning) and AI (artificial intelligence) to lift the burden off cybersecurity teams.

Using AI, the frequently observed threat data and multiple threat feeds can be automated and left to ML algorithms that can decipher attack patterns, leaving cybersecurity teams to spend time on advanced threat

We, at Palo Alto Networks, believe the future of cybersecurity depends on a platform approach, which will allow cybersecurity teams to focus on security rather than integrating solutions from different vendors.

The reputational, operational, legal, and compliance implications could be considerable if cybersecurity risks are neglected.

Volkswagen to test India EV market with ID range by 2023

European carmaker says to initially import limited numbers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Volkswagen Passenger Cars India plans to test the electric vehicles market in the country by initially importing limited numbers of its ID range of vehicles by 2022 or 2023, said a top official. "We will be coming with a

limited volume either by 2022 or 2023 to build our internal capacity and to test the Indian EV cars market," said Ashish Gupta, Brand Director at the European carmaker's Indian unit.

"It would be the ID range of EVs. Initially, it would be imported," he added.

Premier League: SS Select 1

(SD & HD), 6.30 p.m. & 9

F1: Belgian GP, SS Select 2

Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD

(SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.

& HD), 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.

Vani T-18, Aditi is T-26

Vani Kapoor and Aditi Ashok

three-over 72 respectively to

lie tied 18th and tied 26th

after the opening round of

the Didriksons Skafto Open

golf here. Beatrice Wallin

leads the field alongside

Magdalena Simmermacher

after both players shot an

opening round of 67. PTI

Sania & McHale

Sania Mirza and USA's

7-6(5), 6-2 to reach the

Christina McHale beat Ulrikke

Eikeri and Catherine Harrison

doubles final of the \$235,238

WTA tennis tournament here.

CLEVELAND

after opening round

carded two-over 71 and

FISKEBACKSKIL (SWEDEN)

IN BRIEF



Asserting that the current share of EVs in India's automobile market was pegged at 0.5%, and that it would take four or five years to reach about 5% market share, Mr. Gupta said that that would be the 'right time' for Volkswagen to 'commercially launch' electric cars in India.

introduced its mid-sized Taigun SUV in the city. Mr. Gupta estimated that the market for mid-sized SUVs was about 3 lakh cars per annum. Taigun will compete with Hyundai's Creta and Kia's Seltos.

"We are planning to sell 4,000 to 5,000 Taigun per month... Pre-booking has started. We may also considupon demand," he added.

er exporting it, depending During 2021, VW aims to sell a total of 30,000 cars in India, against the 22,000 un-

waves of the pandemic, Indian Terrain Fashions Ltd. (ITFL) has realigned its business model and started focusing on digitalisation, ecommerce, children's wear and sustainability, executive chairman Venkatesh Rajagopal said in the company's annual report.

merce is going to be a way of life for the future and in keeping with this, the company had unveiled a directto consumer (D2C) business through its website, while continuing to build on the partnerships with leading

+

Memorable double for Duhan

Shruti takes the girls' crown

TENNIS

SPORTS REPORTER

Chirag Duhan from Haryana blanked out the unseeded 15year-old Aryan Shah of Gujarat without dropping a single game 6-0, 6-0 to clinch the boys' singles title at the Nippo TNTA ITF Junior U-18 tennis tournament here on Saturday. It was a double delight for Duhan as had won the doubles title on Friday.

Due to overnight rain, the finals being held at MPTA-KTC courts Chennai were shifted to hard courts.

In the girls' final, 15-yearold top seed Shruti Ahlawat from Haryana won the title after Lakshmi Prabha Arunkumar of Tamil Nadu retired



Young champs: Winners Shruthi Ahlawat and Chirag Duhan with Vijay Sankar and

in the second set trailing 7-5,

The winner will receive 60

up will receive 36 points. Vijay Sankar, vice-chairman Sanmar Group and vicepresident TNTA, gave away

the prizes in presence of Premkumar Karra, hon. secretary TNTA, and Vivek Reddy, hon. treasurer TNTA.

ITF points while the runner Scramjet well-prepped to repeat in feature event

HYDERABAD: The four-year-old gelding Scramjet, who is in good form, should score an encore in the Tiger Roll Plate, the main event of Sunday's (Aug. 29) races. MAMMA'S MINK

MAMMA'S MINK PLATE (1,100m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 1.00 p.m.: 1. Hashtag (3) Gaurav Singh 62, 2. Elegant Stroke (11) Nakhat Singh 60.5, 3. Secret Command (5) Trevor 60.5, 4. Winning Player (6) Ashad Asbar 60.5, 5. Elmira (8) B. Nikhil 60, 6. Hurricane (2) Abhay Singh 60, 7. Bravo (9) A.A. Vikrant 59.5, 8. Turf Monarch (7) Md. Ismail 56.5, Acadian Angel (4) G. Naresh 55.5, 10. Ice Berry (1) C.P. Bopanna 52.5 and 11. Moment Of Silence (10) Ajeeth Kumar 50. 1. SECRET COMMAND, 2. ACADIAN

ANGEL, 3. WINNING PLAYER 7 RED RUM PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.30: 1. Divine Chakram (6) Mukesh Kumar 56, 2. Epsom (8) N.B. Kuldeep 56, 3. Magic Mark (1) Ajit Singh 56, 4. Quality Warrior (9) Kiran Naidu 56, 5. Space Walk (5) Nakhat Singh 56. Sye Ra (2) P. Gaddam 56, 7. Top Diamond (4) Akshav Kumar 56, 8 Unsung Hero (10) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 9. Joy O Joy (3) R. Laxmikanth 54.5 and 10. Siri (7) Ashad Asbar

1. SIRI, 2. TOP DIAMOND, 3. QUAL-ITY WARRIOR

3 FIGHTING FORCE PLATE (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.05: 1. N R I Magic (6) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Mind Reader (11) Nakhat Singh 59.5, 3. Mystery (9) Kiran Naidu 59.5, 4. Angel Tesoro (5) A.A. Vikrant 59, 5. Curcumin (12) Deepak Singh 59, 6. Dunkirk (2) Afroz Khan 58, 7. Soul Empress (7) Mukesh Kumar 58, 8. Loch Stellar (8) B.R. Kumar 56.5, 9. Rhythm Selection (4) Abhay Singh 56, 10. Explosive (3) Gaurav Singh 55.5, 11. Rhine (10) G. Naresh 53 and 12. Sacred Lamp (1) Ashad Asbar

1. N R I MAGIC, 2. MIND READER, 3.

4 BHISHMA PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.40: 1. Horse O' War (2) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. NR I Sun (5) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Pedro Planet (6) Ajeeth Kumar 59.5, 4. Lightning Power (10) Ajit Singh 59, 5. Stud Power (4) Ajinkya 58, 6. Due Diligence (1) Trevor 57, 7. N R I Blue (Ex: Blue Cruise) (8) B. Nikhil 55.5, 8. Exponent (9) Nakhat Singh 54.5, 9 Urvasi (7) Abhay Singh 54.5 and 10. Lorena (3) Md. Ismail 53. 1. N R I SUN, 2. DUE DILIGENCE, 3.

Jewel (4) Kiran Naidu 56, 3. General Atlantic (11) B. Nikhil 56, 4. Sea Of Class (7) Mukesh Kumar 56, 5. Sharp Mind (10) P. Gaddam 56, 6. Sport On Fire (1) Deepak Singh 56, 7. Aarya (6) N.B. Kuldeep 54.5, 8. Golden Amaris (3) Afroz Khan 54.5, 9. Kimberley (5) S.S. Tanwar 54.5, 10. Reining Queen (2) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5 and . Spectacular Cruise (8) Akshay Kumar 54.5. 1. REINING QUEEN, 2. SPECTACU-

LAR CRUISE, 3. GENERAL

One Four (10) Deepak Singh 60, 4. Different (8) Santosh Raj 59.5, 5. Gusty Note (1) A.A. Vikrant 59, 6. Kingston (6) Nakhat Singh 58.5, 7. Thunder Road (5) Abhay Singh 56.5, 8. Beauty On Parade (12) Md. Ismail 55.5, 9. Art In Motion (7) Aieeth Kumar 54.5, 10. Lifetime (11) G. Naresh 52.5 and 12. That's My Star (9) B. Nikhil 50.

1. BLINK OF AN EYE, 2. LIFETIME, 7 TIGER ROLL PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.25: 1. Her Legacy (7) G. Naresh 60.5, 2. Scramjet (3) Tre-

vor 58, 3. Mark My Word (4) C.P.

Bopanna 57, 4. Mirana (10) Gaurav Singh 57, 5. Horus (8) Akshay Ku-mar 54.5, 6. Crazy Horse (5) A.A. Vikrant 54, 7. Mark My Day (9) B.R. Kumar 53.5, 8. Just Incredible (2) Afroz Khan 53, 9. Rapid Fire (6) Ashad Asbar 53 and 10. Saffron Art (1) Ajit Singh 53. 1. SCRAMJET, 2. SAFFRON ART, 3.

O SIR IVOR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5.00: 1. City Of Bliss (10) Mukesh Kumar 60.5, 2. The Prospect (8) Deepak Singh 60.5, 3 Amyra (9) Gaurav Singh 60, 4. Ashwa Jauhar (1) Trevor 59, 5 Greek's Ace (6) B. Nikhil 58.5, 6. Show Me Your Walk (4) Akshay Kumar 57, 7. Bruno (7) Ashad As bar 56.5, 8. Aibak (3) Afroz Khan 55.5, 9. Battle Ready (2) A.A Vikrant 54.5, 10. Classy Dame (11) walker (5) G. Naresh 53.5

1. SHOW ME YOUR WALK, 2. CITY OF BLISS, 3. ASHWA JAUHAR Day's Best: SCRAMJET

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5,

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3. (ii) 3, 4 & 5. (iii) Tanala: All races.

Vidit opens against **Foreest**

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

As the stage is set for the 16player Aimchess US Rapid online chess tournament, Vidit Gujrathi gets prepared to take on Dutchman Jorden van Foreest in his campaign opener of what will the last event on the \$1.6 million Meltwaters Champions Chess Tour before the Final.

Vidit's other rivals of the day will be Magnus Carlsen (Norway), Wesley So (USA), Jan-Krzysztof (Poland) and Le Quang Liem (Vietnam).

On Sunday, Vidit meets Alireza Firouzja (France), Daniel Noroditsky (USA), Eric Hansen (Canada), Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France) and Leinier Dominguez Perez (USA).

Rahman sizzles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Abdul Rahman executed a white slam and was quite robust while clearing four boards for three points in the third round of superleague in the Indian online carrom challenge organised by the All India Carrom Federation.

Rahman with 24 points is second behind Abishek Chavan (16).

In the women's section, Nidhi Gupta of Chandigarh led with 76 points after three rounds, one point ahead of Shruti Sonawane of Maharashtra.

Shruti had the best performance in the third round with a score of 18 points.

After four rounds of the superleague, the top eight each in the men's and women's section will make the champions league.

Three Indians march into the finals

Lashu and Deepak win bronze

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

World youth bronze-medallist Bishwamitra Chongtham (51kg) was among the three Indian male boxers to advance to the finals of the Asian youth championships in Dubai. Chongtham beat Tajikistan's Akarali Abdurakhivonzoda 5-0 on Friday to make the summit clash.

Joining him in the finals are Suresh Vishwanath (48kg) and Jaydeep Rawat (57kg). While Vishwanath beat Bahrain's Fadel Sayed 5-0, Rawat edged out Kyrgyzstan's Bekbol Murasbekov

Lashu Yadav (women's 70kg) and Deepak (75kg) finished with bronze medals after semifinal losses. Kazakhstan's Gaukhar Shaibekova beat Lashu 5-0 and Deepak went down against Kazakhstan's Aliaskarov Bakbergen

India's medal count went past 35 in the tournament being conducted simultaneously for junior and youth (both

Jagmeet, Ajay triumph

AITA TENNIS SPORTS BUREAU

JHAJJAR

Top seed Jagmeet Kaur overcame a slow start to beat second seed Kashish Bhatia 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 in the final of the ₹100,000 AITA women's ranking tennis tournament here on Saturday.

In the doubles final, Kash-

ish and S. Srinidhi were beaten 6-3, 6-4 by Pooja Ingale and Bela Tamhankar. In Gurugram, Ajay Malik

bounced back to beat Karan

Singh 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 and win

the ₹100,000 AITA men's

ranking tennis tournament. In the doubles final, the Sood twins, Chandril and Lakshit beat Rudra Bhatt

and Utsav Patel 6-3, 6-3.



Rewarding excellence: Jagmeet Kaur, left, and Kashish Bhatia with their trophies. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of qualifying for the British GP. It took the timekeepers a few minutes to realise that the Pramac Ducati rider had

Pole for Pol Espargaro

the pole position that could revive his disastrous first season at Honda, here on Saturday. The Spaniard had recorded the fastest time of 1min 58.889sec when compatriot Jorge Martin was credited with 1:58 at the end

Pol Espargaro was made to

wait just a little bit longer for

cut across the chicane. AFP

India disintegrates, loses by an innings

Robinson takes a five-for as England finishes the job in under a session on fourth day to make it 1-1

INDIA IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ollie Robinson completed a five-wicket haul as England thrashed India by an innings and 76 runs to win the third Test at Headingley on Saturday with more than a day to

The hosts levelled the fivematch series at 1-1 after India's 151-run win in the second Test at Lord's.

The tourists, 215/2 overnight, collapsed against the new ball as they lost eight wickets for 63 runs in 19.3 overs on Saturday, with Robinson taking 5/65 for a match haul of 7/81.

India's 278 all out, however, was 200 runs more than its woeful first innings of 78.

New ball straight away

The visitors resumed on Saturday on 215/2 but, with 80 overs bowled, England took the new ball straight from the start of Saturday's play.

From the moment Cheteshwar Pujara was lbw to Robinson without adding to his overnight 91, playing no shot to Robinson, England was in complete command. with Kohli falling soon afterwards for 55 - his first fifty of the series.

Shouldering arms

England started the day with three maidens before Pujara - without a Test hundred since a superb 193 against Australia at Sydney in January 2019 - inexplicably played no shot to Robinson.

He was initially ruled not out but Robinson had little trouble in convincing England captain Joe Root to call for a review that duly led to the end of Pujara's 189-ball



Fatal edge: Kohli is about to be snapped up by Root at first slip off Robinson. • AP

innings. Anderson thought he had Kohli, 45 not out overnight, caught behind for 46 off the last ball of a superb

But vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane urged his skipper, who was walking off the field, to review the decision, with replays revealing Kohli's bat had hit his pad, not

But there was no doubt soon afterwards when Kohli edged a good-length ball from Robinson to Root at first slip.

Action replay

Rahane (10) fell in similar fashion, edging Anderson to wicketkeeper Jos Buttler before Rishabh Pant (1), reaching for a wide delivery,

nicked Robinson to Craig Overton at third slip.

Now the only question was whether India could keep the match going beyond the lunch interval.

Tail fails to wag

It could not, the tail managing little better than the toporder as Ravindra Jadeja made a quickfire 30.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS 78 in 40.4 overs **ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS** 432 in 132.2 overs INDIA - 2ND INNINGS

Rohit Sharma Ibw b Robinson 59 (156b, 7x4, 1x6), K.L. Rahul c Bairstow b Overton 8 (54b), Cheteshwar Pujara lbw b Robinson 91 (189b, 15x4), Virat Kohli c Root b Robinson 55 (125b, 8x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Buttler b Anderson 10 (25b, 2x4), Rishabh Pant c Overton b Robinson 1 (7b), Ravindra Jadeja c Buttler b Overton 30 (25b, 5x4, 1x6), Mohammed Shami b Moeen 6 (8b, 1x4), Ishant Sharma c Buttler b Robinson 2 (5b), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 1 (6b), Mohammed Siraj c Bairstow b Overton O (2b); Extras (b-4, lb-4, w-2, nb-5): 15; Total (in 99.3 overs): 278.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-34 (Rahul, 18.6 overs), 2-116 (Rohit, 47.4), 3-215 (Pujara, 83.3), 4-237 (Kohli, 89.6), 5-239 (Rahane, 90.6), 6-239 (Pant, 91.5), 7-254 (Shami, 94.2), 8-257 (Ishant, 95.5), 9-278 (Jadeja,

ENGLAND BOWLING

Anderson 26-11-63-1, Robinson 26-6-65-5, Overton 18.3-6-47-3, Curran 9-1-40-0, Moeen 14-1-40-1, Root 6-1-15-0. Man-of-the-Match: Robinson.

England won by an innings and 76 runs to level the fivematch series 1-1. Fourth Test: September 2 to 6, The Oval, 3.30 p.m. IST.

- This is India's 14th innings defeat against England in
- The previous one came in the 2018 Lord's Test when the visitors suffered an innings and 159-run loss

Jadeja fell to Craig Overton and the paceman (3/47) ended the match by having Mohammed Siraj caught in the slips for a duck

Not demoralised by defeat: Kohli

We like it when people start questioning our ability, he says

AMOL KARHADKAR

India captain Virat Kohli stressed that the team "will not be demoralised" by the innings defeat in the third Test at Headingley.

"We like to be in this situation where people start coming at us with doubts and really start questioning the ability of this team, that is the situation we love best," Kohli said during a virtual interaction Saturday

"I can guarantee you that we will not be demoralised by this loss. Guys in the change-room are hurt and when they're hurt, they know that they badly want to correct the things that didn't go well in this game. That is how we are going to play the next two Test matches."

While he said in the postmatch presentation that he remains comfortable with



Taking wing: Craig Overton made his presence felt with a six-wicket match haul. • GETTY IMAGES

the four-pacer template, Kohli added that the pacers will definitely be rotated in the remaining two matches.

"That's a very logical and sensible thing to do. You don't want to push individuals to a place where they break. That conversation is very important... we will have that conversation with individuals and see who is placed where and who needs a game off. You can't expect with such short turnarounds like this for guys to play four Tests in a row," he

Kohli said the defeat at Leeds was an "aberration".

"This game has been kind of an aberration in how we have gone in this series. First two games, we put ourselves in positions where we won one game and had the opportunity to win the other as

'Learning so much from Anderson'

SPORTS BUREAU

Ollie Robinson, the player of the match at Headingley, has acknowledged James Anderson's help during his return to the England set-up after being suspended for a disciplinary investigation into racist tweets he had made as a teenager.

"I am learning so much from Jimmy Anderson. Since I've come into the England environment, he's been one of my closest friends. I speak to him every day," Robinson said. "He showed me the grip for the wobble-seam ball before this match and I practised it in the nets. Then I tried it in the game here



Hunting as a pair: Anderson and Robinson have formed a lethal partnership. • AFP

and it went quite well."

England captain Joe Root was full of praise for the lanky pacer. "Ollie has been phenomenal. He's had a big influence on all the Tests

he's played," Root said. "We knew how skilful he was, but it was a question of whether he could back it up in his third spell with an old ball. He has shown he can.

Bhavina on the cusp ₊ of golden glory

TT sensation will take on World No. 1



Come on! Bhavina Patel gives vent to her feelings after making the final. ■PTI

PARALYMPICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhavina Patel continued to script history as she became the first Indian to enter the final of a table tennis event in the Paralympics with a hard-fought 3-2 win over China's Miao Zhang in a Class 4 semifinal here on Saturday.

The 34-year-old Indian stunned her World No. 3 opponent 7-11, 11-7, 11-4, 9-11, 11-8 in a showdown that lasted 34 minutes. It was Bhavina's first victory against the former World No. 1 in 12 attempts.

Bhavina will take on another Chinese, World No.1 Ying Zhou, in the summit clash scheduled to be played at 7.15 a.m. (IST) on Sunday.

Give 100%

"When I came here, I just thought that I would give my 100% without thinking of anything. If you give 100%, the medal will come, that was what I thought," said Bhavina, who was diagnosed with polio when she was a 12-year-old.

"If I continue with this confidence with the blessings of the people of my country, I think I will win gold tomorrow. I am ready for the final and I have to give 100% in the final also," said Bhavina.

PM's encouragement

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Bhavina's incredible achievement tweeting "Congratulations Bhavina Patel! You played excellently. The entire nation is praying for your success and will be cheering for you tomorrow. Give your best and play without any pressure. Your accomplishments inspire the entire

Rakesh advances

In archery, Rakesh Kumar continued his impressive run of form to storm into the pre-quarterfinals teammate Shyam Sundar Swami made a second round exit as Indian compound archers had a mixed

Rakesh Kumar defeated Hong Kong's Ngai Ka Chuen 144-131 to win his 1/16 elimination match, while Shyam Sundar went down 139-142 against Matt Stutzman of the USA. Javelin star Ranjeet Bhati bowed out after failing to register even a single valid throw in his six attempts in the men's class F57 final.

Have to bring our A-game in every match, says Mithali

INDIA IN AUS

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Mithali Raj's women are boarding the plane to Australia in a confident frame of mind. India will take on the Aussies in a multi-format series that includes a historic pink-ball Test.

Speaking at an online press conference ahead of the team's departure, the captain said the Day/Night Test was big for the women's game and that it would be challenging. "We have never played a Test match under lights," Mithali said. "(Neither) do we frequently get to play ODIs under lights.'

She added the biggest challenge would be to play the pink ball during the twilight period. "That is the feedback we got from interacting with a few of the men cricketers," she said. "Let us see how we stand up to the challenge.'

Mithali said it was good that India could already play two series in the year. "Having said that, we know we are playing the best side in the world," she said. "Clearly we have to get our A-game in every match."

She said the players were confident after the training they had. "Considering the pandemic situation, we were fortunate to have a camp of



Tough assignment: Mithali has to marshal her resources well on what could be a demanding tour. •AP

30 players (at Bengaluru)," she said. "We managed to get match simulation and had a couple of games under

lights." About the uncapped pacer, Meghna Singh, coach Ramesh Powar said her ex-

perience (on the domestic

Australia. "She has been a seasoned player for Railways and has been performing well," he said. He hoped pacers like her

circuit) could help her in

would support India's spearhead Jhulan Goswami on the tour. "We need a pacer who could bowl with her in partnership," he said. The schedule:

ODIs: Sept. 19 (North Sydney Oval, 8.45 a.m.), Sept. 22 (Junction Oval, Melbourne, 4.35 a.m.), Sept. 24 (Junction

Oval. 4.35 a.m.). One-off Test: Sept. 30 to Oct. WACA, Perth, 11.30 a.m. **T20Is:** Oct. 7 (2.10 p.m.), Oct. 9 (1.40 p.m.) and Oct. 11 (1.40 p.m.), all at North Sydney Oval (all times IST).

and banned for life

Intruder fined

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

YouTuber Daniel Jarvis aka 'Jarvo69', who has intruded into the field of play during the Lord's Test and the ongoing game, will be banned for life on charges of security breach, county sources said on Saturday.

Jarvo, who sports the India whites, won't be allowed in the Leeds gallery in coming days. "Yes, Daniel Jarvis will be banned from Headingley for life. We will also impose financial penalty," a Yorkshire CCC spokesperson said.

Verstappen hot in wet qualifying

Williams' Russell to line up alongside the Red Bull ace

BELGIAN GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Red Bull's Max Verstappen mastered the rain to claim Belgian Grand Prix pole on Saturday, snatching the fastest time in qualifying from surprise package George Russell of Williams. Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes will start on the second row as he goes for his 100th Grand Prix win.

Norris crashes

Qualifying was marred by a heavy crash in Q3 involving the McLaren of Lando Nor

ris, whose hopes of a first ever pole bit the dust at Eau Rouge.

With Norris thankfully escaping serious injury, nine cars took to the track when the shoot-out resumed after a 40-minute red intervention. The starting grid: Row 1: Max

Verstappen (Red Bull) & George Russell (Williams): Row 2: Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) & Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren); Row 3: Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin) & Pierre Gasly (Alpha-Tauri); Row 4: Sergio Perez (Red Bull) & Esteban Ocon (Al-

Row 5: Lando Norris (McLaren) & Charles Leclerc (Ferrari); Row 6: Nicholas Latifi (Williams) & Carlos Sainz Jr (Ferrari); Row 7: Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) & Fernando Alonso (Alpine); Row 8: Antonio Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo) & Yuki Tsunoda (Alpha-Tauri); Row 9: Mick Schumacher (Haas) & Kimi Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo); Row 10: Nikita Mazepin (Haas) & Lance Stroll

(Aston Martin). The remaining schedule: Sept. **5**: Netherlands (Zandvoort); Sept. 12: Italy (Monza); Sept. 26: Russia (Sochi); Oct. 10: Turkey (Istanbul Park); Oct. 24: USA (Austin); Nov. 7: Mexico (Mexico City); Nov. 14: Brazil (Sao Paulo); Nov. 21: Venue TBC; Dec. 5: Saudi Arabia (Jeddah); Dec. 12: Abu Dhabi (Yas



What a mess! Marshals rush to clear Lando Norris' wrecked car after the McLaren driver crashed into the barriers. • AFP

Chelsea frustrates Liverpool

Manchester City hammers an abject Arsenal

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Chelsea held out with 10 men for the entire secondhalf to frustrate Liverpool as the first heavyweight clash of the Premier League season between two title contenders ended 1-1 at Anfield on Saturday.

Kai Havertz's looping header put the visitors in front before Reece James was sent off in first-half stoppage time for handball on his own goal line and Mohamed Salah converted the

resulting penalty. Manchester City rubbed salt into Arsenal wounds with a 5-0 thrashing, making it the Gunners' worst start to a league season since 1954.

300 for Lewandowski

Robert Lewandowski scored a hat-trick as Bayern Munich thumped Hertha Berlin 5-0 on Saturday, with the Poland striker passing the milestone of 300 goals for the defending Bundesliga champion.

Having scored a record 41 goals last season in the Bundesliga, Lewandowski has already netted five times in three league matches this term.

The results: Premier League: Manchester



Final nail: Ferran Torres rises above the Arsenal defence to nod home Manchester City's fifth. • GETTY IMAGES

City 5 (Gundogan 7, Torres 12, 84, Jesus 43, Rodri 53) bt Arsenal O; Aston Villa 1 (Buendia 13) drew with Brentford 1 (Toney 7); Brighton O lost to Everton 2 (Gray 41, Calvert-Lewin 58pen); Liverpool 1 (Salah 45+5pen) drew with Chelsea 1 (Havertz 22); Newcastle 2 (Wilson 55. Saint-Maximin 90) drew with Southampton 2 (Elvounoussi 74, Ward-Prowse 90+6); Norwich 1 (Pukki 44-pen) lost to Leicester 2 (Vardy 8, Albrighton 76); West Ham 2 (Fornals 39, Antonio 88) drew with Crystal Palace 2 (Gallagher 58,

LaLiga: Celta Vigo O lost to Athletic Bilbao 1 (Williams 34). Serie A: Lazio 6 (Immobile 5, 15,

45+2, Anderson 47, Hysaj 70, Luis Alberto 85) bt Spezia 1 Bundesliga: VfB Stuttgart 2

Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 3 (Revna 49. Bellingham 69. (Mavropanos 45, Al Ghaddioui 45+2) lost to Freiburg 3 (Jeong

90+3) bt Venezia 0.

Haaland 90+1) bt Hoffenheim 2 (Baumgartner 61, Dabbur 90).

3, 9, Hoeler 28); Mainz 3 (Luco-

qui 15, Szalai 18, Stoeger 90+2)

bt Greuther Fuerth O; Augsburg

1 (Niederlechner 30) lost to

Bayer Leverkusen 4 (lago 3-og,

Niederlechner 14-og, Schick 75,

Wirtz 81); Arminia Bielefeld 1

(Wimmer 86) drew with Ein-

tracht Frankfurt 1 (Hauge 22);

Cologne 2 (Schaub 82, Lemper-

le 90+1) bt Bochum 1 (Zoller 90+4); Bayern Munich 5 (Muller

6, Lewandowski 35, 70, 84, Mu-

On Friday: LaLiga: Mallorca 1

(Dani Rodriguez 27) bt Espanyol

O; Valencia 3 (Wass 3, Soler

45+3, Guedes 60) bt Alaves 0.

Serie A: Verona 1 (Ilic 15) lost to

Inter Milan 3 (Martinez 47, Cor-

rea 83, 90+4); Udinese 3 (Pus-

setto 29, Deulofeu 70, Molina

siala 49) bt Hertha Berlin O.