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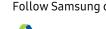
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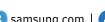


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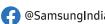


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Shri. Narendra Modi Hon'ble Prime Minister Government of India

Shri. Basavaraj S. Bommai Hon'ble Chief Minister Government of Karnataka

Under the Able Leadership of Shri. Narendra Modiji

NEP 2020 was Launched on 23rd August 2021

with the following initiatives



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through unveiling of MoU with Montgomery County Community College, Pennsylvania, USA – for Twinning program at the Diploma level

In the August Presence of

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Hon'ble Chief Minister Government of Karnataka

Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan

Hon'ble Minister for Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Government of India

Dr. C. N. Ashwath Narayan

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, IT-BT, Science & Technology, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of Karnataka

Shri. B. C. Nagesh

Hon'ble Primary and Secondary Education Minister Government of Karnataka



Felicitation of Draft NEP Committee members Dr. K. Kasturi Rangan, Prof M. K. Sridhar, Prof. Kattimani and Dr. Anurag Behar.

NEP – Technology Interventions

- UUCMS An Enabling Platform for NEP
- Digital Learning through Karnataka Learning Management System [LMS], Smart Classrooms and Provision of Tablet PCs to students

NEP Milestones Karnataka

- Draft NEP 2019
- Karnataka NEP Task Force Formed March 2020
- Union Cabinet Approval July 2020
- Karnataka Task Force Report November 2020
- Karnataka Cabinet Approval December 2020
- NEP Implementation Launch 23rd August 2021

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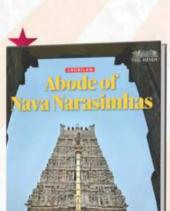


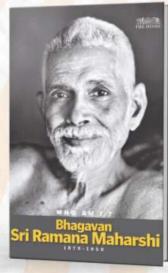
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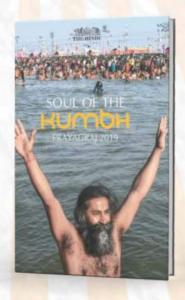
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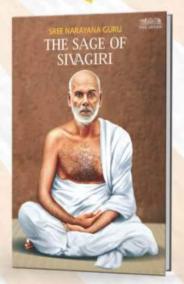
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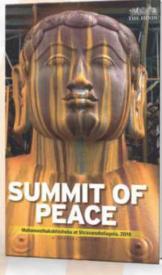


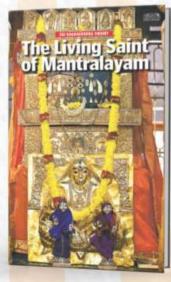


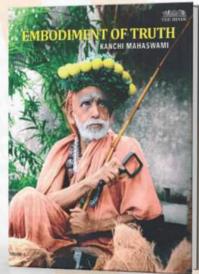


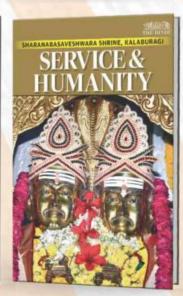










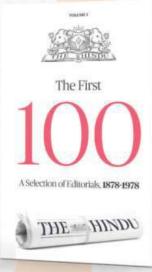


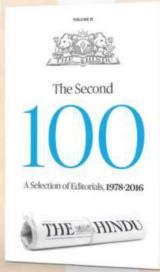


ERIES

SHRINE



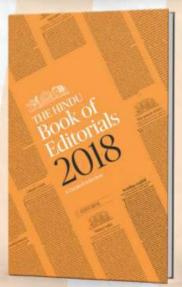




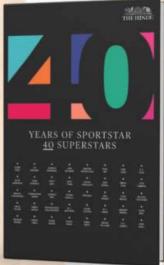


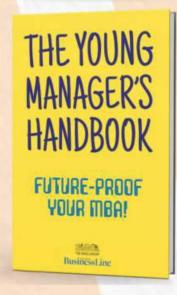




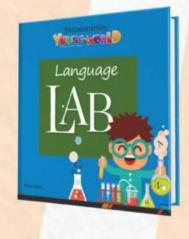




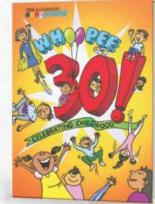




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Participants of vaccine trial to get certificates: Mansukh Mandaviya



U.S. approves record number of Indian student visa applications



Taliban warn of 'consequences' if U.S. extends evacuation

Mariyappan, Jhajharia in focus as Paralympics begins today

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NEARBY

Is the split wide open in **Chhattisgarh Congress?**

NEW DELHI Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Singh Baghel and Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo are scheduled to meet former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesdav amid reports of an ongoing tussle between them. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 9

Govt. website changes content on Mughals

A paragraph describing the Mughal Empire as one of the greatest ever was removed from a government website, KnowIndia.gov.in, after some Twitter users flagged it to the Culture Ministry on Monday. An author, Ratan Sharda, tweeted that a government portal was "singing praises of 'great' Mughal empire". **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 8

Kejriwal inaugurates smog tower at CP

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday inaugurated a 'smog tower' in Connaught Place and said similar towers would be built across the city if results of the current pilot project are satisfactory. The smog tower is a 24-metre-high structure fitted with fans and air filters. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

Modi non-committal on Bihar team's demand for caste census

Fear of a return to the chaos of Mandal days misplaced, says Nitish Kumar

SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, along with a delegation of leaders from 10 parties from the State, including RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and BJP representatives, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to press for a caste census. Mr. Modi, it is learnt, has not given any assurances, though the meeting was described as positive.

So far the BJP has walked a tightrope on the issue, with leaders from Bihar speaking in favour of a caste census and the party leadership at the Centre keeping mum. The wider implication of such a census on the party's carefully crafted OBC bloc in Uttar Pradesh has kept it on tenterhooks.

Sources said the Prime Minister did not counter the delegation nor did he express the Centre's inability to carry out such an exercise.

'Historic step'

Given that the last caste census was conducted in 1931, the delegation argued that it would be a historic step, if the Prime Minister was to hold a census now.

At the end of the meeting, after listening to each member of the delegation, Mr. Modi, as per sources, said he



Points of view: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and representatives of other parties after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday. • PTI

would get the issue thoroughly examined.

Speaking to presspersons after the meeting, Mr. Kumar said that all parties spoke in one voice. "It is up to the Prime Minister and the Union government to decide. We explained our stand and he sincerely heard us out," Mr. Kumar said the fear

that a caste census would lead to a return of the Mandal days with widespread protests and chaos was misplaced. "Every person, no matter which caste or religion he is from, wants the caste census. Once we have the caste data, then we can formulate policies for the uplift of each and every caste," he said.

Mr. Tejashwi Yadav said if animals and trees could be counted, so could people. "The caste census is in national interest. It will help the poor and deprived sections of society."

Rare collaboration

The caste census has seen a rare coming together of Mr. Yadav and Mr. Kumar despite their bitter campaign against each other during the Assembly election of 2020. Asked if this collaboration would extend beyond the caste census issue, Mr. Kumar said the Opposition in Bihar had always supported the government over propeople measures and those in national interest.

Mr. Kumar and Mr. Yadav said the reply by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in the Rajya Sabha that there was no proposal for releasing caste-based population data had triggered unrest.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Rift in Punjab Cong. comes to light again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The bitter factional fight in the Punjab Congress is far from over as Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari on Monday targeted the two advisers of State Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu and asked if people who do not consider Jammu and Kashmir as a part of India and have "pro-Pakistan leanings" should be part of the State unit of the party.

The remarks by Mr. Tewari came a day after Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh took strong exception to the recent comments by the advisers - Malvinder Singh Mali and Pyare Lal Garg - on social media on Kashmir and Pakistan. Mr. Mali is a retired teacher and political analyst, while Mr. Garg is the former registrar of Baba Farid University of Health and Sciences. While Mr. Garg reportedly questio- ned Captain Amarinder's criticism of Pakistan, Mr. Mali is said to have written that "Kashmir is a country for Kashmiri people".

Mr. Tewari tweeted: "I urge Harish Rawat, AICC gen secy in charge of Punjab, to seriously introspect that those who do not consider J&K to be a part of India and others who have ostensibly Pro-Pakistan leanings should be a part of Punjab Congress.'

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Fix I-T portal by Sept. 15, FM directs Infosys CEO

Deeply disappointed, says Minister

Glitches galore

A timeline of the events leading up to Monday's meeting

June 5: Finance Ministry announces a new, taxpayer friendly e-filing portal

Infosys goes live June 8: Noticing problems, Union Finance Minister Nirmala

June 7: Portal developed by

Sitharaman urges Infosvs non-executive chairman Nandan Nilekani to ensure tax pavers are not troubled

shut down for "planned maintenance", Infosys later terms it "emergency maintenance" Minister

August 21-22: Portal

summons Infosvs CEO and MD Salil **Parekh**

August 23: Minister sets September 15 deadline for fixing portal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has set a September 15 deadline for software major Infosys to fix all the glitches plaguing "the current functionalities" of the new Income Tax filing portal, after conveying the "deep disappointment" of the government with the firm's services to its CEO Salil Parekh.

The Minister had summoned Mr. Parekh on Monday to explain why the portal had still not stabilised and its flaws fixed, more than two-and-a-half months since its launch.

The "summon" came as the portal had become inaccessible over the past weekend, within days of Ms. Sitharaman stating that she

expected it to be fully functional within two or three

'Put more efforts'

"The Finance Minister demanded that the issues faced by taxpayers on current functionalities of the portal should be resolved by the team by 15 September, 2021, so that taxpayers and professionals can work seamlessly on the portal," an official communique after the meeting said, adding that Ms. Sitharaman also sought an explanation from Infosys on the mess.

Ms. Sitharaman urged Mr. Parekh to put more resources and efforts into the e-filing portal so that the "the much-delayed delivery of agreed services is ensured".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

75 persons to be airlifted from Kabul

This includes 46 Afghan Hindus, Sikhs; India brought back 392 persons on Sunday

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

Seventy-five persons, including Hindu and Sikh citizens of Afghanistan, reached the Kabul airport on Monday morning for the next round of the Indian airlift operation that is currently under way. They are carrying Sri Guru Granth Sahib from three gurdwaras in Afghanistan.

"I can confirm that 75 passengers that include stranded Indians and 46 Afghan Hindu and Sikh citizens with three Sri Guru Granth Sahibji are currently inside the Kabul airport and are being escorted by international forces to the Indian Air Force aircraft on the ground. They will be evacuated in a few hours," said Puneet Singh Chandhok, president of the Indian World Forum, an organisation that is coordinating with the External Affairs



Kabul airport on Monday morning. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Force in the airlift operation.

dividuals from Kabul on Sun-

India brought back 392 in-

Ministry and the Indian Air as hundreds more remain in Afghanistan.

Kabul has been witnessing growing tensions betday in three flights, and simiween the Taliban and the members of the previous lar operations are expected to continue for several days

A woman Afghan lawmaker, who has been in Delhi for some time, said the Taliban were expected to target at least 60 Members of Parliament who had ties to the government of former President Ashraf Ghani.

'Son in hiding'

"They have been visiting our homes and issuing threats. They have been demanding that my 18-year-old son should join them and because of the threat, my son has gone into hiding," she said requesting anonymity. "All those people who spoke or wrote against Taliban and its links to Pakistan are vulnerable to attacks from their side. I have been vocal against them and my videos remain on social media. Taliban are scanning these videos and planning their move," she added.

Give keys of residential portion of Nizamuddin centre, HC tells police

Court issues direction on plea by mother of Jamaat leader

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the city police to hand over the keys of the residential portion of the Nizamuddin Markaz, which has been locked since March 31 last year, to its occupants.

Justice Yogesh Khanna gave the direction while hearing a plea by the mother of Jamaat leader Maulana Saad. The judge directed that the keys be handed over to her within two days.

'No entry' elsewhere

The court additionally clarified that the occupants cannot enter any non-residential portion of the property till further orders. It noted that the mother, who was living in the premises with eleven family members, cannot be al-



A view of the Nizamuddin centre in Delhi. • FILE РНОТО

lowed to stay in guest houses.

'What is Section 60 [of Evidence Act on oral evidence], Section 310 [CrPC on local inspection]? What Sections have you put? Preserving a site does not mean you lock. Take photos and move from the site. What was recovered? Case was only that people were residing there," it said. The petition said on March

31, 2020, the entire Nizamuddin Mosque was vacated and locked for the purported purpose of sanitisation and disinfection by the authorities. To extend utmost cooperation to the authorities, the keys of the centre, including the residential portion, were handed over to the Delhi police on April 1, 2020.

"However, several months have elapsed since the handing over of the keys and the petitioner or her family have not been made aware for what reason or under what authority they are being prevented from entering or accessing their own residence," the plea said.

The court will hear the case again on December 9.

restrictions SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Goyal hints at + tit-for-tat trade

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday asked industry bodies to identify obstacles being imposed by countries to restrict India's exports, and promised that the government would respond "appropriately" to such curbs.

The remarks by the Minister, suggesting that the government is not averse to taking retaliatory trade policy measures to counter export barriers beyond the realm of tariffs and duties, came at an interaction with industry bodies on achieving the \$400 billion merchandise exports target for the year, ramping up to \$2 trillion by

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Russian stealth frigates to come in 2023

Construction of two Krivak class vessels delayed by the pandemic, says company

DINAKAR PERI

The first of two additional Krivak class stealth frigates being built by Russia is expected to be delivered to India in the middle of 2023, Alexey Rakhmanov, chief executive officer of United Shipbuilding Corporation,

"Due to COVID we had delays in execution of some of the stages of construction. There was an approximately eight-month delay. The first ship should be delivered in the middle of 2023," Mr. Rakhmanov said at the ongoing Army 2021 exhibition in Moscow.

In October 2016, India and Russia signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for four Krivak or Talwar class stealth frigates two to be procured directly

Guarding the seas

A look at some features of the new frigates Displacement:

30 knots supersonic cruise

from Russia and two to be

built by Goa Shipyard Ltd.

(GSL) – after which a \$1 bil-

lion deal was signed for the

On the construction at GSL,

would soon be inviting In-

direct purchase.

Technology transfer

■ Due to the use of stealth technologies and a special hull design, the ships have reduced radar cross section as well as electromagnetic. acoustic and infrared Two ships will be procured directly from Russia, and

two will be built by Goa Shipyard Ltd.

two frigates at the Yantar shipyard in Russia to familiarise themselves with the specificity of the equipment and the construction. In the second stage, substantial work would be done at GSL, including technology transfer, he said.

Mr. Rakhmanov said they He added that the frigates dian technicians for the onwere being built to operate going construction of the both Indian and Russian equipment.

The keel for the first ship to be built at GSL was laid in January and for the second ship in June this year. Keel laying is a major milestone in shipbuilding symbolises the formal commencement of the construction process. The Navy had recently

said that the first of these ships would be delivered in 2026 and the second six months later. In November 2018, GSL signed a \$500 million deal with Rosoboronexport of Russia for material, design and specialist assistance to locally manufacture the two frigates, and in January 2019 the contract was signed between the Ministry of Defence and GSL.

The Navy currently operates six Krivak class frigates procured in two different

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT The Supreme Court took a

nuanced stand on Monday, saying farmers have the right to protest but the agitation should not hinder traffic or public movement.

A Bench led by Justice S.K. Kaul said the solution to end the farmer-government impasse over the three agriculture laws lay with the government. Protesting farmers have

been camping on the outskirts of the capital for over a year. The Supreme Court has asked the Central, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh governments to take stock of the ground situation. The Bench, including Jus-

tice Hrishikesh Roy, was hearing a petition filed by Monica Agarwal, a Noida re-



Court adopts nuanced stand, says agitation should not trouble public movement

Protest cannot hinder traffic, says SC

highway during their protest in Jalandhar on Monday. • PTI

She has complained that that to and fro for people is commuting to and fro betnot disturbed," the Bench ween Delhi and Noida has remarked. become a nightmare due to The court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, aproad blocks because of the ongoing farmers' protest. pearing for the Central go-

"The solution lies in the vernment, to ask his client to hands of the Union and intervene. States. If the protests are on, In a recent affidavit, the the traffic should not be Uttar Pradesh government stopped in any manner, so said it had reached out to the

nience being caused to commuters. Blocking free public movement was illegal, it 'Administrative failure'

farmers about the inconve-

The court scheduled the next hearing for September 20.

"It is her say that she is a single parent and also has some medical issues and it has become a nightmare to travel to Delhi where it is taking two hours instead of normal 20 minutes. She contends that despite the various directions passed by this Court to keep the to and fro passage clear [the roads], the same still does not happen. We did put to her if it is so, it is an administrative failure as the judicial view has already been propounded by us," the Bench noted in its April order.

Over 10 cobras rescued in 48 hours: NGO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With heavy rain lashing the city, the incidents of snakes straying into homes, schools and temples have increased in the past 48 hours. The Wildlife SOS's 24-hour helpline received over 10 calls to rescue cobras from various parts of the Capital.

The NGO said all the calls were responded to and the snakes rescued are currently under observation at their transit facility.

It said a four-foot-long cobra was found at Atal Adarsh Bal Vidyalaya in Mandir Marg. The snake had coiled up below a desk in the main office when a school staff spotted it.

In another incident, a cobra was found at in the kitchen in a house at Ambedkar Colony.

Another cobra was found in a small temple built in Bagdola Village, Dwarka. Some of the cobras, the NGO said, went from a relaxed state to a defensive state.

Kartick Satyanarayan from Wildlife SOS said reptile rescue calls have become a common occurrence during the monsoon

However, a cobra rescue call needs to be handled with extreme precaution since they are one of the four venomous snakes found in India.

DU graduate who led protests in Afghanistan uncertain of future

Crystal Bayat says the Taliban have not changed, experience of women painful

HEMANI BHANDARI

Crystal Bayat is a 24-year-old activist who graduated from Delhi University last year.

She is among the several brave women who have openly protested against the Taliban in the face of arms and violence. Currently in Afghanistan, Ms. Bayat was on the way to Kabul airport on Saturday morning. "I don't feel safe if I am on a video call," she said over a WhatsApp call to *The Hindu*.

She is scared to attend calls from India as her phone is "under control". On Monday morning, she said over a WhatsApp call that she and her family are looking for a safe place. She doesn't have access to the Internet for more than a few hours daily.

"We have to hide from trouble. I am on the way to leave Kabul as soon as possible. Outside, I can't talk loudly," she said.

On August 19, on Afghanistan's Independence Day, days after the Taliban took over, she was among a few women who protested against the Taliban.

"We chose the Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan hill to raise the Afghan national flag, where the largest flag was installed. While the Taliban had announced that a decision on the national flag will be made later, their com-



Crystal Bayat during a recent protest against the Taliban in Kabul, Afghanistan. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

manders and soldiers did not allow this," she said. The protesters, she said, gathered at another site but weren't allowed there as well.

"I didn't give up due to the verbal threats and airstrikes. They beat up many people. People were being shot at, especially some of the girls who were with me. They broke a young man's mobile phone... they used violence and coercion. I was scared when I saw that if resist, they would fire at us. Taliban has not changed. They still do not believe in the freedom and demands of the citizens. No one can hold them accountable."

On things that made her gather the courage to protest, she said, "Restrictions, killings, violence, deprivations and the tyranny of the Taliban forced me to stand up against terrorism and extremism".

A terrible situation

Sharing her experience, she said it was "bitter and painful" and that she is uncertain of the future of "all women activists, human rights activists, journalists, elites and especially women".

"How sad are the stories of women who have experienced twenty years of war and bloodshed? Afghanistan is in a terrible situation. The world must hear and act on the voices of Afghan women and youths. No one knows will happen tomorrow."

Recalling her childhood, she said her mother - a doctor – helped many women at the time. "I have grown up with the changes and developments post-2001. My [the Taliban] beat up many people. People were being shot at, especially some of the girls who were with me. They broke a young man's mobile phone... they used violence and coercion

I didn't give up due

to the verbal threats

and airstrikes. They

CRYSTAL BAYAT

mother has extremely painful stories to share. The pain was the same that people are facing today," she said.

Ms. Bayat's encounters with the Taliban in the past few days have made her conclude that they talk about supporting women's rights "but the opposite happens".

"Their soldiers were staring at our clothes. I really felt harassed and violent but I was sure they wouldn't beat me in public. I talked with one of their soldiers he couldn't convince me, there are big deference between the statements and believes. I was afraid of being followed and chased. I was facing with Taliban for the first time was trembling. Their demeanor. mannerisms and speech had taken away peace from my mind [sic]," she said in a

'Expedite refugee registration for those coming from Afghanistan'

Activists hold demonstration outside office of UNHCR

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Various students' bodies and women's rights organisations on Monday assembled at Mandi House in solidarity the people with Afghanistan.

Stating that the liberties and lives of human rights activists and welfare workers based in Afghanistan were in danger from the Taliban, the groups said the UNHCR should expedite refugee status registration for those arriving from Afghanistan.

The charter of demands endorsed by over 250 signatories also said the Election Commission of India must ensure that "Afghanistan and Taliban" are not used as pretexts for hate speeches during campaigns during upcoming State elections.

The signatories also demanded: "The Government of India must ensure that safety of all Afghan nationals residing in India. The Government of India cease any

'India must ensure safety'

attempt to distinguish between Afghan refugees on the basis of faith or identity and instead open the country's doors to offer safe refuge to any Afghan refugees in need." Rukhsar Rahim, a student from Afghanistan who came to India in 2015 for her undergraduate degree said: "Several of my re-

latives are still in Afghanis-





(Top) Women protest outside the office of UNHCR; people in support of Afghans at Mandi House in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

tan. People there are living in distress...they are not being able to go out of their

The Jamia Milia Islamia student added: "In some areas in Afghanistan, people are being tortured and the basic right of speech has been snatched by the Taliban. We are asking the entire world to help Afghanistan set up a system where gender equality is restored. Given a chance, not just me but all Afghan youth would like to return to our country one day."

Annie Raja of the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) said: "We are here in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan. The NFIW has organised this meet across 22 States. It is to express solidarity particularly with the women in Afghanistan. We also want to tell the interna-

tional community to not re-

Three held, 93 kg of ganja worth ₹5.5 crore seized

They procured contraband from Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The police have arrested three men and recovered over 93 kg gania worth more than ₹5.5 crore in the international market from them, said officials on Monday.

The accused have been identified as Sanjay Kumar and Mohammad Israel both residents of New Usmanpur – and Ram Prasad, a resident of Okhla Industrial Area, they said.

On Sunday, the police received information that one an autorickshaw carrying a huge quantity of ganja would be delivering the contraband in Malviya Nagar here, a senior officer said. A trap was

laid and the accused were apprehended along with the contraband, said (South) Atul Kumar Thakur. The police searched the autorickshaw and 45 packets containing a total of 93.582 kg of ganja was recovered, they said.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that they had procured the contraband from Odisha. It was transported from the remote forest in Odisha to Delhi, the police said. After procuring the drug, the accused stored it at a rented place near Transport Nagar. They then used to supply the contraband according to orders in an autorickshaw, the police said.

Portion of Bhalswa landfill collapses





Some shanties were damaged after a portion of the Bhalswa landfill in north-west Delhi collapsed on Monday morning. JCB machines have cleared the road, said officials. • PTI, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

GOVT. OF JHARKHAND CABINET SECRETARIAT AND VIGILANCE DEPARTMENT (CIVIL AVIATION DIVISION) STATE HANGAR, AIRPORT ROAD, HINOO, RANCHI-834002 nail:- civilaviation.jhr@gmail.com/govtflyops@gmail.comTelefax:- 0651-2250319, 2251090

E-Tender Notice MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF GOVT. AIRCRAFTS.

-Tenders under two bid system are invited from DGCA approved CAR-145 Aircraft Maintenance Organization for the maintenance/repair of aircrafts at Ranchi base.

CAD/XI-02/2018/543, Dtd.-23.08.2021 Tender reference number : Project Description : Maintenance Contract Of Govt. Aircrafts. Date and time of publish of tender 24/08/2021 ; 1000 Hrs on website and download of tender <u>document :</u> Starting of Bid Submission :-24/08/2021; 1000 Hrs End of Bid Submission :-13/09/2021 ; 1800 Hrs Date and time of opening of bids: 15/09/2021 ; 1130 Hrs Contact Number :-0651-2250319 /9431114196

For further details and application, please visit jharkhandtenders.gov.in

PR 251904 Civil Aviation(21-22)#D

Sd/-, (Director, Ops.) Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance Department (Civil Aviation Division)

SPECIAL BRANCH

POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

Dated 16-08-2021

No. SB / Store/2021-25 (315), Bhopal "ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal fo

| the fol | lowing item on website https://mpte | nders.gov.in/nicgep/a | app:- | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|--|--|
| S. | Name of Item(s) | Qty. | Tender Fees (Rs.) | EMD (Rs.) | Tender No. | | |
| No. | | | Paid Onlin mptende | | | | |
| 1 | Non Linear Junction Detector | 12 | 12,500/- | 3,50,000/- | 3rd Tender | | |
| 2 | Bomb Blanket | 04 | 2,000/- | 40,000/- | 3rd Tender | | |
| 3 | Bomb Basket with Trolley | 04 | 2,000/- | 50,000/- | 3rd Tender | | |
| 4 | Deep Search Metal Detector | 12 | 5,000/- | 70,000/- | 3rd Tender | | |

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.

2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in) B. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in

| No. | Tender Activity | Date & Time |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| i | Submission of written queries - through e-mail: sec24-sb@mppolice.gov.in | 26/08/2021 up to 1700 hrs. |
| ii | Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries | 27/08/2021 at 1200 hrs. |
| iii | Bid Submission Start Date | 10/09/2021 at 1000 hrs. |
| iv | Last date of online e-Tender submission | 20/09/2021 up to 1700 hrs. |
| v | Bid will be opened on | 21/09/2021 up to 1700 hrs. |
| vi | Demonstration from | 28 & 29/09/2021 at 1200 hrs |

A.I.G. of Police Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal Tel. No. 0755-2443654





There are various contradictions in police's claims, his lawver tells court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI Former JNU student leader Umar Khalid, arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the northeast Delhi riots conspiracy case, told a local court on Monday that there were various contradictions in the police's claims and called it a "cooked up" case. Mr. Khalid, along with sev-

eral others, has been booked under the stringent anti-terror law UAPA. They are accused of being

the "masterminds" of the February 2020 violence, which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. He has sought bail in the case.

Trideep Pais, Mr. Khalid's lawyer, told Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat that the FIR was cooked up and unnecessary, and was used selectively to target and frame them.

The counsel pointed to two contradictions in Delhi Police's claims.

Umar says FIR in riots case 'cooked up, unnecessary'

Firstly, he showed the court a 21-minute video clip of Mr. Khalid's speech in Maharashtra, which the prosecution had allegedly labelled inflammatory.

The lawyer, pursuant to showing the video, apprised the court that his client did not give any call for violence through the speech and in fact gave a message of unity to the people. "A message of unity based on Gandhiji was given by Umar Khalid that day. It was termed as terror. Content is not seditious. He is talking about democratic power. He referred to Gandhi," Mr. Pais added.

Secondly, he argued that as per the police case, Mr. Khalid conspired with other accused on January 8 to cause riots during former U.S. President Donald Trump's visit, however, the news about his visit was announced only in February.

"These are the kind of lies they are peddling. This is a joke. This FIR is a cooked-up theory. Is it that easy to prosecute people? Do you have no responsibility as a prosecution?" Mr. Pais said.

Delhi Police had recently said that the bail plea has no merit and that it will demonstrate the prima facie case against him before the court by referring to the charge sheet filed in the case.

In April, the former INU student was granted bail in one of the riot cases. The court while granting him bail noted that he was not physically present at the scene of the crime on the date of the incident.

Anti-CAA stir: Sharjeel Imam says his speeches did not call for violence

Cannot be hammered with sedition, JNU student tells court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JNU student Sharjeel Imam, arrested for allegedly making inflammatory speeches during the protests against CAA and NRC, told a Delhi court on Monday that he cannot be hammered with sedition as his speeches did not call for violence.

Mr. Imam has moved the court, seeking bail in a case related to speeches made by him at two universities in 2019, where he allegedly threatened to "cut off" Assam and the rest of the Northeast from India.

He has been arrested un-

der UAPA and sedition. During the hearing, advo-

cate Tanveer Ahmed Mir, representing the accused, apprised Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat that no part of his speech called for any kind of violence to be initiated.

"When Imam says that this piece of legislation [CAA/NRC] is unconstitutional, and seeks to persuade the government to rethink and says if you don't do it, we will be on the streets, he cannot be hammered by sedition," the counsel asserted.

He further said the right to protest, the right to blockade, and the right to bring the country to a standstill is not equal to an act of sedition.

"The speech did not call for violence. He just called for a road blockade. He did not say that the northeast should become a different State and declare independence. That would have been seditious," advocate Mir added.

The alleged inflammatory speeches were made at Jamia Millia Islamia on December 13, 2019, and at Aligarh Muslim University on December 16, 2019. He is in judicial custody since January 28, 2020.

High Court seeks status of pending riots cases

Delhi Police gets time till Oct. 8 to reply

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The High Court Monday asked the Delhi Police to place before it the latest position of cases relating to north-east riots of 2020, pending before trial courts here.

The court said the police shall disclose in its report the status of the cases as to in how many of them chargesheets have been filed, charges have been framed and how many prosecution witnesses examined, "Respondents [police] request to file counter affidavit bringing on record the latest posi-

tion on filing of chargesheets and position of trial going on in the criminal courts. Time granted. List on October 8," a Bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh said.

The court was hearing a batch of pleas related to the last year violence and alleged hate speeches by leaders, which led to eruption of violence related to the CAA. The plea sought lodging of FIRs on the violence which has left at least 53 people dead and around 700 injured, and against political leaders for allegedly making hate speeches.

G-15993/2021

DELHI

TUESDAY, AUG. 24 RISE 05:56 SET 18:52 RISE 20:20 SET 07:27 WEDNESDAY, AUG. 25

RISE 05:56 SET 18:51 RISE 20:51 SET 08:24

THURSDAY, AUG. 26 RISE 05:57 SET 18:50 RISE 21:21 SET 09:20

| Delhi Weather | max | min |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| Delhi City | 35 | 26 |
| Safdarjang | 35 | 26 |
| Palam | 35 | 28 |

Delhi Palam Today 35°C Warm and humid day with cloudy to partly cloudy thunderstorm occur at few

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 36°C Dry and warm weather likely with few clouds. Surface winds would be moderate gusting more at a time

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THEMAHINDU

Kejriwal inaugurates smog tower in Connaught Place

Supreme Court had ordered the Delhi govt. to build the tower by April 13, 2020

STAFF REPORTER

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday inaugurated a 'smog tower' in Connaught Place and said similar towers would be built across the city, if results of the current pilot project are satisfactory.

The smog tower is a 24 metre-high structure fitted with fans and air filters.

It will draw in polluted air from the top and release filtered air near the ground through fans fitted on the sides. The tower has 40 big fans and 5,000 filters to clean the air.

Pilot project

"This tower has been established as a pilot project and detailed studies will be conducted on its performance. IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay will analyse data and submit a report on the effectiveness of the tower. Once satisfactory results are received about the tower's effectiveness, then the model will be replicated and smog towers will be established all over Delhi," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"The tower will take in air



The smog tower has 40 fans and 5,000 filters to clean the air.

from a radius of 1 km. It has a capacity of cleaning 1,000 cubic metres of air per second. It is estimated that the area will see a rapid change in air quality due to this smog tower," he added.

On January 13 last year, the Supreme Court had ordered the Delhi government to build a 'smog tower' at Connaught Place by April 13, 2020, to control air pollution. On the same day, the court also ordered a smog tower to be installed in Anand Vihar by the Central Pollution Control Board, by the same time.

But both the governments missed the deadline.

On July 29, 2020, the Supreme Court threatened contempt action against the IIT-Bombay on learning that the premier institution has

The tower will take in air from a radius of 1 km. It has the capacity to clean 1,000 cubic metres of air per second

ARVIND KEJRIWAL

opted to pull out of the court-ordered project to install the smog tower.

Less than a month after this, an MoU was signed for building the tower.

The Delhi pollution control committee was the nodal authority for building the tower. IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi were technical advisors and Tata Project Ltd. executed the project.

On Friday, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said once the monsoon season is over the tower will function at full capacity. "Then IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay's experts will start their research on its performance. The Delhi government is committed in its fight against pollution and this tower will deeply aid this fight and act as a technological foundation for our future projects," Mr. Rai said.

Ensure quick relief to children who have lost parents to COVID: HC

Govt. says verification is taking time

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday observed that the city government must iron out issues which are making cumbsersome the disbursement of benefits of schemes for children who have lost their parents to COVID-19.

A Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh remarked: "It would be unfair to expect children who lost their parents to be able to procure documents and to avail benefits which they are entitled to."

There are 6,200 chidren who are left with a single parent and 292 left orphaned as on August 16, 2021, due to COVID-19, as per a status report filed by the Department of Women and Child Development and the Department of Social Welfare.

Since the schemes have been framed to grant benefits to children, the government has to take a proactive approach rather than taking such applications in a routine way, the HC stated.

The observation came af-

ter advocate Prabhsahay Kaur, representing Bachpan Bachao Andolan, submitted that even though numerous schemes were framed after April this year, nothing much has moved on the ground. Ms. Kaur highlighted the instance of one family comprising seven children, who lost both parents to COVID-19 this year.

Seven siblings

Of the seven siblings, five are minors. The eldest is 23 years old and the youngest is just four. Ms. Kaur submitted that the children are provided with basic ration and school books, but they still need care and support.

Ms. Kaur said it was not possible for the children to repeatedly approach the committee for their daily needs like milk and ration.

Senior advocate Rahul Mehra, representing Delhi government, submitted that the implementation of the schemes for grant of benefits was taking time on account of verification of doc-



City reports no new COVID-19 death for 4th straight day

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The city on Monday reported no new COVID-19 deaths for the fourth consecutive day and the toll remains at 25,079, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government.

A total of 17 new cases were reported over 24 hours, taking the tally to 14,37,334. As many as 46,251 tests were done in a day and the test positivity rate was 0.04%. Of the total cases, 14,11,881 people have recovered and there are only 374 active cases.

The COVID-19 vaccine stock of the city will last for four days, as per another bulletin. A total of 2,566 vaccinations were done on Sunday and till now, 1,23,28,735 doses of vaccines have been administered in the city.

The city government has been ramping up health infrastructure to prevent a repeat of the crisis witnessed during the peak of the second COVID-19 wave in April and May.

Steps have been taken to increase the number of hospital beds to accommodate up to 37,000 cases a day and to become self-reliant in terms of oxygen Officials said around 160 PSA oxygen generation plants with a total capacity of 148.11 metric tonnes are being installed at various government and private hospitals.

All dug up



Centre, Delhi get six more weeks to reply on Jaipur Golden deaths

Plea seeks CBI probe, says 21 deaths due to oxygen shortage

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Monday gave six weeks additional time to the Centre and the Delhi government to submit their stand on a petition seeking a CBI probe into the death of 21 COVID-19 patients at Jaipur Golden Hospital here in April allegedly due to shortage of oxygen.

Justie Rekha Palli was hearing a petition filed by the families of some patients, who died on the intervening night of April 23 and 24. 2021. Senior advocate Rahul Mehra, appearing for the Delhi government, said the aspect of criminal probe was pending consideration before a magisterial court.

Advocate Utsav Bains, appearing for the petitioners, said the aggrieved families before the High Court and the magisterial court were not the same.

On June 4, the HC had issued notices to the Centre



A tanker carrying medical oxygen for patients at Jaipur Golden Hospital in New Delhi • FILE PHOTO

and Delhi government on the petition which contended that the cause of death of the patients was respiratory failure due to insufficient supply of oxygen and not comorbidities as stated by a Delhi government commit-

tee in its report. The families said the panel came out with an "erroneous" report that those who died did not suffer suf-

gen supply. The petition sought for a probe by the CBI or an independent agency into the deaths "so that the truth can be brought to light", and the

focation due to lack of oxy-

proper compensation. 'Deliberate inaction'

families can be provided

The plea alleged that the incident took place "due to deliberate inaction and failure of the Centre and Delhi governments to provide adequate oxygen to patients despite knowing any shortage would lead to their immediate death".

"The respondents have rendered themselves not only liable to pay compensa tion to the families of the deceased but also for criminal prosecution for culpable homicide," the plea has said.

The petitioners also contended that the hospital did not inform the family members about the shortage.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

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THE MARSHINDU

India's National Newspaper

AAP holds protests over Novelty Cinema land sale

Party demands BJP withdraw decision

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Monday said its workers protested in all 272 wards of Delhi against the BJP-led North Delhi Municipal Corporation for allegedly selling Novelty Cinema land worth ₹200 crore for ₹34 crore.

"AAP workers took out a 'padyatra' against the civic body. The workers made people aware of how the BJPruled civic body sold the Novelty Cinema land worth ₹200 crore for a mere ₹34 crore. In the padyatra, they also told the people how the BJP is trying to fill its pockets with the help of corruption," the party said.

AAP leader and Leader of Opposition in the North civic body Vikas Goyal said that for the last 15 years, the BJP has been ruling the municipal corporation and they have not fulfilled a "single responsibility".

"Be it cleanliness and hygiene of the city, be it running civic body hospitals and schools or be it trying to curb water-borne diseases, the municipal corporation has paid no heed to any of it," Mr. Goyal said.

He along with other work-



AAP said its workers protested in all 272 wards in Delhi on Monday.

ers protested outside Novelty Cinema and demanded the North corporation to withdraw the decision to sell Novelty Cinema land.

'Other scams'

He said the party will continue to protest till the demand is met. "The moral duty of theirs is committing corruption. They have not lost even one opportunity to not do corruption. The Bhalswa landfill scam, the medicine scam, books and mid-day meal scam, you just name the job, they will find a way to do corruption. They have ransacked the civic body and made it bankrupt," he added.

BJP, Congress offer notes on MPD-2041

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A BJP delegation called on Delhi Development Authority (DDA) vice chairman Anurag Jain with over 50 suggestions for the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2041.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta and Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the party has formed a panel under general secretary Harsh Malhotra regarding amendments to MPD-2041.

This panel has suggested a redevelopment scheme for urbanised villages and provision for mixed land use and commercial use.

It also suggested providing cheap rental houses for those coming to Delhi from outside for three months to three years. Mr. Bidhuri also added that all colonies in Yamuna Khaddar should

be regularised. Meanwhile, the Delhi Congress submitted suggestions on MPD-2041 to Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal and Union Urban Development Minister Hardeep Puri, including development of villages and ensuring the "right to a house" for every Delhiite.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely:** Deepu, **S/o:** Om Prakash, **R/o:** Gali No. 9/2 Fouji Colony, Mukundpur Part II, Delhi, Age: 23 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Mentally Status: Mentally Weak, Wearing: Green Colour T-Shirt & Blue Colour Lower & Chappal in feet has been missing since 29.05.2021 from his house. In this regard **DD No. 66A, Dated 03.06.2021** has been lodged at **PS.** Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing person please inform the undersigned.

Web-site: http://cbi.nic.in E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 DP/1187/0N/2021

PS. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi Ph.: 011-27811933, 27811934

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one male Namely: Nand Kishor, S/o: Rampal Nagpal, R/o: H. No. 1361, Gali Krishna, Bazar Gali Guliyan, Jama Masjid, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 11.08.2021 in the area of P. S. Jama Masjid, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 43A dated 12.08.2021 has been registered at P.S. Jama

Masjid, Delhi. The description of the missing male are as under: Age: 36 years, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Strong, ID Mark: Lame by left leg, Wearing: Black colour T-shirt, blue colour jeans and grey colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this male kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/950/CD/2021

P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi Tel.No. 011-23261625, 8750870422

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Tel. No. 01704222373

e-mail. ee-pao-hp@nic.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HP PWD Paonta Sahib, Distt. Sirmour HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the Item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP PWD for the

| *** | volte de detailed in the table. | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Sr. No | Name of Work | Estimated Cost (Rs.) | Starting date for down- loading Bid | Earnest Money | Deadline for submission of Bid | | | | |
| 1. | Repair and maintenance of Bangran Bridge over Giri river on Paonta Singhpura Bhagani Gojjar Dakpathar road (MDR-94) at Km. 10/130. (SH:- Repair and Rehabilation of bridge) | Rs. 1,29,73,222/- | | Rs. 1,55,300/- | 20.09.2021 17:00 HRS | | | | |

The bidders are advised to note other details of Tenders from the department website <u>www.hptenders.gov.in</u>

Executive Engine Paonta B&R Division HP PWD. Paonta Sahil Distt. Sirmour. HP On behalf Governor of Himachal Pradesh Tel/Fax- 01704-222373 E-mail: ee-pao-hp@nic.ir

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI DEONAR ABATTOIR

PRO/903/ADV/2021/22 Let's together and make Mumbai Malaria Free

HP / 3524/21-22

Department- General Manager, Deonar Abattoir

"e-TENDER NOTICE"

The Municipal Commissioner of MCGM invites Tenders for the following work returnable

| on | the due date of 30.08.2021. | | | | | |
|------------|--|------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sr. No. | Name of the work | Bid No. | Bid start date | Bid end date | Tender Price | Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) |
| 1. | The work of Designing, Providing, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEM) as per MPCB norms for Effluent Treatment Plant at Deonar Abattoir | 7200005469 | 23.08.2021 | 30.08.2021 | Rs.2200/- (Inclusive 5% GST) | Rs.44,000/- |
| 2. | The work of Non comprehensive Biennial Operation & Maintenance contract of 0.6 Ton capacity Non IBR Boiler & Solar Heater systems at Deonar Abattoir | 7200005470 | 23.08.2021 | | Rs.2500/- + 5% GST | Rs.50,000/- |

Interested eligible contractors may obtain further information regarding e-Tender on MCGM website https://portal.mcgm.gov.in/ under (For partners --> Tenders-view-> Select Department - Deonar Abattoir) or from the office of General Manager, Deonar Abattoir, Opp. Govandi Railway Station, Govandi, Mumbai — 43.

sd/-General Manager(i/c) **Deonar Abattoir**

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SHO

Panel will probe plaints against hospitals: CM

Cong. raises issue of deaths in Haryana



Haryana CM Manohar Lal speaking during the monsoon session of the Assembly in Chandigarh on Monday. • PTI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Monday said the State government has ensured adequate oxygen supply in the State during the COVID-19 pandemic and a committee will be formed to investigate the complaints received against all those hospitals which have shown negligence in giving necessary treatment during the pandemic.

"Strict action will be taken against such hospitals," said Mr. Lal in the Assembly on the issue raised by the Opposition during Zero Hour of the ongoing monsoon session.

Congress members, led by Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda, raised the issue of deaths during the pandemic due to lack of oxygen.

Mr. Hooda said the government was trying to mislead the public about the truth of deaths.

The Chief Minister said about 13,000 people died due to COVID-19 in the hospitals across the State. "Of these, about 9,500 were residents of Haryana, while about 3,500 were from other States. There are about 4,000 private hospitals in Haryana. Oxygen was supplied everywhere through agencies in every city. Oxygen was also supplied from a nearby city if needed," he said. Mr. Lal said in some hospitals of Hisar, Rewari and Gurugram districts, a few irregularities were reported and a magisterial inquiry has been conducted.

Assures action

"In two reports pertaining to Rewari and Gurugram hospitals, it was stated that no death was reported due to lack of oxygen," he said. In the investigation report of Hisar district, the matter of negligence of Soni Hospital was highlighted and the "said report has been sent to the Superintendent of Police, necessary action will be taken," he added. The CM said during the peak of the second wave of the pandemic, it was noticed that some hospitals admitted more patients than their capacity.

Now, Sidhu targets Amarinder govt. over sugarcane prices

'It's too low in comparison to neighbouring States of U.P., Uttarakhand and Haryana'

VIKAS VASUDEVA

As the farmers continued their protest against the Congress government in Punjab's Jalandhar, demanding rise in State Assured Price (SAP) for sugarcane, party's State chief Navjot Singh Sidhu said the SAP in Punjab is too low in comparison to neighbouring States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Haryana.

Notably, all these three States are ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Mr. Sidhu's remark is being seen as another attack on Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, indicating that ongoing turmoil within the Congress party is far from over. Both the leaders have been at loggerheads since long.

"The sugarcane farmers

Farmer leader Manjeet

Puniab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu

issue needs to be immediately resolved amicably Strange that despite the higher cost of cultivation in Punjab the state assured price is too low as compared to Haryana / U.P. / Uttarakhand. As torchbearer of agriculture, the Punjab SAP should be better !," said Mr

Sugarcane farmers from various regions of Punjab

have been on an indefinite protest since August 20 on a national highway at Jalandhar, near Dhanowali, blocking the national highway and a railway line, resulting in disruption of vehicular traffic and railway movement.

Sing Rai said farmers union leaders and representatives from the Cane Commissioner's office and agriculture university experts held a meeting in the Jalandhar on Monday. "We are demanding ₹400 per quintal as SAP for sugarcane. Tomorrow (August 24) Chief Minister is expected to announce a decision on the issue. We will continue our ongoing protest until our demands are met," he said.

Earlier talks with the State government representatives on August 22 it did not result in any concrete outcome.

'We are anguished'

"We are anguished because the State government has been speaking about diversification of crops without adequate support to farmers who are attempting such diversification. The State government has kept its assured prices very low compared to neighboring Haryana, besides the arrears of previous years have not been paid by sugarcane mills so far," he said.

Punjab government had last week announced an increase of ₹15 per quintal in the SAP for all sugarcane varieties for the crushing season, 2021-22. The SAP of sugarcane is ₹325 for early

Mob beats bangle seller in M.P.'s Indore over name

Minister says he gave fake identity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A 25-year-old man selling bangles on streets was beaten up by a mob after allegedly asking his name in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city.

When asked about the incident. State Home Minister Narottam Mishra told reporters in Bhopal on Monday that the row erupted after the man sold bangles to women by posing as a Hindu even as he belonged to another community.

A video of the incident. that took place on Sunday in Govind Nagar area of Indore, went viral on social

The Indore police have registered a case on charges of promoting enmity between different groups and other offences, an official said.

In one of the viral clips, some people were purportedly seen thrashing the vendor, identified as Tasleem Ali, while he was asking for

In another video, a person beating up the vendor was seen accusing him of eve-teasing. The person was also seen abusing the vendor and inciting others to hit him. He was also seen warning the man not to be seen in the area henceforth.

When asked about the incident, Minister Narottam Mishra said as per the Home department's report, the person had identified himself with a Hindu name while be belonged to another community, leading to the dispute.

The man filed a police complaint on Sunday night, alleging that five-six persons from the mob asked his name in the Govind Nagar area and when he told them his name, they started beat-

Earthquake hits Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GUWAHATI

Assam was hit by an earthquake of magnitude 4 on Monday afternoon, an offi-

cial bulletin said. As per the National Center for Seismology, the quake was recorded at 1.13 p.m., having its epicentre at Kokrajhar in west Assam. There was no immediate report of any injury to anyone or damage to property.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Chakma organisations have slammed the proposed deportation of 60,000 people belonging to the Chakma and Hajong communities from Arunachal Pradesh.

They said other States in India, specifically Assam, must not be the dumping ground of "unwanted people of the Northeast" although 94% of the Chakmas and Hajongs settled in present day Arunachal Pradesh by the Government of India in the 1960s are Indians by birth.

CM Khandu's speech

In a statement on August 23, the Chakma Rights and Development Organisation (CRDO) expressed concern over Chief Minister Pema Khandu's Independence Day speech and Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju's 'warnings' during his 'Jan Ashirvad Yatra' in the

Plan to deport 60,000 Chakmas from Arunachal slammed

Chakma organisations say Assam must not be dumping ground for 'unwanted people of Northeast

While Mr. Khandu said "all illegal immigrant Chakmas will be moved and settled outside Arunachal Pradesh with honour, and this matter has already been taken up and discussed with Union Home Minister Amit Shah", Mr. Rijiju said there should be "no confusion about the fact" that Chakmas and Hajongs "will not be allowed to subsist or

live in Arunachal Pradesh".

The Chakma and Hajong people were brought by the Government of India from Chittagong Hill Tracts (now in Bangladesh) from 1964-68 and rehabilitated in the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) that became Arunachal Pradesh later on, the CRDO noted. "The rehabilitation was under a Centrally-sponsored plan following a series of discussions between the repre-

sentatives of the Central government, the administration and local tribal leaders," its president Mahendra Chakma said.

"We are very worried about our future as we and our forefathers have suffered long enough because of partition. We oppose any move to dislodge the Chakma community from the State," the Arunachal Pradesh Chakma Gaonburah Association said.

Odisha move to

offset impact

of dry spell on

With more than 31% deficit

in monsoon rainfall till Au-

gust 23, farmers in Odisha

are staring at a drought-like

However, the State Go-

"This year, the State has

vernment has moved to off-

set the impact of the pro-

received 50% less than aver-

age rainfall recorded by Au-

gust. The deficit monsoon

rain has grown by 31%," it

was informed at a review

meeting chaired by Chief

Secretary Suresh Chandra

Mohapatra here on Monday.

ical Centre, Bhubaneswar,

shortfall in rainfall in 27 out

of 30 districts has been

As per India Meteorological

Department norms, a State

or a region is declared to

have received deficit rainfall

when the deficiency stands

at 19% or above. Jajpur and

Bhadrak are the worst-hit

districts where deficit rain-

fall is 55% and 51% respec-

Districts such as Keonj-

har, Balangir, Angul and Ga-

japati have received 40%

less rainfall than the average

precipitation recorded by

The State government

sources said the moisture level has come down drasti-

cally in 30 blocks in 15 districts of the State. It is diffi-

cult to carry on with paddy

crop in the current kharif

Keeping the grim situa-

tion in mind, Mr. Mohapatra

directed to keep all irriga-

tion systems functional, en-

sure constant supply of

power to all lift point and

bore wells and expedite re-

pair work so that water

asked to prepare contingen-

cy plan taking panchayat

and block as units. In blocks

which recorded scarce rain-

fall, emphasis should be gi-

ven on non-paddy crops.

The seed corporation

should make all seeds avail-

"All districts have been

reaches tail-end of canals.

August 23.

crop season.

measured at above 20%.

Jajpur worst-hit

According to Meteorolog-

agriculture

SATASUNDAR BARIK

BHUBANESWAR

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one male Namely: Unknown S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown was found dead body at KM Pole No. 1523/40. Main Up Line, opposite Apolo Hospital Railway Track, Delhi on 14.08.2021 at 12:30 pm. in the area of P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi. The body has been preserved in Sabzi Mandi

Hospital's Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 14A U/s 174 Cr.P.C dated 14.08.2021 at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the dead male is as under:- Age: Approx 30-35 years, Sex: Male, Height: ", Complexion: Wheatish, Hair: Thick hair and beard, Injury: Face and whole body crushed and both legs broken, ID Mark: A tattoo mark "Vinod" in right arm, Wearing: Red colour shirt and blue colour ripped jeans If any one having any information about this dead male please inform undersigned.

P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-24356743, 8750871311 DP/215/RLY/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

Delhi on 12.08.2021. In this regard a DD No. 5-A dated

12.08.2021 U/s 174 Cr.P.C has been lodged at PS Delhi Cantt.

Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved

for Identification & PM at DDU hospital Mortuary for 72 hours

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased

male may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or

General public is hereby

Unknown R/o Unknown. Age

about 35-40 years, Height 5'5", Complexion

shallow. Medium built, Long face, wearing

white lining Shirt and dark grey colour kafri

was found dead due to railway accident

at E. Pole KM No. 16/06 DN line Railway

Track near Indira Park, Sagarpur, New

Unknown

that one male namely

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank 🕸

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)] (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter eferred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ssued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrower and also owner of th roperty/surety to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 lays from date of the said notice.

The borrower and also the owner of the property surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the owner of the property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against account. The owner of the property in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with e property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charg of the Canara Bank for the amount and interest/costs thereon, mentione against account herein below. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8)

section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secure

BRANCH: MANGANPUR 1. Borrower: M/s Balaji Hardware Cement Store, Guarantor: S

Ranjeet Prasad & Sri Lalan Prasad Sah, **Amount out-standing of ₹64.52** Lakh (Rupees Sixty four lakh and fifty two thousand only) with interest and incidental charges and costs, Date of Demand Notice-10.05.2021 Date of Possession- 18.08.2021, Description of the Immovable property: Title holder:- Sri Lalan Prasad Sah S/o Late Baidhyanath Sah Details of Security Assets: - Situated at Mauza: Belsar, Rev Thana No 184, Halka No. 09, Anchal: Patedhi Belsar, Sub Registry Office: Lalganj & Dist. Sub Registry Office: Hajipur, Dist.: Vaishali, Khata No. 180, Khesra No. 136, Area: 5.50 dec., Boundary:- North: Prabha Sinha Khasra No. 137, South: Pakki Sadak, East: Nij Vendor & Devenandan Mahto, West Jangi Mahto

2. Borrower: Vaishali Sweets, Prop.: Sri Manoj Kumar, Guarantor: Smt. /indeshwari Devi, **Amount out-standing of** ₹ **10.21 Lakh** (Rupees Ten lakh and twenty one thousand only) with interest and incidental charges and costs, Date of Demand Notice-28.05.2021, Date of Possession-18.08.2021, Description of the Immovable property: (1) Title holder: Smt. Vindeshwari Devi W/o Late Siyaram Prasad, Details of Security Assets:- Situated at Mauza: Belsar. Rev Thana No. 184. PS: Vaishali. A/F Patedhi Belsar, Sub Registry Office: Lalganj, Sub Divisional Office: Hajipur, Khata No. 86, Khesra No. 863, Area: 1.50 dec., Boundary:- North Bihar Govt (Hat), South: Road, East: Ramashankar Prasad, West: Vishnu Mahto. (2) Title holder: - Smt. Vindeshwari Devi W/o Late Sivaram Prasad, Details of Security Assets:- Situated at Mauza: Belsar, Rev Thana No. 184, PS: Vaishali, A/P Patedhi Belsar, Sub Registry Office: Lalganj, Sub Divisional Office: Hajipur, Khata No. 212,151, Khesra No. 1177,1178, Area: 10.00 dec., Boundary:- North: Ramashankar Prasad. South: Shankar Sah, East: Ranjeet Thakur, West: Road. Authorized Officer

Date: 18.08.2021 Place: Hajipur **CANARA BANK**

may please may noted.

PRO/895/ADV/2021/2022

Avoid self medication

WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION WORK

Deputy Chief Engineer (Const)II building, Churchgate, Mumbai 400020 invites offer through E-tender portal under Two Packet system for the following tender. Tender No. : Dy CE(C)II/CCG/328. Name of

strengthening of Major / Minor bridges Construction of side drains, boundary walls and retaining walls etc between Bandra to Borivali stations in connection with providing 6th line etween Mumbai Central to Borival stations of Mumbai Division of Western Railways and Construction of Foundation for 15 Nos. Piers at Malad for Elevated Portion of Harbour Line.

NIT Cost (in Rs.): 42,52,04,616.03.

EMD (in Rs.): Bid Security

Declaration. Bidding Start Date: 15.09.2021 - 15.00 Hrs. Tender **Document opening on**: 15.09.2021 15.30 Hrs. **Instruction of tenders** Only E-offers submitted online hrough E-tender portal will be considered. Please note that printed date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available only in electronic format in our website www.ireps.gov.in. 0369

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Legal Agreement For Guaranteed Prelims

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE On behalf of my client Ashish Dalal the general public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule of property from its owner Mr. Sanjeev Partap Singh s/o Ramsharan R/o A-1702, La Lagune Apartment, Golf Course Road, Sector 54, Gurugram-122002, Haryana through alotment letter dated 02.06.2011/BBA dated 27.12.2011 issued by M/s. Jasmine Buildmart Put. Ltd. having its registered office at Unit No. 201/202, Plot No. 8, Elegance Tower, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 If anybody having any objection, claim,

Jasola, New Delhi-110025
If anybody having any objection, claim, interest, dispute, lien for the below intending transaction he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objection/claim/disputes within 15 days from the date of this publication failing which my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner and thereafter no claim/dispute will be entertained.

Aanmolspute will be entertained.

Schedule of property

Apartment No. B-1001, in Tower No. 2(B)
naving a super area of 5800 Sq. ft. Approx.
multi storeyed building known as Provence
Estate, Sector-2, at Village Gwal Pahari,
Gurugram Tehsil Wazirabad, Distt Gurugram. SD/- Shahzad Singh Dangra Advocat Chamber No 66, Block A, Distt cou

Complex, Gurugram, Haryana-12200

mmovable properties and severed all relations forever, due to thei disrespect behaviour. I will not be responsible for the act of my above said son and his wife in future.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

i, Panmati Devi w/o Late Ramj Gupta R/o C-58A, Vishwakarma

Colony, Lal Kuan, Badarpur, Delh

disowned my son Pinto and his wife Jyoti from all movable and

PERSONAL **LOST & FOUND**

I SEEMA Dhall have lost my bag with original property document of A-38 Preet Vihar, Delhi 110092 which includes Will, Payment Receipt and Affidavit in the name of my husband Late Satish Kumar Dhall. If found please return Seema Dhall 9999643334

I KASI Lost My Id Card No 210320828400091 (Hdfc Bank), If Found Kindly Ct 9841682300

For enquiries on

announcements in this

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

Dr.K.MANIVACHAKAN, PhD. 09-Aug-1941 - 23-Aug-2021

office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m. New Delhi: 011-43579797 Rate for New Delhi: (Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines Extra Line - Rs.160/-) (B/W Display): Rs 60/Per Sq.cm (Clr Display): Rs. 70/Per Sq. cm

011-43579797 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that an



telephone nos. given below.

DP/211/RLY/2021

unidentified person Namely: Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age: about 40-45 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Injury: Head Injury, Both legs are severed from knee and Right hand is crushed from the claw, Wearing: Mehndi colour T-shirt, White colour Baniyan, Blue colour lower, Blue colour underwear and black colour thread tied up on left hand has

PS Delhi Cantt. Rly. Stn., Delhi

Ph. 011-25688505

been found dead at between Electric Pole No. 27/3 & 27/5, UP Main Line, near underpass No. 17, Narela, Delhi on 17.08.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 18A dated 17.08.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi,

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

Railway Station, Delhi Tel. No. 011-23692455

DP/219/RLY/2021

P.S. Subzi Mandi

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI TREE AUTHORITY **PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance with the provision under section 8 (3) (C) of the Maharashtra(UrbanAreas)Protection&PreservationofTreesAct1975(Asmodified ward in **Zone - II**, i.e. Total <u>01</u> proposals are received for getting approval of Tree Authority / Municipal Commissioner, Chairman, Tree Authority for removal of trees. The information of the trees for cutting / Transplanting in above mentioned proposals is available on mcgm website- www.mcgm.gov.in.- About us - ward

Department - Department manuals - Gardens & Tree Authority 140 - Adv- 7 days On account of pandemic covid - 19, citizens are requested to send the objections / suggestions on E mail- sg.gardens@mcgm.gov.in on or before Dt. 02/09/2021 only instead of attending hearing personally on Dt. 02/09/2021 Objections / suggestions received after this date will not be entertained which

> Supdt. of Gardens & Tree officer of the Tree Authority Penguin Building, 2nd Floor Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan Dr. Ambedkar Road, Byculla (E), Mumbai-400 027. Tel. no. -23742162 E.mail- sg.gardens@mcgm.gov.in

> > Supdt. of Gardens & Tree Officer

Sd/-

etd. Professor of Mathematic College of Engineering, **Guindy Anna University** Missed dearly by M. Vasumathi, M. Senthil Nathan

instructed.

able," the Chief Secretary

Karnataka schools draw fewer students

Offline classes resume in State after being suspended in March due to the second wave of COVID-19

BENGALURI

The attendance in high schools and Pre-University (PU) colleges in Karnataka was poor on day one when offline classes resumed after a gap of five months.

These classes were suspended in March due to the second wave of COVID-19 infections. According to an official report, the attendance in both offline and online classes across the State for Class X stood at 21%, while it was 19.5% for Class IX. PU colleges reported a slightly higher attendance as the cumulative attendance for both offline and online classes stood at

While many schools and PU colleges anticipated that attendance would be low in

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In anticipation of a surge in

COVID-19 cases in the post-

Onam weeks, Kerala Health

Minister Veena George has

called for extreme vigil and

precautions to be followed

by the people for the next

four weeks to minimise the

anticipates that COVID-19

cases will surge in two

weeks because of increased

social interaction and family

During the first wave too,

there was a major rise in

cases after Onam. Ms. Ge-

orge said when offices and

institutions reopen after

Onam holidays on Tuesday,

people should be more vigi-

lant about observing the CO-

VID-19 protocol. The go-

gatherings during Onam.

The Health Department

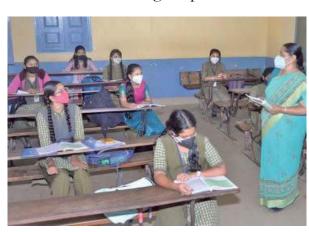
risk of infection.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala govt. anticipates

post-Onam case surge

Health Minister calls for extreme vigil



Break over: A class under way in Mysuru on Monday. • M.A. SRIRAM

offline classes, attendance in online classes too was extremely poor. More than two-thirds of the students did not attend classes virtually or physically in high

A man shows his COVID-19

vaccination certificate to a

Kochi beach on Monday. • AP

vernment has proposed

increased testing, and all in-

police officer at the Fort

B.C. Nagesh, Primary and Secondary Education Minister said that there were some errors in the data collated by the department and they would be rectified by Tues-

day. "Many students told me

that they were unable to focus on the online classes from their homes and said they were glad that offline classes resumed," he said.

Variations in districts

There was a huge variation in the attendance among different districts. While in Class IX, Uttara Kannada reported 53%, Koppal reported 2.06%. In Class X too, the highest attendance was in Uttara Karnataka, while the lowest was 2.2% in Gadag.

In PU colleges, Bengaluru Rural had 78%, while in Bidar, only 8% of students attended both online and offline classes.

Department officials said that the attendance was higher in government schools and PU colleges as

well as small budget private schools. Schools had a festive look as teachers decorated the campuses and distributed sweets to students.

Niranjanaradhya V.P., senior fellow, Centre for Child and Law, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, said that many School Development Monitoring Committee members informed him that the attenin government schools was good and demanded that the primary classes be reopened soon.

D. Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools, Karnataka, said many small private schools saw high attendance. He added that many schools did not reopen on Monday.

Communist martyrs to remain 'freedom fighters'

ICHR committee reviews 'Dictionary of Martyrs'

K.S. SUDHI

Martyrs of the communist movement of Kerala, including the ones killed at the Punnapra-Vayalar, Kayyur, Karivelloor, and Kavumbayi uprisings, will remain as freedom fighters in the annals of India's struggle for Independence.

A three-member commit-

tee appointed by the Indian

dividuals who display any Council of Historic Research influenza-like symptoms (ICHR) to review the entries should get themselves testin the fifth volume of the ed immediately, she said. 'Dictionary of Martyrs: In-She also called for an dia's Freedom Struggle emergency meeting of se-(1857-1947)' is understood to nior health officials on Tueshave left the martyrs of the Left movement untouched. day to review the situation.

Removal of names slammed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The proposal to remove the names of Malabar Rebellion leaders from the Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle has evoked sharp response from various quarters.

Historian M.G.S. Narayanan felt that the changed political circumstances in the

The ICHR had recalled the publication and appointed a review panel after a section

of the Sangh Parivar histor-

ians strongly objected to the

inclusion of the martyrs of

communist movement and

the 1921 Malabar Rebellion in

which was "not right and not good". The Indian Union Muslim League said the martyrs would live in the hearts of the people, and not in records.

country might have

influenced the decision,

Kerala Muslim Jamat State general secretary Sayed Ibrahim Khaleel Bukhari said patriots would never accept the move.

the compendium. The committee is understood to have recommended the deletion of the Malabar Rebellion leaders Variamkunnath Kunhamed Haji, Ali Musaliar, and 387 other 'Moplah martyrs' from the list.

+

A.P. court puts off hearing on three-capital cases to Nov.

STAFF REPORTER

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday adjourned the hearing on a host of petitions challenging the A.P. Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020 and the AP Capital Region Development Authority Repeal Act, 2020 to November 15, due to the threat of a third wave of COVID-19. The postponement follows requests made by some senior advocates through letters to Chief Justice Arup Kumar Goswami on August 21.

The YSR Congress Party government had passed the above legislations for developing Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool as the legislative, executive and judicial capitals, in the Assembly last year.

Thousands of farmers in the existing capital region of Amaravati, who are aggrieved by the plan to shift the capital to Visakhapatnam in the name of 'executive capital', and others who called the three-capital move a retrograde step, have to now wait for another 83 days for the hearing.

Though the Bills got passed in the Assembly, they hit a stumbling block in the TDP-dominated Legislative Council as its Chairman Md. Ahmed Shariff referred them to a select committee. Eventually, the Assembly adopted a resolution for the abolition of the Council and sent a recommendation to that effect to the Centre, where the matter is still pending.

On Monday, the court said it would not accommodate requests for adjournment on account of counsel inconvenience after November 15.



Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Mahe

| tala33.227.4 | Kozhikode | – | 31.0 | .25 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------|-------|-----|
| edabad 0.435.626.3 | Kurnool | 8 | 34.0 | .22 |
| wl22 2 21.4 | Lucknow | 0.4 | 34.2 | .28 |
| nabad35.227.4 | Madurai | 0.3 | 34.0 | .23 |
| galuru 3.129.020.5 | Mangaluru | – | .30.3 | .24 |
| oal 3.729.923.7 | Mumbai | – | .32.2 | .23 |
| paneswar 21.434.626.2 | Mysuru | 2 | .30.0 | .21 |
| ndigarh 0.537.924.6 | New Delhi | 1 | .35.2 | .26 |
| nnai25.1 | Patna | 4 | .33.6 | .27 |
| nbatore 132.823.1 | Port Blair | 0.9 | .30.6 | .24 |
| radun – 34.0 23.6 | Puducherry | – | .30.2 | .24 |
| gtok 8.420.0 18.0 | Pune | 0.4 | 31.5 | .20 |
| 31.424.0 | Raipur | | .33.8 | .25 |
| ahati33.026.6 | Ranchi | | 32.4 | .24 |
| balli | Shillong | 3 | .23.2 | .18 |
| erabad – 33.4 24.2 | Shimla | . 13 | .22.6 | .16 |
| nal – 28.2 21.1 | Srinagar | | .32.4 | .17 |
| ur26.0 | Thiruvananthapuram | 7 | .31.6 | .24 |
| ni 430.224.0 | Tiruchi | | .33.1 | .24 |
| ma 1923.5 17.0 | Vijayawada | | .33.6 | .26 |
| ata – 35.9 27.7 | Visakhapatnam | 3 | .34.6 | .25 |
| nfall data in mm: temperature in Ce | elsius) | | | |

..5 .25 42 ...110 .120 ..6 .77 1727 ...49 15 .10 .- ..103 .108 74 .37 4948 ...41 Visakhapatnam 22 .40 3832

p.m., Sirsa, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 178 indicating

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) 502: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues 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 critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause 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 death in people with heart or lung disease

Uddhav calls for muted dahi handi fete Rift in Congress widens: ex-MLA

Let's keep our festivals and celebrations aside for some time to save lives of people, says Maharashtra CM

STAFF REPORTER

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday appealed to dahi handi festival mandals to observe restraint in celebrations this year owing to the pandemic, in the wake of Niti Aayog's warning of the possibility of a devastating third wave in India next month.

"Let's keep our festivals and celebrations aside for some time to save lives of people. We should send this message to the world that Maharashtra prioritised health over everything. It is

High Court talks

tough on child

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

malnutrition

time to face the pandemic with patience and resolve," Mr. Thackeray said in an online meeting of representatives of dahi handi groups, Ministers, doctors, political leaders, and officials. Mr. Thackeray said that

restrictions had been in force for over one-and-a-half years now. "One must realise that these restrictions are to save lives. Some are talking about agitating against the restrictions. They would do better if they protested against corona than the government," he said.

Reiterating that relaxa-



Uddhav Thackeray

tions in the pandemic restrictions are only to keep the economy running, Mr. Thackeray said the present "window period" is to be used only to extend relief to

the poor. "If the oxygen demand for COVID-19 patients goes above 750 MT, then we will be left with no option but to implement lockdown, yet again," he added. Senior doctors, including

members of the State task force against COVID-19, explained the reasons behind the need to show restraint in dahi handi celebrations. "The festival involves a human pyramid where 'Govindas' climb upon each other, water is thrown. A wet mask is useless for protection against the virus. One pathe entire troupe. We should celebrate the spirit of dahi handi by organising blood and medicine donation camps," Dr. Sanjay Oak said.

Meanwhile, the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has demanded that the government allow a traditional dahi handi in the spirit of the festival. BJP MLA Ashish Shelar said, "Low height handis with minimum crowd and only those with two doses of vaccine should be allowed. This is our demand. The Sena is neglecting it, but we will continue to push for

tient in a group may infect Maharashtra's Delta Plus variant cases reach 103

With 6,795 recoveries, active count dips below 50,000; 105 succumb to COVID-19

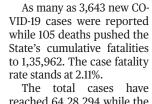
STAFF REPORTER

The Bombay High Court on Maharashtra reported 27 Monday said if there are more Delta Plus COVID-19 more deaths of children variant cases on Monday as due to malnutrition in the the State's total tally rose to Melghat region in Maha-103. According to the State rashtra, it will hold the Health Department, a majorprincipal secretary of the ity of these new cases State Public Health Departemerged from the Vidarbha region with Amravati and ment responsible. A Division Bench was Gadchiroli districts recording hearing a bunch of PIL pesix cases each, followed by

titions about an increase in malnutrition cases in the interior of Maharashtra, especially Melghat. One of the petitions highlights that posts of anaesthetists, gynaecologists and paediatricians are vacant, adding to the problem.

The court was informed by the petitioner that in the last one year, 73 children had died in the region due to malnutrition.

State counsel Advocate Neha Bhide, told the court that all steps were being taken to address the issue.



Nagpur (5) and Yavatmal (3).

Meanwhile, with 6,795 re-

coveries, the active case tally

dropped below the 50,000-

mark to reach 49,924.

reached 64,28,294 while the cumulative recoveries have gone up to 62,38,794 with the recovery rate standing at

Pune reported more than



A health worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine dose to a beneficiary in Mumbai on Monday. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

650 new cases, taking its total case tally to 11,10,897 while 11 deaths pushed the toll over 18,590.

Mumbai recorded 225 new cases to take its total tally to 7,41,389 while the active count dipped to 3,029. Four deaths took the city's fatality figure to 15,951.

Ahmednagar registered 556 new cases and 11 deaths, taking its total cases to

3,03,263 of whom 4,654 are active. The district's fatality toll has touched 6,427. Satara added 457 fresh

cases and a sharp spike of 33 deaths to take the total case tally to 2,34,376 of whom 5,800 are active, while the death toll climbed to 5,792. Neighbouring Sangli

logged more than 435 new

cases and four deaths. The

total tally stands at 1,98,545.

Explain vaccine procurement process: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Union government to file an affidavit by August 27 explaining the process of procuring COVID-19 vaccines and allotting them to States.

A Bench is hearing PILs seeking redressal of issues faced by citizens while booking vaccination slots on the CoWin portal.

The HC had asked Maharashtra and the Centre as to why citizens could not be informed well in advance of available vaccination slots. On Monday, the Maharashtra government said the Centre notified States of the number of vaccine vials being allocated to them.

demands Dairy Minister's ouster

'Sunil Kedar got friend appointed as govt. pleader in scam case'

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

With the Maharashtra Congress riven by internal turmoil and factionalism, another blow was dealt by former legislator Ashish Deshmukh, who has demanded that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray dismiss State Minister and fellow Congress leader Sunil Kedar from the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Cabinet after accusing him of getting a lawyerfriend of his appointed as government pleader in the multi-crore Nagpur District Central Cooperative Bank (NDCCB) scam case, in which Mr. Kedar is one of the main accused.

Mr. Deshmukh, in a letter to Mr. Thackeray, also demanded that Mr. Kedar, who is the Dairy and Animal Husbandry Minister, be prosecuted separately in the ₹156 crore government



securities scam.

irregularities within the NDCCB first came to light in 2002. After a protracted investigation over the next 12 years, Mr. Kedar, who was the bank's chairman in 2000, was slapped with a Bombay High Court notice in 2014, which directed him and the bank's then general manager Ashok Choudhary and nine others to pay up on defaulted dues amounting to hundreds of

Alleging that Mr. Kedar got his lawyer-friend, who is head of the State Congress's legal cell, appointed as government pleader in the case, Mr. Deshmukh, in his letter dated August 22, said that it amounted to conflict of interest and that Mr. Kedar's "appointee" should not be allowed to fight the case. The letter accused Mr. Kedar of making this move with the sole aim of getting himself acquitted.

According to observers, Mr. Kedar's ouster would make Mr. Deshmukh, a former MLA from Katol in Nagpur, the most prominent Congress face in Vidarbha.

Meanwhile, while Mr. Deshmukh clamoured for the ouster of his own party colleague, the Opposition BJP said that it would not demand Mr. Kedar's resignation until the charges against him were proven by the court.

BusinessLine quiz: 6 players fight for victory

STAFF REPORTER

BusinessLine's Cerebration 2021, one of India's premier

corporate quiz championships, is back with its 18th edition - this time in a virtual format. The quiz is designed for corporate executives, professionals, B-school stu-

dents, and MBA aspirants. The preliminary online quiz round was scheduled from August 4 to 11 to shortlist the top six contestants from each of six cities: Chennai, Bengaluru, Kochi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi. More than 6,000 candidates participated in this round. The Mumbai regional



round took place on August 22 with six participants: Shantanu Sharma, IIT Gandhinagar; Preetham Upadhya, SIMSOM, IIT Bombay; Sai Karthik TT, Kotak Mahindra Bank; Rajarshi Chanda, Capegimini; Yuthish Prabakar R, FinIQ Consulting; and Abhishek PenguinCRM.

After a gruelling four rounds, Shantanu Sharma emerged as the winner while Preetham Upadhya came in second, followed by Rajarshi Chanda. The Editor of Business-Line, Raghuvir Srinivasan,

gave the welcome address, along with field general manager, Union Bank of India, Mumbai, Rajiv Mishra. The quiz master for the event was Ajay Poonia. The Mumbai regional round can be viewed at

https://bit.ly/BLCQM. Union Bank of India is the title sponsor. The event is

powered by CFA Institute, in association with ManageEngine and BSE IPE.



Staying invested

India must retain its traditional and historic interest in Afghanistan and its people

rime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to ask the MEA to brief all parliamentary parties on the Government's actions in Afghanistan comes as questions grow about the Government's planning for contingencies there, with the Taliban's takeover. Since August 15, when the Taliban militia entered Kabul, the Government, including the MEA and the Defence Ministry, has been understandably occupied with the challenging evacuation of Indian nationals. In addition, the Government's decision to evacuate the entire embassy staff and security personnel first has made it more difficult to facilitate those Indians, as well as long-term visa holding Afghan Sikhs and Hindus needing to return. With most of the Indians based in Afghanistan returning home, or expected to soon, the Government must face the larger strategic questions over whether the Indian Embassy was evacuated too early. India had undertaken evacuations during the 1990s too, but then the presence of Indian nationals was not as large and Indian stakes in Afghanistan were not so deeply rooted. In the past 20 years, India has built considerable interests, including major infrastructure projects and ongoing development projects, helped script the Afghan Constitution and conduct of elections, as well as enabled the training and education of the next generation of officials, soldiers and professionals. It seems unfortunate, therefore, that this bank of goodwill came to naught as the Government decided it was safer to pull up stakes, emulating neither the U.S. and European countries who relocated their diplomatic outposts to the Kabul airport, nor Russia, China and Iran, which decided not to vacate their embassies there.

Going forward, the Government must explain how it expects to approach the new regime in Afghanistan once it is formed. It is still unclear whether this will be merely a repeat of the brutal regime seen from 1996-2001, or whether negotiations are under way for a more inclusive coalition, including several former leaders of Afghanistan, will fructify into a transitional government. The rise of Taliban power and that of the group's Pakistani backers is a particular security concern as groups such as the LeT and the JeM could use Afghanistan as a staging base for terror attacks in India. Finally, the Government must explain how it will approach the Afghan people, especially those whose lives could be in danger, including Embassy staff and associates, those working on Indian projects, minorities, including those Islamic sects such as the Hazaras who have been targeted, as well as women. A more open, liberalised visa policy, and more swift processing of the newly launched special "e-Emergency X-Misc" visas would reassure both Afghans and the international community that India's exit from Afghanistan is not permanent, and it will retain its traditional and historic interests in the country and its people, despite adverse events there.

Bonding rites

Opposition unity can come only with a more accommodative Congress leadership

meeting of 19 Opposition parties on August 20 confirmed the sense of urgency that they feel to **** come together and build a united front against the BJP. It was also a demonstration of the challenges that they face in that task, in terms of programme and architecture. The meeting convened by Congress President Sonia Gandhi was attended by leaders of 18 other parties, including four Chief Ministers. These parties have strategic or ideological reasons to be part of a formation against BJP hegemony, and see no harm in aligning with the Congress in the process. All the 19 parties see the BIP as a threat to their own politics; some of them view it as endangering the constitutional values of the country too. There are other non-BJP parties that do not see it that way. The BJD, TRS and YSRCP, ruling parties in Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, respectively, see no gain in opposing the BJP or aligning with the Congress. They might also see antagonism with the BJP and affinity with the Congress as detrimental to their politics. Comparable is the situation of the BSP and SP, two influential parties in Uttar Pradesh that elects the largest number of Lok Sabha MPs. Ms. Gandhi has exhorted all parties to rise above compulsions to build a joint front against the BJP, the aim of which is to

defeat the BJP in the 2024 general election. The fact is that the Congress is itself a prisoner of its own compulsions and rigidities such as its institutional antipathy towards the YSRCP and TRS, and the personal fancies of its leader Rahul Gandhi who wields all authority and holds no accountability. Additionally, the Congress of today is vastly diminished compared to its position in the run-up to the 2004 general election when it could bring a host of parties under a coalition. Regional leaders then deferred to Ms. Gandhi, and her command over the Congress was absolute. The disarray in the Congress leadership is a drag on the attempts at Opposition unity. There is also a vast divergence among these parties on identifying the most critical issues in designing the optimal campaign against the BJP. The Congress and Left want to front-load in any Opposition campaign, the use of a spyware by an unknown government entity to snoop on a wide range of individuals. Parties that are more rural think price rise and agriculture distress and unemployment would have more salience among voters. This divergence need not necessarily be disabling for the Opposition. In fact, various parties could appeal to different constituencies and amalgamate their strengths, as it happened in the UPA experiments between 2004 to 2014. That requires significantly more leadership and management skills than available today in the Opposition gallery.

A pragmatic Afghan behind the religious garb?

All eyes will be on the Taliban's character as and when they consolidate their power in a transformed Afghanistan



KESAVA MENON

ersonnel of the institutions responsible for monitoring India's external environment and ensuing the security of the country and its citizens, probably know more about the composition and character of the Taliban than they are letting out. They would do us all a favour if they were to loosen up a little since we need a vigorous national debate to reorient ourselves after the strategic situation was convulsed savagely over the past fortnight.

Some pointers

The foremost question in the minds of those thinking about Afghanistan is whether there is a Taliban 2.0. Is this avatar that stormed into Kabul on August 15 after capturing most of the country's 34 provinces in a whirlwind campaign, any different from the barbaric entity that ruled the Afghans between 1996 and 2001. Currently, the answer to that guestion is up in the air since reports seem to support neither conclusion. We will perhaps truly know only if and when this dispensation consolidates its power. Meanwhile, we can consider some pointers.

Between 1996 and 2001, when they were in power previously, the Taliban did almost nothing to improve conditions in what had by then become a devastated, impoverished country. All that the mullahs seemed to be interested in was oppressing women and minorities and providing sanctuary for jihadi terrorists from every part of the world. That crazed enterprise came to an end after the

Arab guests over-played their hand, massacred civilians in the United States on September 11, 2001 and invited retaliation that drove the Talibs back to their old sanctuaries in Pakistan. Their return to power has raised the strong possibility that Afghanistan will revert to primordial mode. Apart from the memory of the consequences of 9/11, are there other factors that could inhibit the Taliban from reverting to their old

The departure and after

No indication of a change in character of the movement or acceptability to the people is provided by the rapid disintegration of the previous government's defence apparatus. The melting away of an army raised, trained, equipped and paid by the U.S. that was tasked with the mission of propping up the democratic order has occasioned much surprise. In retrospect, perhaps the only surprising element is that the event caused so much surprise.

Amidst the current bewilderment at the ease with which the Taliban advanced, it is easy to forget that much the same pattern unfolded on the first occasion. The Taliban built up their presence and hence their strength steadily from pocket to pocket before moving towards a frenzied denouement. There seems to be a characteristic of Afghan warfare that combat is carried out for so long as it is feasible and given up as soon as it is not.

This was an army raised to defend nebulous concepts such as nation. democracy, citizens' rights, etc. from amongst a populace that has no experience in the operationalisation of these ideals. Traditionally, the Afghan has fought for his tribe, his clan or his family except when inspired by a few mighty war leaders down the ages. The men who joined the



so overwhelmingly because the superpower was paying their salaries and feeding them.

Once the U.S. decided to pull out unilaterally, it must have been clear to everyone concerned that the flow of funds would stop. With U.S. President Joe Biden setting August 31 as the date of America's final departure, the timeline was clear to all. How could anyone have expected men posted at isolated bases to hold out when they could see that the supply of ammunition, fuel and food would stop in the not too distant future?

Warlords and strategy

Surprise has also been expressed at the inaction of the old warlords. Two of them, Ismail Khan and Abdul Rashid Dostum, have been in battle mode for 40 years and are well versed in the extreme viciousness of Afghan politics. A fight to the death would have been a last option, though accommodation could have been just as dangerous. For people like them, abject or complete surrender opens up the prospect of humiliation, torture, mutilation and execution. Not only for themselves personally but also for their families and adherents.

Given the scenario, Dostum and Ismail Khan would probably not have stopped their men from fighting – as they both did – unless they had been provided assurances backed by solid guarantees. In Afghanistan's current circumstances, only regional councils of notables (Shuras) can provide such guarantees. According to reports, Taliban commanders in various sectors had asked regional notables to negotiate the surrenders of government forces. It seems reasonable to think that Shuras also offered guarantees to the hold-outs.

The very existence of these regional groupings appears to mark another difference between the Taliban's victory in 1996 and its current success. From 1980, when the Soviets began their programme to pacify the countryside, to 2001 at least, conditions were so precarious that neutrals could do little. Many tribal elders, village heads, religious figures, etc. became collateral damage or fled abroad. There was no reason for the refugees to return either when the mujahideen factions got control of different pockets from 1992 to 1996 or even when the Taliban captured most of the country. There was too much of fighting in the first phase and too many other disincentives in the second.

The U.S. and change

With the entry of the U.S. into Afghan territory, there might have been no reduction in the physical danger (this pacification programme was just as brutal). However, economic activity and the sheer availability of funds, increased manifold. Electricity production and distribution improved significantly; highways were built up; mobile telephony was introduced and spread with its usual rapidity; and, the U.S., other governments and international agencies pumped in billions of dollars. Over 20 years, Afghans have been given enough reason to return to their farms and restart their businesses or professions. Regional elites, either the offspring of the old grandees or those who had prospered in exile, are bound to have regrouped in these

Would such regional elites be

strong enough to hold the Taliban to account? Probably not, ultimately. But would the Taliban want to resort to the ultimate in a hurry? Most of them too have been living in refugee camps or something similar for the past 40 years. Leaders of the group must be in their 60's with families clamouring for the chance to live in peace and prosper. Those wishes can only be fulfilled if combat ends, and it will not if others too are not given their share of the cake.

The next chapter

If Taliban leaders are so keen on participating in the development of their country and benefiting from the process personally, would not the same consideration have come into play in 1996? Did they not instead go about stifling their own people and antagonising the whole world? One major difference is that in the earlier period, these semi-literates had no ideas for developing their country, and knew it. Today, after the laying down of modern infrastructure and the return of people who can run industry and trade, the means for building the economy are visible and available. Political power will help the mullahs live as parasites, but the economy must function for them to be able to do so.

Many analysts would say that rational thinking of this sort is alien to the Taliban. That they are religious fanatics ready to sacrifice everything on earth for a place in paradise. If they show that they are no different from what they were between 1996 and 2001, they need to be opposed on moral principle and for our national interest. However, there still seems to be time enough to find out if the pragmatic Afghan lurks behind the religious garb.

Kesava Menon is a senior journalist who

Tauktae, Yaas and planning for the next

With a rise in the frequency of devastating cyclones, India needs to look at long-term mitigation measures

YASHOBANTA PARIDA,

The severe cyclones, Tauktae and Yaas, which battered India earlier this year, made landfalls on the country's western coast, Gujarat, and the eastern coast, Odisha, on May 17 and May 26, 2021, respectively. Both storms caused massive damage to infrastructure, the agricultural sector, and houses. Government of India reports are that, put together, an estimated 199 people died, 37 million people were affected, and economic losses stood at ₹320 billion (U.S.\$4.3 billion). In addition, crop area of 0.24 million hectares was affected, and around 0.45 million houses were damaged. Moreover, 2.5 million people were evacuated to cyclone shelters and relief camps in these two States. The large-scale uprooting of trees in the urban areas affected already depleting green cover. Thus, during the COVID-19 pandemic, these cyclones caused additional financial responsibility for State governments. The health costs need to be measured too.

More frequent

Increasing sea surface temperatures in the northern Indian Ocean and the geo-climatic conditions in India have led to a rise in the frequency of devastating cyclones in the coastal States accounting for 7% of the global tropical cyclones, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD), 2013 data. Every year, around five

to six tropical cyclones are formed in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea; of these, two to three turn severe. The Indian coastline is around 7,500 km; there are 96 coastal districts (which touch the coast or are close to it), with 262 million people exposed to cyclones and tsunamis. The World Bank and the United Nations (2010) estimate that around 200 million city residents would be exposed to storms and earthquakes by 2050 in India. Between 1891 and 2020, out of the 313 cyclones crossing India's eastern and western coasts, 130 were classified as severe cyclonic storms. The west coast experienced 31 cyclones. while 282 cyclones crossed the east coast. The Odisha coast witnessed 97 cyclones, followed by Andhra Pradesh (79), Tamil Nadu (58), West Bengal (48), Gujarat (22), Maharashtra/Goa (7), and

The economic costs

Among the natural disasters, cyclones constituted the second most frequent phenomena that occurred in 15% of India's total natural disasters over 1999-2020. During the same period, 12,388 people were killed, and the damage was estimated at \$32.615 million. Cvclones are the second most expensive in terms of the costs incurred in damage, accounting for 29% of the total disaster-related damages after floods (62%).

In addition, they are the third most lethal disaster in India after earthquakes (42%) and floods (33%). However, fatalities due to

cyclones declined from 10,378 in 1999 to 110 in 2020; the significant drop was on account of improved early warning systems, cyclone forecasting, and better disaster management activities such as timely evacuation, rehabilitation and relief distributions. But these mea-

Between 1999 and 2020, cyclones inflicted substantial damage to public and private properties, amounting to an increase in losses from \$2,990 million to \$14,920 million in the absence of long-term mitigation measures. In addition, damages caused due to cyclones increased nine times during the same period.

sures are not adequate to achieve a

zero-fatality approach and mini-

mise economic losses from

As stated earlier, cyclones also led to an increase in the fiscal burden of governments through increased spending to implement effective cyclone preparation measures.

As a result, direct government expenditure on natural calamities increased 13 times. The Asian Development Bank's report in 2014 estimated that India would suffer a loss of around 1.8% of GDP annually by 2050 from climate-related events.

India lost around 2% of GDP and 15% of total revenue over 1999-2020. According to the Global Climate Risk Index report 2021, India ranks the seventh worst-hit country globally in 2019 due to the frequent occurrence of extreme weather-related events. Moreover, the report showed that India lost around 2,267 human lives, while damages stood at \$68,812 million in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms in 2019. In the same year, India ranked first concerning human deaths and economic losses due to extreme weather-related events (Eckstein et al., 2021).

Measures in Odisha

In the aftermath of the 1999 super cyclone, the Government of Odisha took up various cyclone mitigation measures which included installing a disaster warning system in the coastal districts, and construction of evacuation shelters in cyclone-prone districts. Other steps were the setting up of the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), conducting regular cabinet meetings for disaster preparedness, and building the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF).

All these activities have helped to minimise the toll from cyclonic storms such as Hudhud, Fani, Amphan, and Yaas. Still, Odisha's disaster management model is inadequate to minimise the economic losses that result from cyclones. Therefore, the Government of India should adopt a few

measures to minimise disaster damage and fatalities.

Essential steps

First, it is imperative to improve the cyclone warning system and revamp disaster preparedness measures. Second, the Government must widen the cover under shelterbelt plantations and help regenerate mangroves in coastal regions to lessen the impact of cyclones. In addition, adopting cost effective, long-term mitigation measures, including building cyclone-resilient infrastructure such as constructing storm surge-resilient embankments, canals and improving river connectivity to prevent waterlogging in low-lying areas are important. Third, installing disaster-resilient power infrastructure in the coastal districts, providing concrete houses to poor and vulnerable households, and creating massive community awareness campaigns are essential. Finally, healthy coordination between the Centre and the States concerned is essential to collectively design disaster mitigation measures. It is only such a collective mitigation effort by the Centre and States that can help reduce the fiscal burden of States and also be effective in minimising disaster

Yashobanta Parida and Iovita Rov Chowdhury are Assistant Professors in Economics at FLAME University, Pune. Prakash Kumar Sahoo is Lecturer in Economics at Vikram Deb (autonomous) College, Jeypore, Odisha. The views

$LETTERS\ TO\ THE\ EDITOR\quad \textit{Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.}$

I-T portal

It is puzzling that the new income-tax portal, claimed to be a game changer, is experiencing glitches (Page 1, "FinMin. summons Infosys.CEO over I-T portal glitch", August 24). It is apparent that the portal went live without undergoing the mandatory preliminary trials required for its smooth operation. Or else the Government might have accepted the redesigned portal on an 'as is where is' basis, by just going by the reputation of the contracted agency. Such an anomaly happening in a country producing the best unacceptable. Though the

issues are technical, if problems persist, the Centre should explore the possibility of involving the Institute of Chartered Accountants, to work in tandem with the agency so that the issues are resolved expeditiously. The Government should also consider extending the deadline for tax filings, as there is every likelihood of mismatches in the forms filed and the data available in the portal. V. SUBRAMANIAN,

A remembrance day The selection of August 14 as "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" is itself indicative of the true intent

behind the decision. Partition horrors neither started nor ended on August 14, 1947, the date on which Pakistan came into being. That being so, the real motive seems to be to put the entire blame for Partition-related violence on one entity, the Muslim League. The truth is that lumpen

elements from both in the killings and other atrocities that followed. To sum up, Partition was and is a nuanced story in which both communities had their share of heroes and villains. Distorting that story for political ends will not only be doing a great disservice to the nation but is also an

insult to the memory of all those who perished or suffered during that dark phase in the subcontinent's history. G.G. MENON,

Tripunithura, Kerala

Wildlife SOS

The report, "Wild tusker electrocuted" (Andhra Pradesh, August 20), with the additional detail that this is the tenth casualty due to electrocution in two years in the Chittoor area, is distressing for environmentalists. A fine animal in its prime has been lost. Farmers in the area have been highlighting the issue of dangling power lines, yet inaction pervades.

How long are we to

continue to count lost wildlife?

Reports of wild animal deaths are rising, as can be seen in the media. This could even be a form of organised crime to ensure wild habitats are made free for human use. Habitats are being lost and magnificent wildlife is dwindling. The subject needs to be in focus.

NALLA JOGI NAIDU, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh

Future Olympians

The Tokyo Olympics

witnessed India's best-ever performance, with a historic gold and a tally of seven medals. Though India's funding for sports has grown, we still have a

long way to go to achieve enough capital. In a country where the arena of sports is dominated by cricket, dabbling in other sports can be challenging, especially without adequate financial capital and governmental support. Felicitating champions after their Olympic quest is inefficacious. It is imperative that we recognise and create a space to explore our immense potential in the Olympics. If these measures are undertaken, our athletes can undoubtedly achieve greater heights. JANE CARYN THOMAS,

Bengaluru



THE HINDU DELHI TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021

The Indian economy is struggling to recover

Given the pace of vaccination and the virus mutations, it may take a while for the economy to bounce back



BHASKAR DUTTA

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s July version of the World Economic Outlook Update emphasises a dangerous divergence in economic prospects between the advanced countries and emerging economies. The global economy is projected to grow at 6% in 2021, a figure which is unchanged from the IMF's April forecast. However, this is yet another instance where averages are misleading. While the forecast for advanced countries has been revised upwards, prospects for emerging countries and particularly those in Asia are projected to be somewhat worse.

Quick pace of recovery

This divergence in the pace of recovery from the pandemic is attributed mainly to two factors. First, there has been a huge difference in the pace of vaccine roll-out between the advanced and the emerging and low-income countries. The advanced economies have allocated large sums in procuring COVID-19 vaccines on a priority basis. Even the Trump administration, not known to be one with a human face, was proactive in transferring large sums to several pharmaceutical companies as soon as the magnitude of the global health crisis became apparent. This enabled the companies to develop and produce vaccines at breakneck speed. Pre-orders have enabled the U.S. to fully vaccinate over half the total population while over 60% have received at least one dose, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The U.K. has also done exceedingly well in its vaccination drive. The European Union countries were slow off the block, but have now started vaccinating their population at an impressive pace. Overall, over 40% of the population in advanced economies have been fully vaccinated, according to the IMF. Compare this with just 11% in emerging market economies. The advanced countries now feel that the pandemic situation is under control. At any rate, unless something goes dramatically wrong, the possibility of large-scale lock-



receded.

Second, the advanced economies have been able to use their vastly superior fiscal situation to implement significantly bigger stimulus packages. Apart from allocations designed to directly support domestic industry and growth, sizeable income support measures have been provided that have both propped up consumer demand and mitigated extreme hardships to thousands of people. This kind of fiscal support promises to continue well into 2021. These measures have ensured that advanced economies do not suffer the kind of damage witnessed elsewhere and have also accelerated the pace of economic recovery. Business confidence is recovering too, partly due to the feeling that COVID-19 has been tamed thanks to the protection provided by the vaccination cover.

The Indian economy has been one of the laggards among the emerging market economies. After the first CO-VID-19 wave, it contracted by over 7% during 2020-21. This earned India the dubious record of being the country with the worst performance among all major world economies. Earlier projections claimed that the economy would grow at over 10% during the current year. However, no one had taken the severity of the second COVID-19 wave into account. The dislocations caused by the pandemic have resulted in lower growth estimates for the Indian economy.

Although growth is muted and recovery is slow, retail inflation has crossed 6%, which is above the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s 'safe' level. Food prices too have played their

part in contributing to the overall rate of inflation. This is a serious matter since the poor are particularly hard hit if food prices cannot be controlled. The overall price situation puts the RBI in a quandary. Should it tighten monetary policy in order to contain prices but also slow down the pace of recovery? Or should it try to promote economic growth and let prices find their own level? Fortunately, crude oil prices have cooled off in international markets and this will naturally have a cooling effect on

domestic prices. Consumer spending has also been extremely sluggish and shows no signs of picking up. For instance, Google Mobility Index data showed that on July 26, visits to retail establishments including restaurants, cafes and shopping centres were down 20% compared to a pre-CO-VID-19 baseline. Sales of consumer durables are yet to pick up. Not surprisingly, business confidence is low and so entrepreneurs are wary of making new investments. This is evident from the fact that bank credit to the commercial sector has plummeted. The last component of domestic demand is government spending. But the government too has cut back spending as a proportion of GDP. Fortunately, Goods and Services Tax collections have been extremely good and this may induce the government to loosen the purse strings during the rest of the financial year.

Much will depend upon the progress of the pandemic in the near future. Most experts claim that a third wave of COVID-19 will soon be upon us. The peak level of infection is supposed to be significantly lower than what we experienced a couple of months ago. However, the different variants of the virus and their differential transmission rates make it difficult to predict the spread of infection and hence the extent of economic disruption, although the current wisdom seems to be that vaccines are very effective in preventing serious illness.

Source of disquiet

This brings to the fore the very poor spread of vaccination in the country. India was known as the 'vaccine capital' of the world; yet the spread of vaccines has been abysmal. There is no doubt that the Central government was rather complacent in 2020. Unlike in the U.S., there was no attempt to accelerate production facilities in companies like the Serum Institute of India. The devastation caused by the second wave seems to have induced a sense of urgency in the Central government, which has now become more proactive. Nevertheless, it is unlikely that the Central government will be able to achieve its target of vaccinating all adults by the end of the year.

An added source of disquiet is that doubts have been expressed about the long-term efficacy of existing vaccines, particularly against mutations. Recently, Pfizer released data showing that there is a slight fall in protection against any symptomatic infection six months after immunisation, though protection against severe CO-VID-19 remained at nearly 97%. However, it is becoming clear that the virus is clever at evading the defences created by vaccines. In particular, there is now evidence which suggests that the Delta variant can cause breakthrough infections - several people are being infected even after being fully vaccinated. For instance, Israel, which implemented a very successful vaccination campaign, has witnessed an alarming rise in new infections. This has prompted Israel to offer a third dose of the vaccine to anyone above 60 years who was vaccinated at least five months earlier. Germany too has decided to offer booster doses to the elderly. Obviously, any need to provide booster doses will aggravate the existing shortage of vaccines in the country. This puts a question mark on whether we will soon witness the resumption of robust sustainable growth.

Bhaskar Dutta is Professor of Economics, Ashoka University

Finding a healthy way to cook

As questions arise over the Ujjwala scheme's success, it would be prudent to introduce alternative clean sources of energy



INDIRA HIRWAY

In India, many women in poor households who use firewood or dung cakes for cooking spend long hours collecting firewood and making dung cakes. This is drudgery. It affects their health and puts the safety of women and girls in jeopardy. Using firewood and dung cakes also leads to indoor pollution, as chulhas (firewood-based stoves) using these sources of energy release carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Both these gases have an adverse impact on the health of the family members. They also impact the environment.

The earlier solution to this problem smokeless or fuel-efficient chulhas for cooking - was introduced in the 1980s. The National Programme on Improved Chulha was launched in 1984. This was backed by training programmes for making and maintaining these chulhas. But these programmes failed when subsidies were withdrawn, governments lost interest, people could not be convinced to use the new chulhas and did not participate, target beneficiaries were not properly identified, and there was little quality control.

Introducing LPG

The Indian government then introduced Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in June 2013 under the PAHAL scheme on an experimental basis. The scheme finally covered 291 districts. Access to this clean energy was expected to alleviate the public health burden posed by household air pollution on women. With rising incomes, the lower classes were expected to be covered by the scheme. The scheme, it was thought, would improve women's access to education, leisure, and the labour market, and also improve the environment, climate, and human health.

In 2016, the Modi government launched the LPG scheme as the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMYU). NITI Aayog laid out a road map for universal access to LPG by 2025. The subsidy for LPG increased from ₹12,000 crore in 2016-17 to ₹21,000 crore in 2017-18 (Petroleum Analysis and Planning Cell, 2018), and 94% of all households had an LPG connection as of September 2019, an increase from 56% in 2014-15. However, as per evaluation studies, many

LPG connection holders were found to still be using other fuels like firewood and dung cakes. This is because men, who usually

make the decision of buying the refill, often do not agree to a refill which is expensive for the poor. Studies found that the poor use LPG mainly for making tea or snacks while they continue to use firewood or cow dung for their main cooking, as these sources of fuel are free of cost and easily available. Usually, as low value is attached to women's time in production, the opportunity cost of women's labour is low even when a capital subsidy is available, and women have to depend on traditional fuels. LPG is used for cooking when the opportunity cost of women's labour is considered high, such as in the peak season in farming. On the other hand, urban households with reasonably high incomes and rural households belonging to upper income groups consider LPG refill a necessity for full cooking. Official data show that 48% rural households used LPG (2018) but only partially. The other problems in accessing LPG are administrative and include the distance to LPG distribution centres, long waiting time, and rising costs of LPG cylinders.

Despite these findings, the Prime Minister recently introduced Ujjwala 2.0 under which one crore additional PMUY connections aim to provide deposit-free LPG connections to those low-income families who could not be covered under the earlier phase of PMUY. Under Ujjwala 2.0, migrants will not be required to submit ration cards or address proof. The amount allocated for this purpose is ₹14,073 crore this year.

It is clear that the planners have not looked at the evaluation studies of Ujjwala 1.0 and the official data on the performance of the scheme. LPG cylinders are not a priority for the poorest. They sometimes even sell the cylinder to meet their urgent needs.

One size cannot fit all

There is no doubt that crores of poor and middle class women need better sources of cooking energy that are time saving, healthy, easily accessible and affordable. LPG works well, but only for non-poor households. Others need affordable alternatives to choose from, such as solar energy and solar cookers, smokeless chulhas, biogas plants and electric cookers where electricity is cheap. Good research and development efforts need to be made in the public and private sectors to explore these alternatives. As one solution may not fit all, there is a need to offer a set of energy sources to households so that each of them finds a suitable energy for itself. Women in India can achieve energy security for cooking only through cheaper and efficient alternatives.

Indira Hirway is Director and Professor of Economics, Centre for Development Alternatives

The Mindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 24, 1971

U.S. keen on mending relations

New Delhi, August 23: The United States is

taking steps to put back Indo-American rela-

tions on an even keel before the Prime Mi-

nister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, visits Washington

in November for talks with President Nixon.

An effort is being made, both in Washington

and New Delhi, to get over the embarass-

ment of a near breakdown in Indo-American

communication and revive contacts at va-

rious levels to clear the decks for more can-

did and purposeful exchanges between the

two Governments. The State Department is

reported to have privately sounded the In-

dian Embassy in Washington about mutually

convenient dates for the next round of the

much postponed bilateral talks which serve

as a useful forum for a free and frank ex-

change of views on almost any problem of

interest to either Government. The first

round of these talks was held in New Delhi in

1968 and the second one in Washington a

year later. The third round in the series was

to have taken place in New Delhi early this

year, but it was postponed because of the

mid-term parliamentary election. It was put

off again after the Bangla Desh crisis.

Bluster and bogus claims

No leader among the world's large democracies befits the epithet 'elected dictator' more than Bolsonaro

GARIMELLA SUBRAMANIAM

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's attempt to replace electronic voting machines with paper ballots failed in Congress recently. But this may not deter him from sowing confusion ahead of the 2022 presidential elections. On August 10, Mr. Bolsonaro's proposal fell short of the majority needed to effect a constitutional amendment. This is the closest the President has come to carrying out his threats to thwart the functioning of representative institutions.

Sliding popularity

The fiery far-right nationalist President warned in July that either there will be a clean election or no election next year, alleging without evidence that electronic voting machines, in vogue since 1996, were highly susceptible to manipulation. Mr. Bolsonaro has in the past insisted that but for fraud, he would have clinched the 2018 presidential contest in the first round. Several sitting and former Supreme Court justices have emphasised the absence of any record of malpractices under the electronic voting system, even as supporters of Mr. Bolsonaro have demanded changes. While the superior electoral court is probing Mr. Bolsonaro for abuse of office, the Supreme Court is examining a charge of guilt on grounds of spreading fake news.

Mr. Bolsonaro, who assumed office in January 2019, has seen a rapid slide in his ratings following his callous mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has claimed over half a million lives. He is also embroiled in criminal investigations relating to financial irregularities and dereliction of duty in the government's procurement of the COVID-19 vaccines. In a deal that was subsequently suspended, Brazilian authorities reportedly agreed to pay much more than the original price quoted by Bharat Biotech, which is producing Covaxin. Experts have suggested in The British Medical Journal that Mr. Bolsonaro wilfully allowed the contagion to spread to create herd immunity, a strategy that could amount to crimes against humanity. By one estimate, more than 50% of

Brazilians think that Mr. Bolsonaro must be removed from office. As per another, the former President, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who is likely to emerge the frontrunner after his corruption conviction was overturned in March, could win the presidency in the first round of next year's contest.

Admirer of the military

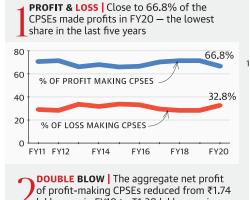
While his waning popularity may have sparked the recent assault on the election commission, Mr. Bolsonaro has long remained an unapologetic admirer of the country's previous military rulers. Many former generals hold cabinet ranks in his government. With close ideological affinity to Brazil's extreme right anticommunist icon Olavo de Carvalho, the Brazilian President lamented on one occasion that the dictators' mistake was to stop at torturing rather than killing dissidents.

Within months of his ascent, Mr. Bolsonaro instructed the armed forces to commemorate the anniversary of the 1964 coup which brought the military to power. In a sign of the prevalent sharp polarisation, the move was equated in the Left circles with Holocaust denial, while Mr. Bolsonaro's supporters hailed it a revolution to counter communism. The prosecutor general's office declared that the event would be tantamount to celebrating an unconstitutional dictatorship, while another court ruled the event incompatible with the country's democratic reconstruction. In April this year, the leaders of all three branches of the armed forces resigned after Mr. Bolsonaro replaced the Defence Minister who allegedly said that the armed forces owed loyalty to the constitution and were not the President's personal force.

Arguably, no leader among the world's large democracies befits the epithet 'elected dictator' more than Mr. Bolsonaro. As the number of petitions for his impeachment increase, the President will probably further intensify his shrill rhetoric against the courts and Brazil's Congress until the next elections.

Garimella Subramaniam is Director -Strategic Initiatives, AgnoShin Tecchnologies

DATA POINT Bad year for ■ THE GOOD, BAD AND THE UGLY | Chart 1 plots the amount of profit ● (169 CPSEs)/ loss • (86) recorded by 255 CPSEs in FY20. Chart 2 plots the % increase ● (165 CPSEs) /decrease ● (52) in the number of employees public nrms **CHART-1** Financial Year 2020, the one-year period ONGC's profit: just before the national lockdown was ₹25.3 thousand crore announced, was relatively worse for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in terms of profits and employment. The share of firms that earned profits reduced to a 6-year-low in FY20. More worryingly, the aggregated profit of profit-making firms decreased while the aggregated loss of loss-making firms increased. The downward spiral of loss-makers such as



BSNL and Air India continued, resulting

in heavy job losses. The workforce of the CPSEs reduced by two lakh in two years.

By Sumant Sen, Jasmin Nihalani &

alakh crore in FY19 to ₹1.38 lakh crore in FY20. On the other hand, the aggregate net loss of loss-making CPSEs increased from ₹31,620 crore in FY19 to ₹44,817 crore



BSNL recorded the biggest loss of ₹15.5 thousand crore Air India's loss: → ₹8.5 thousand crore CHART-2 BSNL's staff strength dropped from **1,83,522** 69,824 in FY20 MTNL's staff strength dropped from 25,191 employees in FY18 to 4,182 in FY20 - a reduction of over 80%, the

Observations: Change in workforce: Of the 217 CPSEs with employment data, 76% recorded a reduction in workforce between FY18 and FY20 Workforce reduction Profit/loss statement: Of the 255 CPSEs with n 217 CPSEs analysed between FY18 and



A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 24, 1921 Anti-drink campaign in Salem

The Secretary of the Madras Provincial Congress Committee, writes:-

Trichinopoly, August 23: Re-sales are being attempted in this district. The special feature is that except in one taluq all the sales were ordered to be held on the same day, i.e., to-day, probably to prevent Congress workers from reaching all points. Congress workers have however gone to most of the Taluqs. Their chief function is to prevent possible disturbances in consequence of the strong feeling among the people and the huge crowds that collect in demonstrations against the toddy sales. In Salem, 17 shops were put up for sale to-day. Sixteen shops one after another were shouted out by the Deputy Collector, but no bidder came forward. For the seventeenth shop, two bidders came forward half-heartedly, who were kept by the Abkari Sub-Inspector under personal protection from morning up to 3 p.m. These two went through the process of bidding from Rs. 100 to Rs. 106, for which the shop was knocked down, though the average for

Pvt Ltd

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

amount.

M ND-NDE

the past five years was more than double this

FROM PAGE ONE

The BJP's Janak Ram, who was part of the delegation, said Mr. Modi heard out everyone's view like the "guardian of a family". Everyone was "satisfied" and the Prime Minister's decision would be acceptable to all, he added. Congress MLA Ajit Sharma, who also attended the meeting, said the caste census would remove the current hostility about reservation. "The census is essential to identify the creamy layer which has been cornering the reservation benefits so far which irks the forward caste," Mr. Sharma said.

The recent narrative on caste census built up by the Bihar parties could impact the Uttar Pradesh election.

A senior leader who was part of the delegation, said that when every political party in the country was demanding a caste census and with the BJP themselves claiming that they were not

nister of Bihar and Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Modi, ahead of Monday's meeting in a series of tweets, had said, "BJP has never been against caste census; that's why we supported the resolution passed in the Legislative Assembly and Legisla-

the delegation of Bihar to meet Prime Minister Naren-

Fix I-T portal by Sept. 15, FM directs Infosys CEO

She also conveyed "the deep disappointment and concerns of the government and taxpayers about the continuing glitches in the Income Tax e-filing portal".

The Infosys CEO, who was "sensitised on the difficulties" taxpayers were facing and the repercussions of delays in the portal's functioning, explained that "he and his team are doing everything to ensure the smooth functioning of the portal", as per a statement from the Ministry.

The fresh September 15 deadline proposed after the Minister met Mr. Parekh, indicates that the woes of taxpayers will last for almost another month, and even then, the full functionalities of the portal that the Ministry had promised to ensure "immediate processing of income tax returns and quick refunds" will remain a

work in progress. Along with other features, a mobile app was to be released subsequent to the initial launch of the portal. "Familiarisation with the new system may take some time, so, the Department requests the patience of all taxpayers and stakeholders for the initial period after the launch of the new portal and while other functionalities get released since this is a major transition," the Income Tax Department had said ahead of the por-

tal's launch in June. Citing the difficulties reported by taxpayers in electronic filing of tax returns, the Finance Ministry had earlier allowed a few forms to be submitted manually instead of online.

More than 750 team members are working on the project and Infosys CEO Pravin Rao is personally overseeing this project, Mr. Parekh told Ms. Sitharaman. "Mr. Parekh also assured that Infosys is working expeditiously to ensure a glitchfree experience to the taxpayers on the portal," the

Tewari's tweet exposes Punjab Cong. rift again

Mr. Tewari added, "It mocks all those who have shed blood for India.'

While Mr. Sidhu is said to have summoned his advisers over the remarks, the tweet from Mr. Tewari, known to be close to the Punjab Chief Minister, once again exposed the faultlines within the State unit.

Speaking to a news agen-

cy, Mr. Rawat, however, said the statements by the advisers "may have been twisted". "I had sought information. Sidhuji and some others say that statements were twisted. There is a possibility that political advantage is being sought at the time of polls," Mr. Rawat

Before the Congress high command formally appointed Mr. Sidhu as the chief of the Punjab Pradesh Con-



Manish Tewari

gress Committee, leaders in the Capt. Amarinder camp had pointed out how Mr. Sidhu's perceived soft corner for Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan could pose a problem for the Congress in the run-up to the Assembly election early next year. Despite stiff opposition from the Chief Minister, Congress president Sonia Gandhi asserted herself and appointed Mr. Sidhu as the PPCC chief last month.

Piyush Goyal hints at tit-for-tat trade curbs

"[The Minister] urged all to share the experience on non-tariff barriers in other countries so that India can take appropriate response wherever feasible," the Commerce Ministry said.

The statement came after the Minister's comments at the closed-door meeting.

Last week, the Minister had promised a fresh approach towards free trade agreements, while disclosing that an Indo-U.S. trade deal was off the table, and the government would look to resolve non-tariff barriers

with the U.S. instead. When the U.S. had dropped India from the Generalised System of Pre-



Piyush Goyal

ferences for exports from developing countries in 2019, India responded with tariff hikes on more than two dozen U.S. products.

"The key to success is to focus on goals, not obstacles," Mr. Goyal said in his concluding remarks to industry bodies on Monday.

Bhima Koregaon: NIA files draft charges

'The accused committed unlawful acts with an intent to threaten the unity and sovereignty of country'

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is probing the Bhima Koregaon violence case of 2018, has submitted draft charges before the NIA court against 15 accused and six absconding accused. According to the NIA, "All

accused are members of the banned terrorist organisation whose main object is to establish 'Janata Sarkar' i.e people's government via revolution supported by a commitment to protracted armed struggle to undermine and to seize power from the State."

contended, NIA "They have committed, abetted and assisted in the commission of Unlawful Activities with intent to threaten the unity, integrity, security and sovereignty of India with intent to strike terror in the people, any section of the people in India and in the State of Maharashtra by using explosive substance like logistics, wires, nails, nitrate

All accused are members of the banned terrorist organisation whose main object is to establish Janata Sarkar' i.e people's government via revolution supported by a commitment to protracted armed struggle to undermine and to seize power from the State NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY

powder, and possessing and transporting sophisticated weapons like Chinese QLZ 87 Automatic Grenade Launcher and Russian GM-94 Grenade Launcher and M-4 with 4,00,000 rounds which by its very nature was to cause or likely to cause death or injuries to any person or persons or loss of or damage to or destruction of properties palla Rao. and was an attempt to do or cause death of public

functionary". The draft charges were submitted before a special judge D.E. Kothalikar against Sudhir Dhawale, Rona Wilson, Surendra Gadling, Shoma Sen, Mahesh Raut, Varavara Rao, Arun Ferreira, Sudha Bharadwaj, Anand Teltumbde, Gautam Navlakha, Hany Babu, the late Fath-Stan Swamy, Sagar Gorkhe, Ramesh Gaichor and Jyoti Jagtap. The absconding/wanted accused are Milind Teltumbde, Comrade Prakash, Comrade Manglu, Comrade Deepu, Kishan alias Prashanta Bose and Mu-

The NIA mentions the accused "engaged to wage war, attempted to wage war and abetted waging war against the government of India and the government of Maharashtra and thereby committed the offence punishable under Section 121 of the Indian Penal Code." These

Accused seek default bail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Seven accused in the Bhima Koregaon violence seeking default bail yet again told the Bombay High Court on Monday that the Pune

sessions court had no jurisdiction to take cognisance of the chargesheet filed against them. They challenged the order that rejected their default bail pleas.

draft charges were submitted earlier this month and the NIA court will soon frame charges against all The Central agency says,

They are all members of banned terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities [Prevention] Act and as per the First Schedule i.e. Communist Party of India (Maoist) and its formations and frontal organisations viz Anuradha Ghandy Memorial Committee, Kabir Kala Manch, Persecuted Prisoners Solidarity Committee, Committee for Release of Political Prisoners, Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights, Peoples Union for Democratic Rights, Coordination of Democratic Rights Organisation, Democratic Students Union, Visthapan Virodhi Jan Vikas Andolan, Revolutionary Writers

Association.' The accused have conspired, "To incite the people and create violence and to spread disaffection towards the government established by Law and to commit illegal act with the intention to further activities, to commit conspiracy or attempt to commit or advocate, abet, or incite the people to create public disorder with intent to threaten the unity, integrity, security or sovereignty of

Govt. website changes content on Mughals

DAMINI NATH

A paragraph describing the Mughal Empire as one of the greatest ever was removed from a government website, KnowIndia.gov.in, after some Twitter users flagged it to the Union Culture Ministry on Monday.

In a section about India's medieval history covering various rulers, the introduction of the page on Mughal Empire had said: "In India, the Mughal Empire was one of the greatest empires ever. The Mughal Empire ruled hundreds of millions of people. India became united under one rule, and had very prosperous cultural and political years during the Mughal rule. There were many Muslim and Hindu kingdoms split all throughout India until the founders of Mughal came..."

An author, Ratan Sharda, whose works include Secrets of RSS, The Sangh and Swaraj and RSS 360, tweeted on Monday morning that a government portal was "singing the praises of 'great' Mughal empire".

An official said officials of the Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology (MeitY) were informed.

By afternoon, the Culture Ministry responded on Twitter, saying: "It has been brought to the Ministry's notice about content in Know India website (http://KnowIndia.gov.in) that misrepresents India's history. The Ministry of Culture does not run this website and is working with the concerned entities to accurately portray the events." In the evening, the website no longer had an introduction for the Mughal Empire page, with the space left blank..

A response from the MeitY was awaited at the time of writing.

(With inputs from Yuthi-

the professor have not made

any remarks on the develop-

Senior CPI(M) leader Ra-

bin Deb told The Hindu that

the Trinamool Congress was

trying its best to minimise

the strength of the CPI(M),

belittle the legacy of 34

years of rule of the Left

Front, which was led by the

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Border Security Force (BSF) spotted a flying object and fired at it along the International Border (IB) in the Arnia sector of Jammu district on Monday. An official said it was spotted

"It was blinking red and yellow light. Our forward troops in Arnia sector observed and opened fire at it," a BSF spokesman said.

on the flying object. "After the firing, the object gained some height and

The BSF said it launched a search with the help of the local police.

2 TRF militants killed in Srinagar

'It is a big success for the security forces,' says IGP Vijay Kumar

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Two militants of The Resistance Front (TRF), including its 'commander', were killed in a brief encounter in Srinagar city on Monday The police said the duo

was killed in "a brief exchange of fire" at Aloochi Bagh. They were identified as 'commander' Sheikh and his 'second in command' Saqib Manzoor.

"It is a big success for the security forces," Inspector General of Police (IGP) Vijay Kumar said.

In list of top wanted

The slain militants were among those in the list of top wanted of the police. It was made public recently.

Sheikh, 45, was a top mili-



On alert: Policemen standing guard after the J&K police killed two militants in the Aloochi Bagh area of Srinagar on Monday. • NISSAR AHMAD

tant from south Kashmir's Kulgam. According to the police, he was arrested twice but rejoined militancy. Manzoor was a militant from Sri-

tacks on policemen," the police said.

Mr. Kumar said that after getting specific inputs from the Army about the movement of the duo, 10 police-

militants, which was retaliated, leading to the encounter.

Jewellers' token strike partially successful | CPI(M) suspends Professor

Corporate, large jewellers carry out business as usual

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The nationwide token strike called by jewellers on Monday was partially successful as large and corporate jewellers stayed away by opening their showrooms and carrying out business as usual.

However, jewellers from the MSME category responded overwhelmingly to the call of National Task Force on hallmarking to protest against what they called arbitrarily implemented HUID (hallmarking unique ID) in the implementation of mandatory hallmarking process in the country by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

The jewellers clarified that they were not against hallmarking but against HUID, which tracks every

STAFF REPORTER

Star Health and Allied Insu-

rance and The Hindu Op-

portunities will hold a vir-

tual webinar on job

opportunities and 'The

challenge of recruiting at

the pandemic period', ac-

cording to a press release.

The webinar on job oppor-

tunities will be held on 28

Sriharsha A. Achar, joint

executive director of Star

Health and Allied Insu-

rance, will be in a conversa-

tion with Kamal Karnath,

August at 11 a.m.

Virtual webinar on job

Aspirants can speak with experts

opportunities to be held



Jewellers from Zaveri Bazar protesting outside their shop in Mumbai on Monday. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

piece of jewellery, the customer, and jeweller, through the unique id.

MSME iewellers through their Sarafa Associations were seen observing the token strike in several cities.

Some shops were open in Zaveri Bazaar, the jewellery hub of Mumbai. In Vizag and many other cities, the big retail chains were kept open, according to available information.

Dinesh Jain, representing

VIRTUAL RECRUITMENT

DRIVE CUM WEBINAR

Those looking for jobs

can log into https://bit.ly/

JOBTH and upload their CV,

co-founder of Xpheno.

and register

themselves

also to view

and

with

perts.

the webinar

speak 🚡

jewellers from the MSME segment, said: "The token strike received wholehearted support from over 300 associations in the east, west, south, central and north regions. Except for few corporates [jewellers], almost 90% stakeholders have remained closed today, demanding HUID to be replaced with successful and consumer friendly old 4mark hallmarking."

Muthu Venkatraman, re-

presenting Southern Region said, "The complexity of hallmarking can only be understood by a jeweller."

Samar Kumar De, representing the Eastern Region said, "Each and every corner of Bengal responded 100% to the strike."

Members of the All Kerala Gold & Silver Merchants Association (AKGSMA) Alappuzha District Committee protested by burning HUID order in front of BSNL central office and AKGSMA general secretary K. Surendran referred to Monday as a black day and all members

wore black marks. The National Task force was formed by 350 Associations/Federations representing all four zones of the entire Gems & Jewellery Industry.

The objective of this committee is to ensure smooth

implementation of mandatory hallmarking across the

Plea against construction in Corbett Tiger Reserve

HC asks NTCA to consider it as memo

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to consider as representation a petition to stop the alleged illegal construction of bridges and walls within tiger breeding habitat of the Corbett Tiger

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh asked the NTCA to decide the representation in accordance with the law, rules, regulations and government policy.

The High Court's order came on a petition by advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal on the issue of alleged rampant illegal construction going on in tiger breeding habitat of the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand. Mr. Bansal, in his plea,

said that the illegal construction of bridges and walls in the breeding habitat shall not only disturb the whole ecology of the Corbett Tiger Reserve, but it is also against the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act and the Forest Conservation Act.



not mention patient name on the cheque). All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.19, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324 / 7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@

Modi non-committal on Bihar team's demand

against it, the Centre would be hard put to delay it. "The OBC community in every State is getting restive. They feel that their population which is more than 55%. is not getting the benefits that they deserve. The reservation somehow is only applicable to class four posts. There is not a single secretary in any of the Ministries here in Delhi who is from the OBC community," JD (U) leader K.C. Tyagi said. Former Deputy Chief Mi-

tive Council on this issue. "BJP is also included in

> Flying object spotted near Jammu

around 5.30 a.m.

The BSF said it used 25 Light Machine Gun rounds

went towards the Pakistani

nagar's Barazulla area.

"They were involved in at-

"There was firing from the Subsequently, the duo was killed," he added.

for articles in TMC paper

Ajanta Biswas has praised Mamata

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

KOLKATA

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has suspended Ajanta Biswas, daughter of former State secretary Anil Biswas, for writing essays, titled Bangarajinitite Narishakti (women in Bengal politics) in Jaago Bangla, the Trinamool Congress's mouthpiece.

The Professor of History of Rabindra Bharati University was suspended by the Kolkata district committee of the CPI(M) for six months on August 21.

She went on to praise Mamata Banerjee by writing in detail about her political career. Ms. Biswas said the movement at Singur against the Tata Motors small car project was "gana bikhop" mass movement. Anil Biswas, West Bengal secretary of the CPI(M) from 1998 to 2006, was one of the most important leaders of the CPI (M) known for his deft organisational skills.

While the suspension came as no surprise, the question is what prompted Ms. Biswas to write essays in Jaago Bangla and why did the mouthpiece accept such a write-up. The CPI(M) and

CPI(M), and the entire episode illustrated this. Political observers feel that there is more to the development that the Trinamool is trying to appropriate the legacy of the

Biswanath Chakraborty,

Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science at Rabindra Bharati University, said the incident should not be looked into in isolation. The 2021 Assembly election was a crucial moment when in the name of campaign of "No vote to BJP", the Left supporters and intellectuals supported the Trinamool, and the incident should be looked in that light. Political observer Subhamoy Maitra said the controversy was only because Ms. Biswas is the daughter of a well-known senior CPI(M) leader.

leaders on Afghanistan

Parties concerned over implications for security in India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will on Thursday brief floor leaders of all parties in Parliament on the developments in Afghanistan at the Parliament House, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said on Monday.

India last week evacuated hundreds of Indians and Afghan nationals and the staff of its Embassy in Kabul after the takeover by the Taliban.

Special visa category

The government also launched a special visa cate-



S. Jaishankar

gory for the evacuation of Afghan partners from that country. The fast-developing situation there and its implications for security in India have been a matter of concern, with various political concern.

"In view of the developments in Afghanistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has instructed that Ministry of External Affairs brief floor leaders of political parties," tweeted Mr. Jaishankar, after which Mr. Joshi announced the date, time and venue of the briefing

At a Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting early last week, Mr. Modi said the evacuation of Hindus, Sikhs and Afghan "brothers and sisters" was a priority for the Government

Jaishankar to brief floor | Afghan students at AMU seek govt. support

23 Afghan students were enrolled in different courses, out of which 15 were in the country: sources

ANUJ KUMAR

The Afghan students studying at the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) have expressed concern over the fragile socio-political situation back home and appealed to the Indian government and university administration for support.

University sources said 23

Afghan students were enrolled in different courses, out of which 15 were at present in the country. "The Vice-Chancellor has assured all possible help and cooperation," said Syed Ali Nawaz Zaidi, adviser, foreign students. "A delegation of students met the proctor and expressed concern over the political instability in the



Dire straits: Afghan students at the Aligarh Muslim University's proctor's office. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

country and its impact on banking and telecommunication services. They urged the government and university administration to help the students who had gone back home during the CO-VID-19 lockdown in getting the visa for India so that they

could continue their studies," said Dr. Zaidi.

The university's association with Afghanistan goes back to Bharat Ratna Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the secular Pashtun leader of the Freedom Movement, who was an alumnus of the Mohammden Anglo-Oriental College that later became the

Reflecting on the evolving situation, a postgraduate student of Tajik origin, who did not want to be named, expressed fear that Pashtuns would target other ethnic groups such as the Tajiks and the Hazaras. "The majority of the Taliban are Pashtuns and recent events suggest that they are in dialogue with the Pashtun leaders of the previous dispensation," he

His brother is studying at Hyderabad's Osmania University and took the last Air India flight out of Kabul. "The situation is getting worse as banking and telecommunication services are

badly hit. My father who worked for a U.N. agency has left the country. I have put in an application requesting an extension for the payment of fees," he said, fearing for the plight of his other family members.

Sher Ali, a Pashtun, who is a student of engineering said it was not about regional identities. "Taliban are united by an extremist interpretation of Islam and that they don't spare the Pashtuns as well those who don't abide by their rules."

Mr. Ali said the Taliban had support in the areas that share a border with Pakistan. "They have support in the mountainous regions where development has not

IN BRIEF



Hold bypolls for seven **Assembly seats: Mamata**

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday urged the Election Commission (EC) to hold bypolls for seven Assembly constituencies in the State without delay. "Four months are over [since the West Bengal Assembly election1 and our COVID-19 situation is totally under control.. **Election Commission must** announce bypolls immediately and not curb the democratic rights of the people," Ms. Banerjee said.

Roads in six places in U.P. to be named after Singh

An important road each in six districts of Uttar Pradesh, including Ayodhya where the Ram Mandir is being built. will be named after former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, who died on Saturday at the age of 89, said Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Monday. Singh was cremated at the Narora ghats in Bulandshahr, west U.P. Mr. Maurya said a road each in Ayodhya, Prayagraj, Lucknow, Bulandshahr Etah and Aligarh would be named after Singh.

ED files a complaint against Deshmukh, aides

MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday submitted a complaint against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, his private secretary, Sanjeev Palande. and his personal assistant, Kundan Shinde, in a money laundering case before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court. Mr. Shine and Mr. Palande were arrested by the ED on June 26 and are currently in judicial custody.

Kamal Nath meets Rahul, discuss future strategy

NEW DELHI Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath met former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Monday. The two leaders are said to have discussed organisational issues. While Mr. Nath briefed Mr. Gandhi on the Pradesh Congress Committee's activities, the leaders also discussed the party's future strategy on the Pegasus issue, farmers' stir and fuel prices. The meeting assumes significance as Mr. Nath is said to be among the Congress leaders pushing for election strategist Prashant Kishor to have a role in the

Royal Bengal Tiger's 25th birthday celebrated

KOLKATA The 25th birthday of Raja, a male Royal Bengal Tiger currently lodged at South Khayerbari Animal Rescue Centre in north Bengal, was celebrated in a grand manner on Monday by the State forest department and State zoo authority, a senior forest official said. He is the oldest tiger in captivity in the State and hails from Sunderbans. On its website, the forest department has posted updates about Raja, conducted an online quiz on tigers, and an online drawing competition for children. PTI

'No immediate plan to ban 2 Hurriyat factions'

Govt. banned the JKLF under the UAPA in March 2019

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union government is currently not thinking about any ban on the two Hurriyat factions, a government official said on Monday. Responding to reports

that the government was considering a ban on the Hurriyat factions under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the official said there was no such plan at this stage. The Union Home Ministry

banned the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) under the UAPA in March 2019, days after the Jamat-e-Islami (JeI-J&K) was proscribed under Section 3(1) of the Act.

The decision to ban the JKLF followed a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by



Mirwaiz Umar Farooq

Prime Minister Narendra

Based on evidence The government decides to ban any organisation based

on evidence warranting such a step. In the past, investigation agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the National Investigation

separatists in Jammu and

In July 2017, the NIA arrested seven persons, including Altaf Ahmed Shah who is the son-in-law of separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani. In a chargesheet filed in January 2018, it arraigned several separatist leaders for their alleged involvement in orchestrating violent protests in Jammu and Kashmir.

The NIA also conducted searches in February 2019 at multiple locations, including the premises of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, JKLF chief Yasin Malik, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party president Shabir Shah, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat chairman Mohammad Ashraf Khan and All Party Hurriyat Conference general secretary Masarat Alam.

Reject Islamic emirate: Muslim group

Agency (NIA) have taken le-

gal action against several

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Afghanistan.

"IMSD stands in solidarity

people of Afghanistan," a statement issued by IMSD

pressure on the Taliban.'

Tension in Hurriyat camps amid reports

So far, no formal order has been issued by the government to ban the factions

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Tension and uncertainty was palpable among the Hurriyat camps in Kashmir on Monday against the backdrop of media reports that the Union government was likely to ban the separatist groups under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Supporters of senior separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani were seen removing the signboard of the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH) from his residence-cum-office in Srinagar.

Mirwaiz Incarcerated Umar Farooq, however, said his faction of the Hurriyat would continue "representing people's aspiration".

Mr. Geelani, who is not keeping well, resigned from the All-Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in June 2020 after developing differences with the leadership across the border.

So far, no formal order has been issued by the police or the Home Department to ban the factions. Earlier, the Jammu Kashmir Liberation



Raising the pitch: A protest demanding the release of arrested leaders in Srinagar in March. • NISSAR AHMAD

Front (JKLF), a pro-independence group, and socio-religious group Jamaat-e-Islami were banned and their leadership arrested in 2019, ahead of the government's move to end Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional position in August that

Most of the Hurriyat factions have been silent and defunct after the August 5 move by the government.

The Mirwaiz, in a statement, said his group would "always represent the aspirations and seek their fulfilment through its principled stand of dialogue and deliberations among the stakeholders of the conflict".

In a statement, a spokesperson of the Mirwaiz said: 'The sentiments of the people of J&K, with regard to the resolution of the Kashmir dispute in a peaceful and fair manner, cannot be altered despite repression, legal tactics or propaganda."

Sending students to Pak. He also denied police allegations that the Hurriyat was sending local youth to Pakistan colleges against money. "We reject and denounce the

propaganda. This is completely unfounded and can be verified from those students or parents whom we have recommended, with many of them from economically weak sections," the Hurriyat spokesperson said.

The Mirwaiz was giving recommendation letters to students to get admission in the colleges and universities in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Turkey and elsewhere, the spokesperson stated.

BJP stand

The BJP's State president, Ravinder Raina, described the Hurriyat as "puppets" of Pakistan, and sought action against them.

"The Hurriyat is a puppet, and their strings are in Pakistan. They took money and arms from Pakistan to destroy Kashmir. The mother organisation of the Hurriyat is already banned. They misled youth from Kashmir and sent them to Pakistan on the pretext of MBBS courses, but bring them back as terrorists. There should be strict action," he stated.

with the beleaguered mil-Afghanistan is yearning for said on Monday. peace and not for an "Islamlions of Afghan women and ic emirate", said Indian Musmen who for too long have

lims for Secular Democracy (IMSD), an organisation that champions secular values in India. In a statement against the backdrop of the situation in Afghanistan, the IMSD said the Indian Muslims "must reject" the idea of Is-

been trapped between the corrupt-to-the-core puppet governments propped up by the occupying American and NATO forces and the regressive Taliban who during their earlier rule had trampled over the most basic rights and freedoms of the

The IMSD also urged individuals and organisations across the world not to celebrate the arrival of the Taliban in Kabul, and urged the global community to watch the Taliban team in charge. "We call on the global community to launch a '24/7 Afghanistan Watch' to mount

rate composite tenders for the following NIT No.11/EE-TVM/21-22 Name of

work : Construction of Head Post Office Departmental Building at Pooiappura Rs.12.54.50.401/-(Rs.11.95.26.212/- Civ portion & Rs.59,24,189/- Electrical Portion Earnest Money : NIL. Period of completion: 18 months. Last date and time of submission of bid: 07:09:2021 upto 11.00 hrs. The bid forms and othe etails can be obtained from the website https://dopcivil.euniwizarde.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

xecutive Engineer©. Postal Civil Division

the President of India, online percentag

TAMILNADU WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD 25.08.2021 to 22.09.2021up to 17.45 pm 08.09.2021 at 11.00 Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee 23.09.2021 before 15.00 Hours at the office of the Tender Invite Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website 24.09.2021 at 16.00 Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website Approximate Tendering website Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website Digitally signed encrypted E-Tendering website Digitally signed re Bid meeting Name of work WSS to Yercaud and 8 other Yercaud Panchayat in Yercaud union of Salem District (Period of completion : 12 months, Trial Run : 6 months and Paid maintenance : 12 months) (Re- Tender) 485/TENDER/2021 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS Chief Engl

Is the split wide open in **GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED** Chhattisgarh Congress? Phone: (0265) 2310582-86

CM, Health Minister to meet Rahul today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Singh Baghel and Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo are scheduled to meet former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday amid reports of an ongoing tussle between

All India Congress Committee (AICC) in charge of Chhattisgarh P.L. Punia would be present in the meeting, a source said on Monday.

After Punjab's Amarinder Singh versus Navjot Sidhu spat and Rajasthan's Ashok Gehlot versus Sachin Pilot, the rift in Chhattisgarh, too, is wide open.

Mr. Deo is reported to be upset with the leadership for not "honouring" a power-sharing formula by rotating the Chief Minister's post after two-and-a-half years as Mr. Baghel completed that period in mid-June

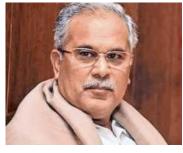
For the past few weeks, the Minister is also upset after party colleague Brahaspat Singh, a tribal lawmaker, alleged that Mr. Deo had "orchestrated" an assault on the MLA's convoy while it was travelling to Sarguia district.

Since Mr. Singh had made the allegation when the Assembly session was on, the BJP-led Opposition wanted answers from the government on the floor of the House. The Minister wanted Home Minis-

ter Tamradhwaj Sahu to clear his

name in the Assembly. However,

when Mr. Sahu's statement in the



Bhupesh Singh Baghel

House failed to clear Mr. Deo's name, the Health Minister walked out in protest.

The incident only added to the speculation that Mr. Deo has been upset with the party leadership over ignoring his claim to the top post.

However, party leaders, including Mr. Punia, denied that there was an agreement in December 2018 when the Congress formed the government - that the party would rotate the top post between Mr. Baghel and Mr. Deo.

In mid-July, Mr. Baghel was asked about the power-sharing formula when he visited Delhi. "The high command instructed me to take the oath [as Chief Minister], so I took the oath. When they say someone else will be the Chief Minister, then it will be so," he said.

However, playing down the talk of a rivalry, AICC leaders said the meeting between Chhattisgarh leaders and Mr. Gandhi was fixed "sometime ago" to review the work of the State government.

Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Race Course, Vadodara 390007 **NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

GUVNL invites e-tender for purchase of 500 MW RTC power for the period 15-09-2021 to 31-12-2021 at GETCO periphery (interconnection point of Gujarat STU with CTU) as per Ministry of Power (MoP), Gol Guidelines dated 30-03-2016. RFP will be available at www.mstcecommerce.com from 24-08-2021. Bid has to be submitted online through DEEP Portal of MoP. All

terms and conditions shall be as per RFP. Date:24-08-2021 **General Manager (Commerce)**



Chief Engineer

For & on behalf of the President of India

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT Bid Identification No.C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 09 / 2021-22 ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com Letter No.3269, dt.11.08.2021

. No of the work . Estimated cost Period of completion . Date and Time of availability of Bid

.Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal . Date of opening of Bid from Portal

.Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid

:- Rs.230.68 Lakhs & 232.42 Lakhs :- 9 (Nine) Calendar Months :- From 11.00 Hours of 24.08.2021 to 16.00 Hours of 08.09.2021.

:- 02 Nos Building Work

:- 16.00 Hours of 08.09.2021 :-12.00 Hours on 09.09.2021 Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001

e-mail: eerwsskld@gmail.com, eerwss_kld@nic.in, NT OF ODISHA Phone No: 06670-230784

urther details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in" B-322: Sd/-(Er. A.N.Das, A.C.E.), Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar

ANNA UNIVERSITY

TENDER NOTICE
On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for Supply and Installation of following equipment for thor, Centre for Constituent Colleges, Anna University, Chennai - 600 025. Quantity to be delivered at Tender Ref. No. Name of the equipment 160_1/CPO/ Lathe/CCC/2021 High precision lathe 4 | 6 | 6 | 16 ₹1,88,00,000/ Heavy duty high speed precision lath Horizontal Milling Machine 160_2/CPO/ HMM/CCC/2021 Horizontal Millin with accessories 2 160_3/CPO/ VMM/CCC/2021 Vertical Milling Machine vaccessories 160_4/CPO/ Shape/CCC/2021 Shaper with accessories Vertical Milling Machine with 3 ₹45,00,000/-1 The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website https://tntenders.gov.in from 11.00 am on 24.08.2021. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website upto 03.00 pm on 13.09.2021 and will be opened at 03.00 pm on 14.09.2021. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (https://tntenders.gov.in).

DIPR/2492/Tender/2021 3

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| Cost of tender paper | to be made online | payment s | ystem. | |

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

urther details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://tenderodisha.gov.in The original documents should be scanned and uploaded. Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna OIPR-25005/11/0016/2122 =



probe into defamation

The Bombay HC on Monday, through an interim order, stayed an ongoing probe by Pune police against Sony Pictures in a case of alleged criminal defamation and copyright infringement in its Scam 1992 web series. A Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.J. Jamadar took note of the submission made by a senior advocate, that while as per law the investigation must be conducted by an officer of deputy superintendent-level, in the present case, an inspector was investigating the alleged offences, PTI

Assam to destroy stored rhino horns, jumbo tusks

Assam's Environment and Forest Department has decided to destroy the rhinoceros horns, elephant tusks (ivory) and body parts of other protected animals stored in the district treasuries. About 5% of the specimens would be preserved for education, awareness and scientific purposes. Chief Wildlife Warden M.K. Yadaya said on Monday. The destruction of the horns and other animal articles would be in conformity with a relevant section of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.

'Probe delay in repairs at Bhakra hydro unit'

Amid the delay of several months in overhauling the 157-MW hydro generation unit at the Bhakra Right Bank Power House, reportedly leading to a loss of almost ₹100 crore, the Bhakra Beas Employees Union (BBEU) has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene in the matter. The BBEU has urged the Prime Minister to initiate an investigation by a Central agency into allegations of irregularities, delay and the loss incurred due to non-functioning of 157-MW Unit-7 of the Bhakra Right Bank Power House of the Bhakra Beas Management

Snatched police rifles recovered from river

Board at Nangal in Punjab.

A team of the Meghalaya Fire recovered the three INSAS rifles that miscreants snatched from the police during the violence on August 15. The rifles were recovered from the Umkhrah river flowing through Shillong. The team had conducted the search about 48 hours after an anonymous letter to the headman of Mawlai Town Dorbar claimed the rifles had been tossed into the river. The sender of the letter claimed he had taken the rifles from the teenagers who had snatched them from the police and dumped them in the river to save the boys from trouble.

Participants of vaccine trial to get certificates

They can download it through CoWIN portal, says Minister

Mansukh Mandaviya

stitute of India (SII), had

conducted Phase 2 and 3

bridging studies of Covish-

ield from August 2020.

from November 2020.

Participants' requests

Phase 3 efficacy clinical

trials for Covaxin were con-

ducted by Bharat Biotech

Health and Family Welfare

"The Union Ministry of

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Digital COVID-19 vaccination certificates will now be issued to the clinical trial participants of Covishield and Covaxin through CoWIN, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted on Monday.

The Minister said that the nation "thanks them [trial participants] for their incredible commitment & contribution to COVID-19 vaccine research & treatment."

He said participants could download their individual certificates through the Co-WIN portal or the Aarogya Setu, Digilocker or UMANG applications.

The Union Health Ministry, in its release, noted that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in partnership with the Serum Inhad received several requests from the trial participants for digital vaccination certificates through CoWIN," said the Ministry's release. It added that a decision

was taken that vaccination certificates may be issued to such participants who were administered the vaccines during these trials/studies. after the trials/studies were unblinded. The ICMR was designated

by the Union Health Ministry as the nodal agency for collection of vaccination data for such participants.

The council had provided the data for 11,349 such persons to the Union Health Ministry.

Digital vaccination certificates will now be issued to such persons who participated in these studies or

Rapid test exorbitantly priced: flyers

Rate reduction will be possible only when new kit gets nod, say officials

STAFF REPORTER

Passengers travelling to West Asia by flight from Chennai have a new concern – they have to pay ₹4,000 for the Rapid RT-PCR test at the airport.

A few weeks ago, airport authorities introduced this facility as travellers bound for West Asia had to be in possession of an RT-PCR negative result from test done six hours prior to their departure. Until a few days ago, the time was even shorter. It was four hours before the flight. The rapid RT-PCR test gives the results within 30 minutes

Passengers are upset that they have to spend so much for a test in addition to the ticket cost. A one-way fare on Chennai-Dubai flight is ₹8,500 to ₹13,000. Many have taken to social media platforms urging the authorities to bring down the cost of this test. Ashokan S, a passen-



Additional burden: Passengers wait in a long queue at the counter of rapid RT-PCR test, which provides result within 30 minutes, at the Chennai airport. •B. VELANKANNI RAJ

ger tweeted: "#HLL rapid pcr test cost at chennai airport fixed very high ie 4,000/ head, whereas the original equipment cost ranges from 500 to 1,250, request you to

fix the same as 900. Mohamed Ismail, another passenger, said, "Airports Authority of India, please look into the pricing of RT-PCR test in Chennai Airport it is ₹4,000 whereas in small Trichy Airport it is ₹1,575 only. As the high volume of passengers undergoing tests in Chennai Airport, it should be less than the Trichy Airport. Please reduce." AAI officials said they were keen on reducing the cost. "The pricing factor depends on the kit. If they get a new kit approved,

U.S. approves record student visas

More than 55,000 students and exchange visitors are set to board flight this year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Over 55,000 Indian students and exchange visitors to the United States have been given student visas in 2021 despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the highest number ever, the U.S. Mission in India said on Monday.

Thriving atmosphere

"Through these efforts, more than 55,000 students and exchange visitors are boarding planes to study in the United States, and more students are being approved every day," a U.S. Mission statement said.

Ambassador Atul Keshap, the Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy here, said studying in the U.S. was a un-



Shaping dreams: Despite COVID-19, consular staff managed to process more applications this year. ■REUTERS

ique experience for Indian

"Indian students also enrich U.S. society, achieve high levels of academic success, and deepen the bonds of friendship between our

countries," he said.

Though the COVID-19 second wave led to a twomonth delay in starting the student visa season, which usually starts in May, the

process more visas this year than during the pre-COVID times, the statement said.

"In July, as soon as conditions allowed for the resumption of visa services without endangering applicants' health and safety, consular teams worked not only to match, but surpass, their pre-COVID workload. The U.S. Embassy and Consulates opened additional hours for visa appointments and made every possible effort to ensure timely arrival for academic programmes for as many students as possible. Ultimately, these efforts paid off, as more students than ever before received visas to study in the U.S.," the statement

Army's new bid in Kashmir to wean youth off militancy

It screens an animation film based on real-life incidents

PEERZADA ASHIO SRINAGAR

The Army on Monday used a rare tool to wean off local youth from militancy screening a grim, black-andwhite animation film of 2 minutes and 13 seconds named Back from Jaws of Death on 23 boys who were rescued from joining militants in north Kashmir's Bandipora

The film depicts how the boys remained in the dense jungles of Ajas in "pathetic conditions" from August 4 to August 23 of that year after a militant named Bambar Khan, with the help of local Line of Control (LoC) in the Gurez Sector for arms training.

overground workers, either

by force or through radicali-

sation, kept them there for

the final push across the

Troops to the rescue An Army spokesperson said,

"On August 23, 1998, the terrorists accompanying these youths ran away, while taking cover of thick foliage and egetation."

"The troops quickly took control of the situation and helped the boys cross the Kishanganga River, which was in spate in the Gurez Sector. The rescued boys, as of now, are leading normal, happy lives. They are married and have families of their own, with children," the Army spokesperson Lieutenant General Y.K.

Joshi, Army Commander of the Northern Command, met the rescued individuals and their families during an event organised at Bandipora's Manasbal lake. He also released the ani-

mation film in the memory of the rescued individuals, "who suffered harrowing experiences with the terrorists in the jungle".

Railway Minister reaffirms Odisha ties with Jan Ashirwad Yatra

Vaishnaw's visit to the State has triggered a new wave of expectations as he tries to project himself as an accessible leader

BHUBANESWAR

Over 100 meetings in six Lok Sabha constituencies in seven Odisha districts within just four days by road and rail is a difficult proposition even for leaders in active politics. But for Aswini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Communications and Electronics, and Information Technology, who entered parliamentary politics two years ago, the unprecedented reception he received during his recent Jan Ashirwad Yatra kept him going and helped him re-establish his ties with Odisha.

The Minister in the Narendra Modi government had begun his professional life from Odisha as a civil servant in 1996 and left the State in 2003.

The public had little idea about Mr. Vaishnaw before he made a dramatic entry into the Rajya Sabha race in June 2019.

Bid by BJD

So much was his "utility" that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had initially announced his candidature from the Biju Janata Dal (BJD). However, the BJP leadership managed to field



Making inroads: Aswini Vaishnaw's visit assumes importance ahead of next year's local body polls. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

him as their candidate. He again stunned political circles with his induction into Mr. Modi's Cabinet.

Mr. Vaishnaw hails from Rajasthan. His carefully crafted visit to the undivided

Kalahandi, Balangir and Ko-

raput districts (KBK region) reaffirmed his political identity with Odisha. The KBK region lacks

adequate railway integration, and one-fourth of the country's villages unconnected by the Internet is in Odisha.

The Minister's visit has triggered a new wave of expectations. Certain non-political citizens' forums even queued up to give representations to Mr. Vaishnaw, seeking his intervention for the development of rail con-

The former IAS officer travelled to the districts by train

passengers. During his roadshows, he talked to roadside vendors, sipped tea with party workers and mingled with the public. His eloquent Odia also gave him an edge.

With just one visit, Mr. Vaishnaw has managed to create an impression of a leader who is accessible and can deliver.

Though the visit was part of the Jan Ashirwad Yatra planned by the BJP to introduce its new Union Ministers to the public, it assumes importance ahead of the panchayat and civic body polls scheduled early next year.

beaten up in Maharashtra

Seven Dalits

CHANDRAPUR

Seven members of two Dalit families were thrashed by local residents on suspicion of practising "black magic" in a village in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra, leaving them seriously injured, the police said on Mon-

Some of the victims were tied to wooden poles and assaulted.

The incident occurred in village Wani under Jiwti tehsil over the weekend and 13 people have been arrested so far.

TH CROSSWORD+ 13334

12 Vice cell to bust individual? On the contrary (10)

13 Incapable of a light touch? (5-6)

18 Studies gripping screenplay's drafts (10) 21 Partially returned dragon's smack (4)

22 Mysterious ritualism left out in trattoria treat (8)

23 Infrequent panics, in a manner of speaking (6) 24 Freeload off alcoholic (6)

25 Staff accommodating, nearly ingratiating at first, to setter, among

We are digital now. Come solve online.

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

DOWN

1 Mixture of oils and spices concocted in a dream (8)

2 Coming off as enigmatic (6)

3 Find fault with the baroness's core group of illustrious people (8)

4 Sorrowful feeling for feathered creature after summer's end (6)

5 Crusty as your old cakes and so on (6)

7 Inspect railway going up channel (6)

8 Abandon a project, turn off life support (4,3,4)

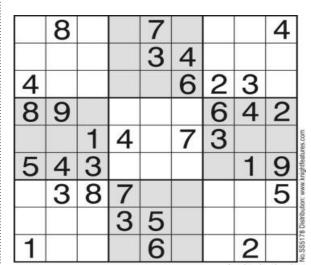
14 Very eager, excited, employing twice as many words (8) 15 Jumping for joy, extremely energetic tops staying inert (8)

16 Blood libels regularly resulted in corpses (6)

17 You got me to extol the virtues of head cook endlessly (6) 19 Salt in track discovered south of water body (3,3)

20 Walk ostentatiously around tree, for example (6)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13333

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★公公

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FAITH

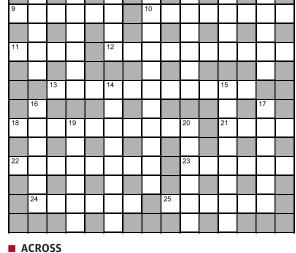
Putana is liberated

Kamsa's attempts to kill Krishna begin even when Krishna is an infant. Kamsa was brought up by Putana. So Kamsa sends Putana to find Krishna and kill Him. Putana arrives in Gokula, where Krishna is the darling of the Gopas and Gopikas, and the cherished child of Yasoda and Nandagopa. Putana coats her nipple with poison, so that when she feeds Krishna, He will die. But Krishna sucks out her life, and she dies. She had come in the guise of a woman with a pleasant appearance, but now her true form is revealed. She looks terri-

fying. And she looks enormous. However, when Putana's body is burnt, there is no foul smell. A lovely fragrance emanates from the burning body. It seems as if sandalwood is being burnt. How did this happen? Putana had had the touch of Krishna, even if only briefly, and that was enough to purify her, said V.S. Karunakarachariar, in a discourse. Only the body of a yogi smells good, when cremated. But Krishna's touch had made Putana's body like that of a yogi. Putana, in a sense, was a yogini herself,

for she gave her very life to the Supreme One. Narayana Bhattadri says if Krishna made Putana smell so good, how much more would He have given the Gopikas who doted on Him.

Through the Putana episode, the Lord was giving them an idea of how they would be blessed by Him. If one listens to the Putana story, one will get moksha. Vedanta Desika says that Krishna sucked out Putana's milk, her life, and her future births. So, if one listens to this story, one will never have to drink a mother's milk again, he says. This simply means that if one listens to the Putana story, one will never be born



5 Coaches retinues (6)

6 Terrible person that might give you salmonella (3,3) 9 A victory party Hyderabad openers kicked off in Central Court (6)

10 Loiter about in posh region's western suburb, intentionally hidden

11 How a wild Arabian may be stopped – like this! (4)

No extension for evacuations, warn Taliban

'Staying beyond the agreed deadline would be extending occupation, and there would be consequences'

The Taliban warned on Monday there would be "consequences" if the U.S. and its allies extend their presence in Afghanistan beyond next week, as chaos continued to overwhelm Kabul airport.

The Islamists' takeover of the country last weekend shocked Western nations, coming just two weeks before an August 31 deadline for all troops to fully withdraw from the country.

To manage the chaotic airlifting of foreigners and Afghans – many of whom fear reprisals for working with Western nations – thousands of soldiers have poured back into Afghanistan, with pressure growing on Washington to extend the deadline.

But the Taliban on Monday showed no willingness to compromise, with spokes-

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Taliban said on Monday

their fighters had surround-

ed resistance forces holed up in Afghanistan's Panjshir

Valley but were looking to

negotiate rather than take

lows scattered reports of

clashes overnight, with pro-

Taliban social media ac-

counts claiming gunmen

were massing, and Afghanis-

tan's former Vice-President

saying resistance forces were

tioned near Panjshir", spo-

kesman Zabihullah Mujahid

tweeted, saying they had the

area surrounded on three

trying to resolve this issue

peacefully," he added.

"The Islamic Emirate is

Taliban fighters "are sta-

The announcement fol-

the fight to them.

holding strong.



Airport chaos: A U.S. marine passes over a water bottle to an evacuee at Kabul airport. ■REUTERS

Militants say 'besieged' Panjshir Valley

Resistance forces deny Taliban claims, say insurgents had been routed

man Suhail Shaheen telling Sky News that staying beyond the agreed deadline "extending occupation".

"If the U.S. or U.K. were to seek additional time to continue evacuations -- the answconsequences," he said.

President Biden has insisted he wants to end the U.S. military presence and the airlifts by August 31. But with the EU and Britain saying it would be impossible to get everyone out by then, Mr. Biden is under pressure to exOne Afghan killed, several hurt in exchange of gunfire

One member of the Afghan forces was killed and several wounded during an exchange of gunfire outside Kabul airport, but no U.S. personnel were hurt, the U.S. military said in a statement on Monday.

"The incident appeared

to begin when an unknown hostile actor fired upon Afghan security forces involved in monitoring access to the gate. The Afghan forces returned fire. and in keeping with their right of self-defense, so too did U.S. and coalition troops," the statement

tend the deadline.

Speaking at the White House on Sunday, Mr. Biden said talks were under way to explore the possibility of extending the deadline.

He also acknowledged the tragic scenes at the airport, which have included babies and children being passed to soldiers over razor-wire fences and men clinging to the outside of departing planes.

"There is no way to evacuate this many people without pain and loss and heartbreaking images you see," he

'TTP won't be able to operate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan's Interior Minister on Monday said that the Afghan Taliban have assured the government that it would not allow their soil to be used against it by Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan militants, amidst reports that several TTP terrorists have been released in Afghanistan. The TTP is behind a number of major terror at-

"The Afghan Taliban have reassured (us) that Afghanistan's land will not be allowed to be used in any case by the TTP," Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

The government has also taken note of the reports that the Afghan Taliban have set free TTP terro-

on Afghan soil'

tacks across Pakistan.



approval, triggers new mandates

It is expected to lift public confidence in the safety of shots

U.S. grants Pfizer vaccine full

now be marketed under its brand name Comirnaty, is the first to receive full approval.

More than 200 million shots have already been administered under an emergency use authorization (EUA) that was granted on December 11, 2020. The FDA is continuing to

investigate safety data regarding myocarditis (heart inflammation), particularly within seven days after the second dose.

The U.S. military said shortly after the announcement that it would mandate the vaccine, and a slew of private businesses and universities are expected to

Immediately after the announcement, New York City said it would require all its department of education employees to receive at least one dose of vaccine by September 27.

The vaccine remains available under emergency use authorisation to children aged 12 to 15, but because it has now been fully approved, physicians may prescribe it to children under 12 if they believe it will be beneficial.

"One of the talking points of the anti-vaccine movement which has falsely claimed that this was an 'experimental vaccine' has been removed," Amesh Adalja of the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security said.

"Hopefully now you'll see people who said that they were waiting for full approval line up to get vaccinated, hopefully more organisations, more businesses will require the vaccine as a condition of employment as a condition of participation."

China reports zero local virus cases as Delta outbreak retreats

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The U.S. Food and Drug Ad-

ministration on Monday ful-

ly approved the Pfizer-BioN-

Tech COVID-19 vaccine, a

move expected to trigger a

new wave of vaccine man-

dates as the Delta variant

Around 52% of the coun-

try is fully vaccinated, but

health authorities have hit a

wall of vaccine hesitant peo-

ple, impeding the national

this vaccine is a milestone as

we continue to battle the CO-

VID-19 pandemic," acting

FDA Commissioner Janet

"While all three COVID

vaccines have met FDA's

strict standards for emer-

gency use, this FDA approval

should give added confi-

dence that this vaccine is

safe and effective. If you're

not vaccinated yet, now is

the time," tweeted President

The vaccine, which will

said in

"The FDA's approval of

batters the country.

campaign.

Woodcock

statement.

Joe Biden.

WASHINGTON

China reported no new domestic coronavirus cases on Monday, and Beijing appears poised to bring to heel the pandemic's most serious resurgence in months - driven by the highly contagious Delta variant - with mass and testing targeted lockdowns.

The latest outbreak, which began in mid-July when cleaners at a Nanjing airport tested positive, is the most severe since COVID-19

first surfaced in the central city of Wuhan.

Over a thousand people have been infected across dozens of cities.

But Communist authorities reacted with swift localised lockdowns, travel restrictions and mass testing of neighbourhoods with infections as part of their "zero case" approach to the pandemic, which has virtually sealed off China's borders but allowed the economy to

New domestic infections

have been falling for over

On Monday, National Health Commission data showed local infections returned to zero after a five week battle.

Meanwhile, health experts are attempting to shore up confidence in the country's vaccination drive.

As of Saturday, almost 1.94 billion vaccine doses have been administered, official figures show, although the proportion of vaccinated people is unclear.

Gaza incendiary balloons trigger fires in Israel

Hostilities intensify along the border

JERUSALEM

Incendiary balloons from launched Gaza sparked fires in southern Israel on Monday, authorities said, after weekend border clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli forces wounded dozens of people.

Incendiary balloon launches are a common tactic used by Palestinian militants in the enclave, which has been under a strict Israeli blockade since 2007. when Hamas Islamists took power in the Gaza Strip. Israel frequently res-

ponds with air strikes, including after such devices were launched on August 6.

Pro-resistance accounts

on social media had dismis-

sed earlier claims of being

pushed back, saying Taliban

fighters had been ambushed

and routed.

In a statement, the fire service said it was working to contain a number of fires in the Eshkol border region. which it blamed on at least nine incendiary balloons launched from Gaza.

Saturday saw intense hostilities on the border. Israeli troops fired at Palestinian protesters who had gathered near the Gaza border and hurled explosives. An Israeli border police officer and a 13-year-old Palestinian were critically injured.

Claims from either side were impossible to indepen-

dently verify.

Panjshir remains the last major holdout of anti-Taliban forces, led by Ahmad Massoud, son of the famed Mujahideen leader Ahmed Shah Massoud. Former Afghan Vice-President Amrul-

lah Saleh is also there.

The Valley is guarded by a narrow gorge, making entry or escape – extraordinarily difficult for outsiders, who can be picked off by entrenched forces positioned on higher ground.

Harris vows 'enduring engagement' in Asia

'The reason I am here is because the United States is a global leader, and we take that role seriously'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Vice President Kamala Harris vowed "enduring engagement" in Asia on Monday, offering reassurances of Washington's commitment to the region even as the U.S. completes its chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Taliban takeover.

The hardline Islamists' swift return to power a week ago, and desperate scenes of thousands trying to flee, have cast a shadow over the U.S.' status as a global superpower.

But on a visit to Singapore, her first stop on a trip that will also include Vietnam, Ms. Harris repeatedly insisted that Washington could be depended on.

"Our administration is committed to enduring engagement in Singapore, into Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific," Ms. Harris told a press conference alongside Singapore's leader.

"The reason I am here is because the United States is a global leader, and we take that role seriously."

Questions on credibility But she dodged questions about whether U.S. credibility had been damaged by the



Kamala Harris

Afghan debacle, saying her government's focus was on "evacuating American citizens, Afghans who worked with us and vulnerable Afghans, including women and children".

Prime Minister Lee Hsien zure of power by the Taliban, Loong welcomed the Vice-President's reassurances and said Singapore was offering a military aircraft to help in the chaotic evacuation from Kabul airport overseen by the U.S. Army.

But he also expressed hopes that "Afghanistan does not become an epicentre for terrorism again".

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration is seeking to reset relationships in Asia after the turbulent Trump era, and project Washington as a stabilising force in the face of growing Chinese aggression. But analysts say the sei-

notorious for their brutal 1996-2001 rule, and rapid collapse of U.S.-trained Afghan forces have caused fresh concerns about US dependability. Ms. Harris is also facing

criticism for being tone-deaf in going ahead with a visit to Vietnam as U.S. forces struggle to evacuate tens of thousands of people.

The crisis has prompted comparisons with the trauma of 1975 in Saigon, when U.S. helicopters ferried final evacuees from the embassy roof, as Viet Cong troops advanced.

Pre-hid date

No hostile intent toward N. Korea: U.S.

REUTERS

The United States does not have hostile intent toward Pyongyang and is open to meeting any time and any place, Washington's special envoy for North Korea said on Monday during a visit to South Korea.

Sung Kim arrived in Seoul on Saturday for a fourday visit.

"The United States does not have hostile intent toward(North Korea)," Ms. Kim told reporters after meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Noh Kyu-duk.

Nepal PM Deuba behind silent campaign against Oli: Bhattarai

Allegation after govt. ordinance allows split of political parties

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba has launched a silent campaign against former premier K.P. Sharma Oli that is fast reconfiguring the political set-up in Nepal, said a leading member of Mr. Oli's party,

CPN-UML. The allegation by Mr. Rajan Bhattarai, the chief of the foreign affairs cell of the party, came on a day when Mr. Vijay Chauthaiwale of Bharatiya Janata Party's foreign affairs cell held extensive discussion on the changing political scenario of Nepal.

"He has changed the rules of formation of Nepal's political parties and helped Madhav Kumar Nepal in splitting away from CPN-UML. This was done to reduce the size and influence of our party which is the largest communist party of Nepal. This is aimed at strengthening the

position of the government," said Mr. Bhattarai, explaining that the move will "have widespread ramification in Nepal's political system."

The government of Prime Minister Deuba on August 18 passed an ordinance that allows split in a political party with the support of 20% central committee or parliamentary party members. Earlier, the requirement for registering a new party was support from 40% members of central committee or parliamentary party.

The ordinance has benefited former PM Madhav Kumar Nepal, who was among the main challengers against Mr. Oli and created a series of political crises for Mr. Oli that ultimately led to his dismissal by the Supreme Court

of Nepal. Mr. Nepal has formed a separate party. The ordinance is expected to reconfigure the setting of the political parties in Nepal and influence the equation between the government of Mr. Deuba and the rest of the political class.

In the midst of the ongoing politicalw reconfiguration, Mr. Chauthaiwale held a meeting with the leaders of several political parties in Kathmandu. Mr. Chauthaiwale is the first high-level Indian delegate to visit Nepal since the August 18 amendment was passed by the Deuba government. The Opposition led by CPN-UML has been criticising the amendment as a move to corner more political power.

"In last 24 hours, I met four senior-most leaders of Nepal, Sher Bahadur Deuba, K.P. Sharma Oli, Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda and Mahanta Thakur Ji, representing diverse ideological and political spectrum," said Mr. Chauthaiwale in a social media post.

Office of the Project Director, Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project, Directorate of Skill Development, Madhya Pradesh Invitation for Bids

Date: 19/08/2021

Loan/Grant No. and Title: Loan No.: 3710-IND/ Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project Contract Package (NCB) No. and Title: Supply of the Machinery & equipment's for Industrial Training Institutes to enhance Technical and Vocational Skills among the youth of Madhya Pradest under following packages

| MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/02 | Welding Equipment for 6 ITIS |
|---|--|
| MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/04/R1 | Lathe Machine SS and SC (Center Distance 750 mm) for 6 ITIs |
| MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/04/R2 | Lathe SS & SC (all geared type) (Center Distance 1000mm) for 6 ITIs |
| MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/06/ R1 | Milling Machine & Accessories for 6 ITIs |
| MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/06/ R2 | Radial Drilling Machine and Surface Grinding Machines for 6 ITIs |
| MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/10 | Computer Peripherals for 6 ITIs |
| 1. The Government of India has received a loan from the Asian I | Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of "Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project" and it intends to apply part of the |

proceeds of this financing to the payment under the Contract Package named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB . The "The Project Director, Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project, Directorate of Skill Development, Madhya Pradesh represented by The Director ("the Purchaser") invites sealed bids from

eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Machinery & equipment's including installation and commissioning at the Industrial Training Institutes 3. National Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-stage: Two- envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described i

4. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact; The Project Director Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project (MPSDP). Directorate of Skil Development, 1st Floor, Global Skills Park - City Campus, ITI Campus Govindpura, City: Bhopal, District: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh ZIP code: 462023 Country: India, Telephone 07552926671 and 0755-2986606, Email-proc.mpsdp@gmail.com. The MPSDP reserves right to change/amend the bid, which will be uploaded on the project website http://mpsdp.mp.gov.in 5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding as per schedule:

| i ackage No. | Details | I III VILALIOIT HUITIDEI | Did uploading date | l ie-bid date | Deadillie of bld Subiffission | bid opening date and time i |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| MPSDP/ITI/ Equipment/02 | Welding Equipments for 6 ITIs | Re- MPSDP/3/2021-22 | August 24, 2021 | September 07, 2021, | September 24, 2021, 13:30 | September 24, 2021, |
| | | | | 11:30 hrs (IST) | hrs (IST) | 14:00 hrs (IST) |
| MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/04/R1 | Lathe Machine SS and SC | Re- MPSDP/1/2021-22/R1 | August 24, 2021 | September 08, 2021, | September 27, 2021, 13:30 | September 27, 2021, |
| | (Center Distance 750 mm) | | | 11:30 hrs (IST) | hrs (IST) | 14:00 hrs (IST) |
| MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/04/R2 | Lathe SS & SC (all geared type) | Re- MPSDP/2/2021-22/R2 | August 25, 2021 | September 09, 2021, | September 28, 2021, 13:30 | September 28, 2021, |
| | (Center Distance 1000mm) | | | 11:30 hrs (IST) | hrs (IST) | 14:00 hrs (IST) |
| MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/06/R1 | Milling Machine & Accessories | Re- MPSDP/4/2021-22/R1 | August 26, 2021 | September 10, 2021, | September 29, 2021, 13:30 | September 29, 2021, |
| | | | | 11:30 hrs (IST) | hrs (IST) | 14:00 hrs (IST) |
| MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/06/R2 | Radial Drilling Machine and | Re- MPSDP/5/2021-22/R2 | August 27, 2021 | September 13, 2021, | September 30, 2021, 13:30 | September 30, 2021, |
| | surface Grinding | | | 11:30 hrs (IST) | hrs (IST) | 14:00 hrs (IST) |
| MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/10 | Computer Peripherals for 6 ITIs | Re- MPSDP/6/2021-22 | August 31, 2021 | September 14, 2021, | October 01, 2021, 1:30 hrs | October 01, 2021, 14:00 |
| | | | | 11:30 hrs (IST) | (IST) | hrs (IST) |

6. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should write or visit at the office of the Purchaser at address stated above and pay a non-refundable fee of INR 5,000 in the form of Bank Demand Draft. In case of written request, the document will be sent by post and no liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery. 7. The eligible bidders may otherwise purchase the bidding document in English language by downloading the document from the website http://mpsdp.mp.gov.in. Such bidders shall be required to submit INR 5,000 with their bid in the form of Bank demand draft in the name of the Project Director Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project, Directorate of Skill Development, Bhopal towards the cost of purchasing the bidding document following provisions in the bidding document (Section 2: Bid Data Sheet, ITB clause 11.2(i).3)

9. Bids will be opened on above mentioned scheduled date and time (point No. 05) in the presence of Bidders representatives who choose to attend. 10. The Purchaser will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by the bidder in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids

3. Deliver your bid to the address above on or before the deadline together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document and stated at point No 05.

G-15974/2021

Directorate of Skill Development

| Indicative direct rat except yen at 4 p.m. | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SEL |
| US Dollar | 74.01 | 74.3 |
| Euro | 86.73 | 87.1 |
| British Pound | .101.17 | 101.6 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 67.21 | 67.5 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.41 | 11.4 |
| Swiss Franc | 80.68 | 81.0 |
| Singapore Dollar | 54.44 | 54.6 |
| Canadian Dollar | 58.07 | 58.3 |
| Malaysian Ringitt | 17.51 | 17.6 |

832.50....-14.80

1358.65...

1416.00

-6.15 -16.95

. 16.80

Sun Pharma

Products Ltd.

Tech Mahindra

UltraTech Cement

Tata Steel



Mercedes unveils new coupe for ₹2.07 crore

Mercedes Benz India has introduced the all-new AMG GLE 63 S 4MATIC+ Coupé at prices starting ₹2.07 crore ex-showroom all India. "The introduction of the AMG GLE 63 S 4MATIC+ Coupé reinforces our strong presence in the luxury performance segment," said Martin Schwenk, MD & CEO.

Yamaha unveils Moto GP bike for ₹1.48 lakh

CHENNAI India Yamaha Motor Pvt. Ltd. on Monday rolled out MT-15 Monster Energy Yamaha Moto GP Edition at ₹1,47,900 (ex-showroom, Delhi). The MT-15 retains the same 155 cc, fuel-injected, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke, SOHC, 4-valve engine with 6-speed transmission. It produces a maximum output of 18.5 PS at 10,000 rpm and maximum torque of 13.9 Nm at 8,500 rpm, it said. The MT-15 continues to pack features, including a single-channel ABS, it added.

Roots of economic recovery deepen as restrictions ease'

July sees 'encouraging' improvement in 8 of 13 high-frequency indicators: ICRA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

With the easing of COVID-19related curbs by States, the roots of economic recovery deepened in July 2021, ICRA

Ratings said in a report. The unlocking in the country has manifested itself in improving performance across various high-frequency industrial and service sector indicators, mobility and toll collections in July 2021, according to the agency.

"With the further easing of the State-wise restrictions, especially across the southern States, the roots of the economic recovery deepened in July 2021. Despite a normalising base, eight of the 15 high-frequency indica-



Edging up: The relaxing of curbs helped spur mobility, toll collections and sector indicators in July. • JOTHI RAMALINGAM B

tors recorded an encouraging improvement in their year-on-year (YoY) growth in July 2021," the agency's chief economist Aditi Nayar said in the report. Moreover, 10 of the 13 non-financial indicators recorded a month-on-

month (MoM) uptick in July 2021, although the pace of improvement eased, as expected, from levels seen in June, when State-wise unlocking had commenced, she said. The YoY performance of GST e-way bills, fuel consumption, electricity generation, output of Coal India Limited (CIL), vehicle registrations and domestic passenger traffic improved in July 2021 from June 2021.

The worsening in the YoY performance of some indicators such as output of passenger vehicles (PVs), scooters and motorcycles was primarily due to the base effect, the report pointed out.

Ms. Nayar said July volumes of seven of the 13 nonfinancial indicators - non-oil merchandise exports, GST eway bills, electricity generation, CIL's output, petrol consumption, PV output and rail freight traffic - rose above both their pre-Covid as well as April 2021 levels.

Hindalco plans capex of up to \$3 billion over 5 years

Investments in U.S., China, Brazil, India to spur growth: Birla

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hindalco Industries Ltd. has earmarked about \$2.5-\$3 billion for capital expenditure to bolster growth over the next five years, chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said while addressing shareholders online at the company's AGM on Monday.

He said the capex in subsidiary Novelis would be invested mainly in the autofinishing line expansions in the U.S. and China and in rolling and recycling capacity expansions in Brazil.

"In India, we are on track to implement organic growth projects entailing capital outlay of over \$1 billion towards Utkal Alumina expansion, various alumini-



Kumar Mangalam Birla

um and copper downstream expansions, and specialty alumina projects. These investments will advance our strategy of building a more predictable and resilient business model," he added.

He said the company started FY22 at a strong pace, despite the impact of

the second wave. "We continue to see strong demand across all our business segments, plants running at capacity, and improving margins, supported by better macros and operating efficiencies," he said.

'Gathering pace'

Mr. Birla said economic indicators showed the Indian economy was 'rapidly' normalising towards pre-pandemic activity levels.

"The three factors of cyclical upswing, conducive policy impulses and an improving global backdrop are likely to align themselves to position India for a virtuous cycle of growth and investments in the medium term," Mr. Birla said.

Vedanta makes gas discovery in Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Vedanta on Monday said it had made a natural gas discovery in a block in Gujarat that it had won in the open acreage licensing policy (OALP) round.

In a regulatory filing, the company said it had "notified the DGH and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on August 23, of a gas and condensate discovery [named 'Jaya'] in its exploratory well Jaya1, drilled in OALP Block in Bharuch District of Gujarat."

The approval of the management committee has also been sought.

The block was awarded to the company in October 2018 and is one of the 41 areas awarded to it in OALP-I round of bidding.

HDFC Bank eyes 5 lakh new credit cards a month

Lender's thrust follows RBI lifting ban

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HDFC Bank aims to regain market share in the creditcard business in 9-12 months through aggressive customer acquisition backed by a robust technology backbone to support its operations.

The move comes months after the RBI banned the lender from issuing fresh cards on concerns over repeated technological outages. HDFC Bank aims to add

five lakh cards to its portfolio every month from February next, said Parag Rao, group head, payments, consumer finance, digital banking and IT.

"The last few months have been spent in readying ourselves for the future," he added. "With our new offer-



Parag Rao

ings as well as our existing suite of cards, we are confident of meeting the needs of our customers and coming back with a bang," he added.

He said the bank has already achieved the card-issuance level seen in November last and the momentum will grow henceforth from 3 lakh cards a month to 5 lakh a month in six months.

RBI panel moots four tiers for UCBs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

A Reserve Bank-appointed committee has suggested a four-tier structure for the urban cooperative banks (UCBs).

The committee said UCBs could be split into 4 categories - tier-1 with deposits up to ₹100 crore; tier-2 with deposits between ₹100-₹1,000 crore, tier-3 with deposits bet-₹1,000 crore-₹10,000 and tier-4 with deposits of over ₹10,000 crore. It suggested the minimum capital to riskweighted assets ratio could vary from 9% to 15% and for tier-4 UCBs, the Basel III norms. It also prescribed separate ceilings for home, gold and unsecured loans

FM unveils ₹6 lakh-cr. asset monetisation plan

Govt. tags trains, stations, airports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled an ambitious ₹6 lakh-crore National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) that included unlocking value by involving private firms across infrastrucsectors passenger trains and railway stations to airports.

As many as 25 Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports as well as 40 railway stations and an unidentified number of railway colonies have been identified for getting private investments.

Under the plan, private firms can invest in projects for a fixed return using the InvIT route as well as operate and develop the assets NMP will unlock value by involving private firms across infra sectors

transferring them back to the government agency.

"The asset monetisation pipeline takes the National Infrastructure Pipeline to the next phase where you are looking at public-private partnership," she said.

Stating there is no transfer of ownership or land, she said "the NMP talks about brownfield assets where there is a completed asset which is either languishing or remaining not fully monetised." The total indicative value for Centre's core assets has been estimated at ₹6 lakh crore over the 4-year

Eicher names Lal MD again, revises pay

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The board of Eicher Motors on Monday 'unanimously' decided to reappoint Siddhartha Lal as MD along with a revised remuneration structure, days after an earlier proposal was rejected by the shareholders.

The board will now go back to the shareholders for approving the appointment via postal ballot.

"The primary concern with investors was... lack of clarity regarding the enabling provision that potentially allowed payment of remuneration of up to 3% of profit," said S. Sandilya, chairman. The board has now approved a revised remuneration structure for the MD, with a maximum cap of 1.5% of profit.

EID Parry kicks off pilot to study potash extraction

Firm eyes domestic fertilizer market

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

EID Parry (India) Ltd., one of the largest sugar manufacturers in the South, has undertaken a pilot study to establish the extraction of potash from ash produced in distilleries.

As the opportunity for potash fertilizer availability in India is plenty and since the company is already a pioneer with established technology and product, EID Parry proposes to carry out a pilot study on this concept, the company said in the annual report.

Besides, EID Parry said it was exploring avenues to convert sugar, distillery and nutra by-products (waste) into value-added products for aquaculture, poultry



and animal husbandry.

For the current fiscal, EID Parry expects to register marginal growth due to better realisation from sugar and alcohol. Retail and institutional segments are expected to register modest growth over last year and export quotas are expected to be fulfilled with better price realisations, said chairman V. Ravichandran.

Amritpal and Amjyot star in the team's win over Palestine

CCI fines Maruti Suzuki ₹200 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Monday imposed a penalty of ₹200 crore on Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL) for indulging in 'unfair business practices' by restricting dealers from offering discounts to customers.

The antitrust regulator also passed a "cease and desist" order against the

company. "We have seen the CCI order dated August 23. We are examining the order and will take appropriate action under law," a company spokesperson said. "MSIL has always worked in the best interests of consumers and will continue to do so in the future," the spokesperson added.

'India seeing 60% surge in demand for data scientists'

Digital transformation efforts boosting hiring: TeamLease

MINI TEJASWI BENGALURU

India is currently seeing a 60% surge in hiring for data scientists compared with the January-March quarter of 2021, recruitment firms said. The trend is likely to con-

quarters as close to 80% of data firms are busy ramping up recruitment to meet exploding demand. Among all digital skills, a data scientist's has become

tinue for the next several

'extremely hot' these days and hence, the demand has risen significantly across industries, as per TeamLease Digital, a specialised staffing division of TeamLease.

companies race [ahead] on the digital-trans-



formation efforts, sophisticated use of analytics is the answer to staying in the game," said Munira Loliwala, AVP, Diversified Engineering, TeamLease Digital.

Sectors including health-

tech, manufacturing, BFSI,

"This is pushing companies, including non-IT firms, to ramp up their data team."

auto and retail have raised the hiring mandate for data professionals at least by 60% this fiscal, the firm said. "Hiring volumes have

picked up phenomenally in the last couple of quarters with almost every private and public business that deals in data going gung-ho about onboarding data professionals," said B.S. Murthy, CEO, Leadership Capital, a tech hiring outfit.

India has more than one lakh vacancies for data science roles, according to TeamLease Digital. However, there aren't enough readily-employable professionals, said Abhimanyu Saxena, co-founder, Scaler Academy, an ed-tech start-up.

Campaign to revive lapsed LIC policies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Life Insurance Corpo ration of India (LIC) has announced a special campaign for revival of lapsed

The special revival campaign has been introduced from August 23 to October 22, 2021 for individual lapsed policies, the insurer said in a statement.

Concessions up to ₹3,000 are being offered on late fee for policies other than Term Assurance and High Risk plans, depending on the total premiums to be paid. There are no concessions on medical requirements. health and micro insurance plans also qualify for the concession on late fee,

the insurer said.

IN BRIEF

Gaurav Saini in final

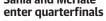
Gaurav Saini (70kg) defeated Kyrgyzstan's Zakirov Mukhammadaziz 4-1 to enter the final of the Asian junior boxing championships in Dubai on Sunday.

Other results: Quarterfinals: **54kg:** Ashis bt Rahmanov Jafar (Tjk) 5-0; 57kg: Anshul bt Mansoor Khaled (UAE) RSO; +81kg: Bharat Joon bt Kenesbaev Aynazar (Uzb) 3-2; 46kg: Krish Pal lost to Bakhtiyor Yakhshiboev (Uzb) RSO; **63kg:** Preet Malik lost

to Eldar Esembaev (Kyr) RSO.

Sania and McHale

CLEVELAND India's Sania Mirza and her American partner Christina McHale entered the quarterfinals of the Cleveland Championships with a straight sets 6-3, 6-2 win over Oksana Kalashnikova and Andreea Mitu here.





FIBA ASIA CUP

with a satisfactory show at the Asia Cup qualifiers. In the qualifying tournament held at Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), India lost its opening outing to Saudi Arabia 61-80 before edging out Pales-

India's passage to the main draw was sealed after Saudi Arabia defeated Palestine in a one-sided affair.

tine 79-77.

Amritpal Singh points) and Amjyot Singh (23 points) starred in India's victory over Palestine.

Joginder Singh (17 points)



emerged as the top-scorer in The 2021 edition is sche-

Indian hoopsters make it to the main draw

the defeat to table-topper Saudi Arabia. This is the 10th straight FI-

BA Asia Cup appearance for the Indian men's team.

duled to be held in Jakarta (Indonesia) next year. The team has also booked

a slot for the FIBA World Cup 2023 Asian qualifiers, which prize of ₹10 lakh to the team.

vear.

Basketball Federation of India (BFI) president K. Govindraj announced a cash

begins in November this

Indian football season SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Durand Cup to kick start

Five Indian Super League (ISL) teams and three I-League outfits will be among 16-teams that will take part in the 130th edition of Durand Cup football tournament, which will be played here in different venues from September 5 to October 3.

The ISL teams who have confirmed their participation include Jamshedpur FC, FC Goa, Bengaluru FC, Hyderabad FC, and Kerala The ISL teams, who util-

ise the tournament for preseason preparations, will expectedly be leaving out the foreigners in their rosters in preference for a mix of age-group players and some senior Indian players available in their squads.

Local club Mohammedan Sporting, Gokulam Kerala FC and Sudeva FC of Delhi are the three I-League clubs in the fray.

FC Bengaluru United and

Delhi FC are two teams from the Second Division I-League while two Indian Army teams (Red and Green), a team each from Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, CRPF and the Assam Rifles complete the list of par-

The 16 teams will be divided in four groups in the initial group league stage. The top two teams from each group will progress to the knock-out stage.

Ligament tear floors Bajrang



Bajrang Punia. • PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Olympic bronze medallist

Bajrang Punia will not compete in the upcoming wrestling World Championships after being advised a six-week rehabilitation to treat the ligament tear he suffered in his right knee in the run-up to the Tokyo Games. The World Championships will be held in Oslo, Norway, from October 2 to 10.

The Summer of '71 that scripted a new chapter in Indian cricket

Sunil Gavaskar remembers the famous victory at The Oval under Ajit Wadekar's captaincy that brought India its first series win in England

TURNING 50

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Aglorious chapter in the history of Indian cricket was written on this day 50 years ago when India won its first series in England at The

After a sensational aggregate of 774 runs in four Tests in the West Indies, Sunil Gavaskar was hailed as one of the premier batsmen in the world.

In this interview, Gavaskar reflects on the landmark England tour. Excerpts:

It was very early in your career, were there any apprehensions?

After a good tour of the West Indies, I was quietly confident but also aware that English conditions were vastly different from West Indian

Any advice from former cricketers/coaches?

I talked to Polly Umrigar, Vijay Manjrekar, Vinoo Mankad (my college coach), Bapu Nadkarni, Nari Contractor, Madhav and Arvind Apte, to



The history makers: The tour of England in 1971 was a memorable one for the Indian team as it clinched the series 1-0.

name a few.

But above all, to the then chairman of selectors Vijay Merchant, who had had two outstanding tours of England in 1936 and 1946.

The length of the tour (last week of June to first week of September) must have been demanding.

It was something none of us were used to. But being our first trip to England, it was quite enjoyable.

There were eight tour matches before the first Test.

How helpful were they? We got used to the weather and pitches. Players got the time to get into form.

England recovered from 71 for five in the first innings of the first Test at Lord's...

Ray Illingworth was out a couple of times (but not given). Throughout the series, he benefited from such decisions. Maybe because he was the England captain.

You rate the 57 in the first innings of the second Test very high...

I have always said the 57 at Old Trafford in 1971 is my best Test innings.

It was a real green top and there was a drizzle that was freshening up the pitch and the wind was biting cold. India made history at The Oval, winning by four

Despite conceding the lead in the first innings we were



second innings victims included Snow.

brought back into the game by Chandra's bowling and Wadekar's shrewd captaincy.

If you look at the England dismissals, they were all catches in front of the stumps - with Ekki (Solkar) again brilliant – or bowled.

So the umpires didn't come into play at all. The scenes below the balcony are still vivid in memory.

About Chandrasekhar and Sardesai's contributions...

Chandra was simply unplayable (two for 76 and six for 38). The Englishmen had no clue.

Sardesai played two vital knocks (54 and 40), and it was his partnership with Wadekar that saw us through the danger posed by Snow

Also, Sardesai, with his good humour and jokes, kept us in high spirits, especially on the long coach rides between the counties. Ashok Mankad was another, who despite not getting too many runs, was invaluable with his sense of fun.

Crucial contribution: Solkar's catching was among the highlights of India's victory.

Here he snaps up Knott off Venkatraghavan. ■THE HINDU ARCHIVES

How did the West Indies tour contribute to your success in

Beating the West Indies under Garry Sobers had boosted our morale no end and that could be seen in the way we held our nerve on the final day to triumph at the

THE SCORECARD

England 355 in 108.4 overs (John Jameson 82, John Edrich 41, Alan Knott 90, Richard Hutton 81, Eknath Solkar 3/28) & 101 in 45.1 overs (Brian Luckhurst 33. B.S. Chandrasekhar 6/38) lost to India 284 in 117.3 overs (Ajit Wadekar 48, Dilip Sardesai 54, Solkar 44, Farokh Engineer 59, Syed Abid Ali 26, Ray Illingworth 5/70) & 174/6 in 101 overs (Wadekar 45, Sardesai 40, Gundappa Viswanath 33, Engineer 28 n.o., Derek Underwood 3/72)

'Happy people are talking about me'

Vice-captain Rahane says he is not bothered by criticism

S. DIPAK RAGAV

A jinkya Rahane is unfazed by the constant criticism he has received in recent times, saying it shows that he is an important player for the side.

The vice-captain made a crucial 61, his first half-century in eight innings, in the second innings of the Lord's Test that India won.

"I am happy people are talking about me. I am not bothered by criticism. People only criticise important people and, I am happy they are criticising me," said Rahane on Monday.

Defends Pujara

He also came out strongly in defense of Cheteshwar Pujara, another embattled batsman, with whom he stitched together a crucial 100-run stand for the fourth wicket.

It was all about hanging in there, thinking about the small targets and building on from there. There is always talk of Cheteshwar playing slow, but that innings was important for us," said the 33-year-old.

"He batted more than 200 balls even though he got just 45 runs. I thought those 200 balls were really crucial for us. We wanted to build one good partnership. We knew 170-180 would be a very good score on that wicket,"



Ending the drought: Aiinkva Rahane redeemed himself at Lord's with his first half-century in eight innings. • GETTY IMAGES

The third Test starts on Wednesday at Headingley, a venue where none of the current squad members have played in whites.

When asked if it will be a challenge for the team, especially the pacers, Rahane said, "We are not thinking about the conditions and what Headingley has to offer. It's all in the mind. Mentally we are really strong. It's about having that confidence and putting your best foot forward in this game."

He praised the contribution from the lower order in the first two matches, and said it can be frustrating for the opposition when the tail

"The last couple of games the contributions our lower

After finishing bowling, the lower-order batsmen want to spend time

order has given us... full credit to them. Since the WTC finals till now, every day they have batted 10-12 minutes in the nets. After finishing bowling, they also want to spend some time batting. Even if they add 10 runs each, we will have a very good score on the board."

Shardul fit

The Mumbai batsman also revealed that pacer Shardul Thakur has recovered from the hamstring injury that forced him to miss the second Test and is available for

White-ball fetish England's undoing

England did not go down in the second Test at Lord's owing to the ill-advised bouncer barrage at Jasprit Bum-

The host certainly blew an opportunity to win on a dramatic last day with its bizarre bowling tactics at the Indian tail that wagged.

But then, England lost because its batsmen lacked the heart, the will and the technique to bat two sessions on a wicket that held no devils.

Overdose

England's capitulation for 120 in just 51.5 overs mirrored a disturbing lack of defensive technique that is a direct consequence of an overdose of cricket in the shorter formats.

The batsmen lose sight of their off-stump, push hard at the ball, the feet and the hands no longer move in symphony, there are holes in defence and body balance is a million miles away.

And the lack of patience to see off spells is often shocking. A batting disaster is waiting to happen.

The Indian bowling was good, not devastating, and once England lost its only fully-rounded batsman Joe Root, there was going to be only one result.

Looking at the carnage in the English camp, India must consider itself fortunate that it still possesses a



Beginning of the end: The wicket of Root, who was dismissed by Bumrah, broke England's resistance. • AFP

Test match specialist in Cheteshwar Pujara.

His 206-ball second innings 45 stonewalling the English pace attack that threatened to make serious inroads was an extremely valuable Test-match innings.

Play as per situation

Batting in Tests is not always about momentum that has become a fashionable term with many. It's a lot about playing the situation, soaking up the pressure and blunting the bowling. Once this is accomplished, the others can cash in.

It is no coincidence that when the Indians staged a famous jailbreak in the Sydney Test last season, the two batsmen, Hanuma Vihari and R. Ashwin, who bravely batted 42.4 overs to halt the Australian surge for a win, had minimal exposure to batting in Twenty20 cricket.

Vihari, like Pujara, is a Test match specialist and the chances for Ashwin to bat in IPL games are few and far

After the debacle in the 2015 ODI World Cup down under, England made a conscious effort to revamp its white ball teams - it found astonishing success too but has clearly failed to Test groom

England's batting debacle at Lord's was in several ways reminiscent of its collapse on the final day of the Chennai Test of 2016.

specialists.

England went in for Tea at 167 for four but still ended up being bowled out. And the strokeplay, to put it mildly, was rash.

What England needs is grit, steel and that famous bulldog spirit that appears to have vanished with the likes of Ken Barrington.

Fawad and Shaheen put Pakistan in driving seat

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Fawad Alam's fifth Test century and Shaheen Afridi's six for 51 pushed Pakistan into the ascendancy in the second Test against the West Indies on Monday.

Fawad's unbeaten 124 lifted the tourists to 302 for nine declared before Shaheen and Mohammad Abbas (three for 44) helped skittle out West Indies for 150 in the second session on

wad occupied the crease over six hours, faced 213 deliveries and stroked 17 fours during his unbeaten 124.

day four. The 35-year-old Fa-

Pakistan 302/9 decl. in 110 overs (Babar Azam 75, Fawad Alam 124 n.o., Mohd. Rizwan 31. Kemar Roach 3/68. Javden Seales 3/31) & 52/0 in six overs vs West Indies 150 in 51.3 overs (Nkrunah Bonner 37, Jermaine Blackwood 33, Mohd. Abbas 3/ 44, Shaheen Afridi 6/51)

TV PICKS

Tokyo Paralympics 2020: Opening Ceremony, Eurosport (SD & — HD), 4.15 p.m. onwards

AFC Cup 2021: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 4.30

Champions League: Play-offs, Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

IN BRIEF



Wood out of third Test with 'jarred' shoulder

England pacer Mark Wood was on Monday ruled out of the third Test against India with a "jarred" shoulder, dealing another blow to the under-fire hosts. Wood had hurt his shoulder while fielding during the second Test at Lord's. PTI

Boucher apologises for

JOHANNESBURG

Former South Africa wicketkeeper and current head coach Mark Boucher has apologised for being part of the group that sang offensive songs and used nicknames for coloured teammates in his

playing days. After he was accused of racism by some of his teammates. including Paul Adams, Boucher submitted a 14-page affidavit to Cricket South Africa's Social Justice and Nation-Building (SJN) committee. PTI

Juve stumbles, Roma wins

Atletico jumps to the top of LaLiga

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Cristiano Ronaldo was denied a last-gasp winner to save Juventus after his stoppage-time header was ruled out for off-side in a dramatic 2-2 draw at Udinese, while Jose Mourinho got off to a winning start at Roma with a 3-1 victory over Fiorentina. Ronaldo started on the

bench at the Dacia Arena in Udine amid rumours he is looking for a way out of the Italian giant, but he almost snatched the three points deep into stoppage time after Juve insisted he was going nowhere this term.

Gareth Bale scored his first LaLiga goal since 2019 but it took two late goals from his replacement, Vinicius Jr., to earn Real Madrid a 3-3 draw at Levante.

That result allowed cham-

pion Atletico Madrid, which beat Elche 1-0 earlier in the evening, to take top spot. The results: Serie A: Udinese 2 (Perevra 51-pen, Deulofeu 83) drew with Juventus 2 (Dybala 3. Cuadrado 23); Roma 3 (Mkhitaryan 26, Veretout 64, 79) bt Fiorentina 1 (Milenkovic 60); Napoli 2 (Insigne 62-pen, Elmas 73) bt Venezia O.

LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 1 (Correa 39) bt Elche O; Levante 3 (Roger 46, Campana 57, Pier 79) drew with Real Madrid 3 (Bale 5, Vincius 73, 85).



Oh, no! Ronaldo was denied the winner by VAR. • REUTERS

Mariyappan, Jhajharia will look to repeat Rio show

Stage is set for the 54-member Indian team to continue the nation's fine performance in Japan





To Tokyo with hope: The Indian contingent will be keen on improving its Rio Games medal tally of four. Right: Mariyappan sets sights on another gold.

PARALYMPICS

ASHWIN ACHAL

When T. Mariyappan won the men's high jump gold medal in the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, his life changed forever. Mariyappan, who at age five suffered a permanent disability in his right leg after being run over by an errant bus driver, became an overnight sensation.

Cash rewards poured in, with the Tamil Nadu government leading the way with a

₹2 crore cheque for Mariyappan. The Khel Ratna, Padma Shri and Arjuna awards followed, as did a felicitation event chaired by cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar.

Brave sportspersons

Similar glory awaited India's other medallists – Devendra Jhajharia (gold, men's javelin), Deepa Malik (silver, women's shot put) and Varun Singh (bronze, men's high jump).

The nation rejoiced in the success of these brave sportspersons.

Games, which commences at Tokyo on Tuesday, provides another life-altering opportunity to India's 54member contingent. While Mariyappan and Jhajharia return to defend

their crowns, there are a host of other candidates keen on having their moments in the sun.

Sundar Gurjar, who lost a part of his left hand in a freak accident some years ago, is a strong contender in

Strong contender

The 2020 Paralympic Jhajharia's event. Para shuttler Pramod

Bhagat, the World No. 1 in his category (SL3 - standing/ lower limb impairment/minor), enters as a favourite.

The 33-year-old, a double gold medallist in the 2019 BWF World para badminton championship, most recently clinched the Peru and Brazil tournament titles.

cord injury caused by a car

accident, will look to im-

The shooting contingent is led by Avani Lekhara, who features in four events. Avani, affected by a spinal

Avani's colleague Rubina Francis (women's 10m air pistol SH1), with a world record and 2021 World Shoot-

World Cup.

prove upon her silver medal

at the 2019 Para Shooting

ing Para Sport Cup gold medal to her name, is another medal hope. Every one of these paraathletes have already over-

come tremendous odds to qualify for the mega event.

The stage is ready; it is now time to shine under the bright lights and continue India's fine show in Japan.

Samuel SPORTS BUREAU

Snehit upsets

OLOMOUC (CZECH REPUBLIC)

India's S. Snehit, ranked 415th in the world, shocked the 96th-ranked Samuel Walker of England 5-11, 3-11, 11-4, 12-10, 11-4, 11-8 in the first round of the Czech Open table tennis tournament here on Monday.

Other results: Singles (round of 32): Men: G. Sathiyan bt Tomas Koldas (Cze) 11-4, 11-2, 11-8, 11-5; Manav Thakkar bt Victor Yefimov (Ukr) 11-4, 11-8, 6-11, 11-8, 11-8; Mudit Dani lost to Adam Klajber (Svk) 11-4, 13-11, 12-10, 11-8; Jeet Chandra bt Alexandre Robinot (Fra) 13-11, 11-9, 10-12. 8-11. 11-8. 11-2: Sanil Shetty lost to Yevhen Pryshchepa (Ukr) 12-10, 9-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-8, 14-12. Women: Sreeja Akula bt Kat-

siaryna Baravok (Blr) 12-10, 12-10, 11-8, 13-11; Archana Kamath bt Marketa Sevcikova (Cze) 11-7, 11-4, 8-11, 11-7, 7-11, 9-11, 12-10. Mixed doubles (round of 16):

Sanil & T. Reeth Rishya bt Pavel Platonov & Katsiaryna Baravok (Blr) 11-3, 11-5, 11-6; Manav & Archana bt Akos Kishegyi & Bernadett Balint (Hun) 13-11, 10-12, 11-5, 11-7; Jeet & Selena Deepthi lost to Tomas Martinko & Zdena Blaskova (Cze) 11-9, 3-11, 11-13, 11-13.

M ND-NDE

Many Indians nominated for FIH awards

Harmanpreet Singh and Gurjit Kaur in the fray for 'player-of-the-year' honours



HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAUSANNE

The Indian men's hockey team drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh and his female counterpart Gurjit Kaur were on Monday nominated for the FIH 'player-of-theyear' awards as the country made the short-list in all the categories on the back of its great performance in the Tokyo Olympics.

Veteran custodian P.R. Sreejesh was among three short-listed for 'goalkeeper-

of-the-year' award for men while Savita Punia was among those short-listed in the women's category. Vivek Prasad and Sharmila Devi were nominated for 'rising star-of-the-year' awards.

Reid in the mix

The Indian men's team head coach Graham Reid and his women's team counterpart Sjoerd Marijne were among the nominees for the 'coachof-the-year' award for men and women.

Harmanpreet had scored six goals from eight matches to help the country clinch a historic bronze, while Gurjit was pivotal in the women's reaching the semifinals for the first time before losing to Great Britain in the bronze medal play-off.

The 25-year-old had scored the decisive goal from the penalty corner in India's stunning 1-0 win over Australia in the quarterfinals.

Players, coaches, media and fans can register their votes for the nominees till Sept. 15, the FIH said in a release. The winners will be announced by early October.



Gurjit Kaur. • PTI

GOLF ROUND-UP

Shiv Kapur ends

at a modest T-55 PRAGUE: Shiv Kapur rounded off the week with a modest 73 and finished T-55th at the D+D REAL Czech Masters here. It was a tame end to his campaign after the first two rounds of 70-70. He had carded 75 in the third. Johannes Veerman carded a final round 68 to claim his maiden European Tour title.

Aditi finishes tied 61st

CARNOUSTIE (SCOTLAND): Aditi Ashok carded another 75 to finish at Tied-61st place at the AIG Women's Open here. With rounds of

71-73-75-75 on the challenging Carnoustie Links, she was 7-over 295 for the week. Sweden's Anna Nordqvist won her third Major after clinching a one-shot

Amandeep Drall logs a top-10 finish

victory.

Amandeep Drall logged a top-10 finish with a round of one-under 70 despite a triple bogey on the ninth hole in the PGA Championship, here. Amandeep carded rounds of 74-68-70 and finished Tied-8th. Vani Kapoor (71) was 16th. PTI

National stadium to host junior tennis event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The iconic Major Dhyanchand National Stadium will host the AITA Championship series under-18 tennis tournament on the clay courts from September 13 to 17.

National Stadium gets back to hosting the tennis circuit after a long gap.

The qualifying events for boys and girls will be held on September 11 and

East Bengal in a fresh crisis

Shree Cement decides to pull out of the deal

FOOTBALL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA

East Bengal Club found itself in deep crisis on Monday when its investor Shree Cement conveyed its decision to pull the plug on the deal it had entered with the club roughly a year ago.

The decision came on the back of a continuing impasse with the officials of the 101vear-old club, who have put up a fresh list of demands and had been refusing to sign the final contract after giving their consent in the term sheet when the agreement was signed last year.

Shree Cement on Monday conveyed its decision in a

Advantage

ATKMB

AFC CUP

Tuesday.

crowned

semifinal.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ATK Mohun Bagan just

needs a draw against Bash-

undhara Kings of Bangla-

desh in its last group match

to qualify for the knock-out

stage of AFC Cup here on

With two wins in as ma-

ny games, the Mariners

have a two-point advantage over Kings. A draw will be enough for Antonio Lo-

pez Habas' side to be

champion and claim a

place in the inter-zone

Kings are able to shut down

Group D leading scorer Roy Krishna, who has scored

two from two for ATK Mo-

The Bangladesh cham-

Bengaluru FC, on the

pion, on four points after a

win and a draw, faces a

other hand, will look to

end its campaign on a pos-

itive note when it takes on

Maldivian side Maziya

Both teams are already

hun Bagan so far.

must-win situation.

out of contention.

Much will depend if the

South Zonal

letter addressed to the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had been instrumental in getting the cement behemoth to agree in funding East Bengal's entry into the Indian Super League last year.

Mamata unhappy

The Chief Minister, who in the last few days had been asking both the parties to end their differences and ensure the signing of the final contract, conveyed her "dismay and annoyance" at Shree Cement's unilateral decision to pull out. She later assured of making an effort from her side to convince the investor to stay

"The investor has through a letter conveyed to me that they won't be able to continue (their deal) with the club. I think it is a bad attitude on their (the investor's) part as they kept the club waiting for such a long time and then suddenly decided to part ways. I am both sad and displeased with this decision," Ms. Banerjee said

during a media briefing. "It is sad for a club like East Bengal which has a rich

legacy. We will also let them (the investor) know our displeasure. We will try (to resolve the issue) though time is very short," the Chief Minister said while keeping the option open for a renegotia-

Zverev, Barty triumph

TENNIS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE CINCINNATI

Alexander Zverev backed up his Olympic triumph with a fifth ATP Masters 1000 title as he crushed Andrey Rublev 6-2, 6-3 here on Sunday.

The German needed less than an hour against his long-time friend and rival. Women's World No. 1

Ashleigh Barty was similarly impressive in winning her fifth title of the season at the combined ATP and WTA event, cruising past Swiss wild card Jil Teichmann 6-3,

Although she doesn't leave Cincinnati with a trophy, women's runner-up Teichmann departs after a stellar week. The World No. 76 beat three top 12 players.

Jabbar, Sheikh in the lead

CARROM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Jabbar of Assam and

The two were followed by Abdul Rahman (24), Rahim Khan (24), Fazal Ahmed (30), Muneeruddin (31), Kalpesh Nalawade (32) and Mohd. Rehan (35), among others.

score of four points, in clearing his four boards. He had one white slam which improved his score by five points.

ternational Carrom Federation (ICF), Jozef Meyer, has announced a total cash prize purse of ₹2,25,000 for the tournament.

NEW DELHI

Mohammed Sheikh of Karnataka led with 20 net points after two rounds in the men's section of the Indian online carrom challenge hosted by the All India Carrom Federation

Rahim Khan was particularly impressive as he had the best second round

In the women's section, Kavya Shree of Jharkhand led with 44 points after two rounds. She was followed by Deepa Naik (48), Nidhi Gupta (54), Mantasha Igbal (56), Tanishka Viswakarma (61), Aakanksha Kadam (62), Shruti Sonawane (65) and Mamta Kkumari (66) among others, in a field of

The president of the In-

Akshaya Sri hogs the limelight

Teenager takes out higher-ranked players to enter last eight

SQUASH

K. KEERTHIVASAN

CHENNAI It was Akshaya Sri's day out in the HCL-SRFI Indian squash tour Chennai Leg-3 at the ISA courts here on Monday.

The 16-year-old ISA trainee, who defeated higherranked Radhika Rathore in the first round, returned to put it across the sixth-seeded Sanika Choudhari 8-11, 11-2, 11-8. 11-5.

Akshaya will take on Sachika Balvani, the third seed, in the last-eight clash.

Calculated drives

Akshaya pushed Sanika to the corners with calculated drives from the back of the court and often caught the latter deep on the backhand.

"I am very happy that I've put in my best performance yet in only my second PSA event," said Akshaya. The results (pre-quarterfi-



Sanika Choudhari. • SPECIAL CORRRESPONDENT

Moving ahead: Akshaya Sri, foreground, in action against

Abhishek Agarwal bt Jamal Sakib 11-9, 11-6, 11-8; Aadit Zaveri bt Yuvraj Wadhwani 11-9, 11-4, 11-5; Rahul Baitha bt Suraj Chand 11-4, 8-11, 11-5, 2-11, 11-8; Abhishek Pradhan bt Mo-

hit Bhatt 11-7, 11-9, 11-8. Abhay Singh bt Navaneeth Prabhu 12-10, 15-13, 11-6.

Women: Sunayna Kuruvilla bt Shameena Riaz 11-3, 11-4, 11-3; Urwashi Joshi bt Radhika Suthanthira Seelan 11-5, 4-11, 5-11, 11-4, 12-10.

Akshaya Sri bt Sanika Choudhari 8-11, 11-2, 11-8, 11-5; Sachika Balvani bt Aaradhana Kasturiraj 11-6, 11-2, 11-1.

Aparajitha Balamurukan bt Navya Gupta 11-2, 11-4, 11-3; Abhisheka Shannon bt Anjali Semwal 12-10, 12-10, 11-9; Janet Vidhi bt Sunita Patel 11-6, 11-9, 2-11, 11-5; Tanvi Khanna bt R. Pooja Arthi 11-3, 11-7, 11-5.





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SRM CAREER GUIDANCE DAY

The SRM Virtual Conclave for Career Guidance powered by The Hindu has been a resounding success. The conclave received registrations from almost one lakh students for its 15-part webinar series. The event witnessed in-depth engagement and feedback from the participants. The highly interactive webinar series was moderated by experts from The Hindu editorial team.

Owing to the emphatic response we received for the career guidance event, we shall be hereon celebrating August 24th as SRM Career Guidance Day in honour of the Founder of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) - Dr. T R Paarivendhar's birthday.





Special Guests



Dr. T R Paarivendhar Founder Chancellor SRMIST



Shri Ravi Pachamoothoo Pro Chancellor Administration **SRMIST**



Dr. P. Sathvanaravanan Pro Chancellor Academics **SRMIST**



Prof. C Muthamizhchelvan Vice Chancellor SRMIST



CEO The Hindu Group



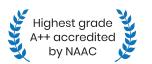
To know the winners of the Dr. T R Paarivendhar Scholarships visit https://bit.ly/SRMCGD or scan the QR code to register and watch the award ceremony live TODAY at 5:00 PM.



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