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NEARBY



Probe agencies too hit by lack of manpower: CJI

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Wednesday said probe agencies such as the CBI suffered from the dearth of manpower and infrastructure that the judiciary too faced. Both were "overburdened".
NEWS PAGE 8

AMU to probe posters condemning V-C

GHAZIABAD
AMU has ordered an internal inquiry into the appearance of posters on the campus condemning condolences by Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor on the demise of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh.
NORTH & EAST PAGE 4

Separate probe by Bengal into snooping can wait, observes SC

Court says it may take up Pegasus cases next week, pass comprehensive order

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday urged the West Bengal government to wait and not go ahead with a separate judicial inquiry into the Pegasus snooping allegations when the top court is already seized of the issue.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana and Justice Surya Kant did not pass a formal order staying the work of the government-appointed commission of inquiry after senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi gave an oral assurance to convey the top court's message of "restraint" to the government. The commission of in-

Under watch

A brief timeline of the cases linked to snooping controversy

July 22: A petition by advocate Manohar Lal Sharma seeking independent probe into Pegasus allegations reaches the Supreme Court. This petition is followed by several others, including the ones by veteran journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar

July 26: West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee announces the initiation of a commission of inquiry

August 5: A Bench led by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana hears the Pegasus petitions

August 17: SC issues pre-admission notice to the Centre

August 18: SC hears a separate petition challenging the setting up of the commission of inquiry by the West Bengal government

quiry comprises retired Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B. Lokur and retired Chief Justice of the Calcutta

High Court Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya. Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the peti-

tioner, an NGO called 'Global Village Foundation', submitted that there cannot be a parallel inquiry when the top court was hearing the issue.

The Bench said it may take up the Pegasus cases next week and pass a comprehensive order. It tagged the petition with the Pegasus cases pending before it.

"We expect some restraint... We expect you to wait," Chief Justice Ramana addressed Mr. Singhvi.

Justice Kant said any decision in the Pegasus issue would likely have a pan-India impact.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Decide plea on Asthana in two weeks: SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Delhi High Court to decide the legality of the appointment of Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner "preferably" within two weeks.

A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, allowed NGO Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, to intervene in the case in the High Court.

The order was passed when Mr. Bhushan's case, also challenging the appointment, came up for hearing before the top court Bench.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Vaccinate school staff on priority basis: govt.

Centre sends two crore doses to States

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

The Union government has allocated more than two crore additional COVID-19 vaccines to the States to vaccinate schoolteachers and non-teaching staff on a priority basis in the run-up to Teachers Day on September 5. These additional doses will be sent from August 27 to 31, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Wednesday.

This drive comes even as a technical advisory group on immunisation recommended a strategy to vaccinate children aged 12-17 who have comorbidities by October, followed by a roll-out for all children in that age



Students sit for a COVID-19 briefing in Bengaluru. • AFP

group once adults have been vaccinated.

There are almost 97 lakh teachers and though they were not listed among the frontline workers who received initial priority doses, NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul claimed earlier this month that almost 50% had already been vaccinated.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Chhattisgarh compromise on cards

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

A day after Congress's Chhattisgarh in-charge P.L. Punia announced that Bhupesh Baghel will continue as the Chief Minister, sources on Wednesday said the last word has not yet been spoken on the matter.

The Chhattisgarh crisis is brewing at a time when the party is trying hard to put off a fire in Punjab.

Mr. Baghel and Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo, who

has also staked claim to the Chief Minister's chair, had a long meeting with former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday. Party general secretary-organisation, K. C. Venugopal has been assigned to work out a compromise formula between the two, according to the sources. This may see Mr. Deo as the Deputy Chief Minister, induction of his supporters, and weeding out of those opposed to him.

In a show of strength, a

strong contingent of supporters welcomed Mr. Baghel on his return to Raipur on Wednesday. Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat tweeted a photo of the rousing welcome that Mr. Baghel received, along with a comment: "Those who want to destabilise the government should understand that this is the government of farmers, tribals and common people."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
LEADERS MEET RAWAT PAGE 9

Cabinet clears ₹15,000 cr. NMP-linked FDI proposal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday cleared a foreign direct investment (FDI) proposal entailing an investment of up to ₹15,000 crore in Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding (AIIH) Ltd., a company incorporated to invest in the infrastructure and construc-

tion development sectors. The government said the investment would prove to be a "significant boost to the recently announced National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)" as AIIH had proposed downstream investments in some of the sectors covered under the NMP.

DETAILS ON PAGE 14

Govt. clears 9 names for SC judges

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The government is learnt to have cleared all nine names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, for appointments as judges of the top court.

One of the names, Justice B.V. Nagarathna of the Karnataka High Court, may be in line to become the first woman Chief Justice of India, thus scripting history.

It is learnt that the files

have been forwarded to the President for further formalities and issuance of warrant of appointments.

If all goes to plan, the Supreme Court will have the nine new judges sworn in early next week.

The nine names include eight judges and one lawyer from the Supreme Court Bar. They are Karnataka Chief Justice A.S. Oka, who is the senior-most Chief Justice among all High Court Chief Justices; Gujarat Chief Jus-

tice Vikram Nath; Sikkim Chief Justice J.K. Maheshwari; Telangana Chief Justice Hima Kohli, who is also the only serving woman Chief Justice of a High Court; Justice Nagarathna; Kerala High Court judge, Justice C.T. Ravikumar; Madras High Court judge, Justice M.M. Sundresh; Gujarat High Court judge, Justice Bela M. Trivedi; and senior advocate P.S. Narasimha, in that order.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

All is not well in J&K Cricket Association

Rasool alleges conspiracy to end career

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Once the posterboy of cricket in Kashmir, earning praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the captain of the Jammu and Kashmir team, Parvez Rasool, is distraught by an e-mail written by a member of a Board of Control for Cricket in India-appointed sub-committee, seeking to "nail him down".

"I fail to understand why I am being targeted. It's clear the intention is to tarnish my image and ruin my future. It seems there are forces who want to end my career. The mail of a sub-committee member talking about 'nailing me down' has disturbed me mentally," Mr. Rasool, the first cricketer from Kashmir to play for India (in 2014), and also join the Indian Premier League (IPL) teams, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Rasool, who hails from the small town of Bijbehara in south Kashmir, was referring to the e-mail he received inadvertently from Brigadier Anil Gupta, member, administration, J&K Cricket Association, on July 26, in which he addressed Srinagar in-charge-cricket Majid Dar with a short message: "Do we have any proof to nail him down", a copy of which is with *The Hindu*. In a subsequent email, though, Brig. Gupta praised Mr. Rasool, saying, "JKCA has high regards for your cricketer achievements and wish you all the best for the future."

'Return equipment'
However, Brig. Gupta also accused Mr. Rasool of "not returning equipment belonging to the JKCA".



Parvez Rasool

Earlier, in another mail, Brig. Gupta asked Mr. Rasool to return a pitch roller or face "police action". "Please keep me out of this as I reiterate that I have not taken any machinery from the JKCA. In case you have any receipt, please enlighten me... I assure you my support for the betterment of J&K cricket, as a cricketer who has given his life to it," read the reply from Mr. Rasool, who alleged "unnecessary victimisation" after a new sub-committee was constituted in the JKCA.

Three months ago, a three-member administrative sub-committee was constituted by the BCCI "to look after the affairs of the JKCA and resolve the long-pending dispute between 30 cricket clubs and 20 district-level teams" in the Union Territory. The sub-committee is headed by Brig. Gupta, a BJP spokesperson according to his Twitter account; and also comprises advocate Sunil Sethi, a BJP leader who shot into limelight during the 2008 Amarnath land row agitation; and former cricketer Mithun Manhas, who owns the Jammu Cricket Club.

BCCI-APPOINTED PANEL MET WITH CRITICISM PAGE 9

Physical presence mandatory for marriage registration: Delhi govt.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Wednesday informed the High Court that the physical presence of a couple, seeking registration of their marriage, before the authority concerned is mandatory and it cannot be done through vi-

deoconferencing. The government's counsel said the process of marriage registration includes a photograph of the couple being taken at the SDM's office.

Justice Rekha Palli, while hearing a plea by a couple who got married in 2012 and are currently residing in the

U.S., said the process to be undertaken only pertained to the registration of a marriage that has already happened. "You are only registering something. They are not marrying in your presence," the judge remarked.

The court will hear the case again on September 6.

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IN BRIEF

One more arrested in hate sloganeering case
NEW DELHI
The Delhi police has arrested one more person for allegedly raising anti-Muslim slogans during a protest near Jantar Mantar here on August 8, the police said on Wednesday. The accused, identified as Uttam Upadhyay, was arrested from Ghaziabad. In a video that surfaced on social media, the police said he was the main person who was seen raising the slogans. PTI

DBSE to hold aptitude tests from Aug. 27-31
NEW DELHI
The Delhi Board of School Education announced that it will be conducting aptitude tests for admission to Schools of Specialised Excellence from August 27-31. The Board said the admit card is available for download via the Directorate of Education's website and through a private link sent to student's registered number.

Court discharges BJP MP in poll affidavit case
NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Wednesday discharged BJP MP Hans Raj Hans in a case of allegedly giving ambiguous information in his affidavit filed along with his nomination form in the 2019 general elections. The Additional CMM granted relief to the MP after finding that "no prima facie case is made against him". PTI

Four-year UG course will result in dilution of degrees: DU teachers

'Multiple exit model might have a detrimental impact on poor students'

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI
With the Delhi University's statutory bodies approving implementation of the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) under the National Education Policy (NEP), several teachers raised objections while stating that it was the students who had "revolted" the last time FYUP was implemented.

On Tuesday, DU's Academic Council (AC) had passed the implementation of the NEP from the next academic year with 16 elected members dissenting and alleging that proper discussions were not held on the matter.

According to the NEP, students will have access to a multiple entry and exit scheme by which they will be able to join and leave their respective programmes at different stages.

DU professors said that the implementation of FYUP would lead to dilution of degrees and the multiple exit model might also be detrimental for students who are from economically backward



Delhi University students protesting against implementation of the FYUP back in 2013. • FILE PHOTO

sections. Miranda House professor Abha Dev Habib said: "When the FYUP was implemented earlier [in 2013], students who usually took admission after the soaring cut-off marks found that the first year was completely diluted. They were unhappy about the common foundation courses that they were required to take. One extra year also means that the total cost of education, which also includes accommodation and living expenses, also tend to increase."

"In a society like ours, where women students face a lot of struggles, the chances of higher number of students dropping out is also a possibility. They might come under family pressure and want to exit courses at various stages. This false sense that one can get a diploma will work against students. Also what employability factor will such students face?" asked Ms. Habib.

The dissent note put forth by 16 of the 26 elected AC members read: "The University of Delhi has not asked for

detailed feedback of the report of the NEP implementation from all stakeholders. The report must be sent for discussion to all statutory bodies before taking it to the Academic Council."

No discussion
Mithuraj Dhusiya, an AC member who dissented said, "It is extremely unfortunate that no substantial discussion was allowed in the Academic Council on the matter of FYUP with MEEES [multiple entry/exit] or on other agenda items. No voting was allowed and the elected members were asked to deposit dissent notes."

Rajib Ray, president of the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) said: "The implementation of provisions in NEP 2020 will also lead to a drastic cut in the workload and hence it is not acceptable. Fixing of the academic year 2022-23 as the year of implementation assumes that the university is ready to go ahead with the implementation without any discussion."

'Center has told Delhi no need for panel on oxygen-scarcity deaths'

Sisodia accuses Mandaviya of lying

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said that the Central government has informed the Delhi government that there is no need to form a committee to look into deaths due to oxygen shortage during the second wave in the city.

Mr. Sisodia also accused Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya of lying about reasons cited by him to deny formation of a panel to inquire into such deaths. "By saying that there is no need for a committee to investigate deaths due to oxygen shortage as the task force and sub-group constituted by the Supreme Court is investigating it, the Union Health Minister is lying shamelessly," Mr. Sisodia said during a digital briefing in which no questions from the media were taken.

"Neither the task force set up by the Supreme Court nor the sub-group formed in the States for oxygen audit is

mandated to investigate the deaths due to lack of oxygen," he added.

Mr. Sisodia said that the Central government does not want an inquiry into the deaths and the oxygen mismanagement happened due to its negligence. "The Union Health Minister is defrauding us by lying using false interpretations of the National Task Force. I want to ask the Union Minister that if the Supreme Court only had to investigate the deaths that occurred due to oxygen shortage, then why did the Centre in the first place ask States to declare the number of deaths? What sort of drama is the Centre doing," he asked.

The Minister claimed that thousands of people lost their lives due to the negligence of the Centre and its gross mismanagement of oxygen. "The reason behind such gross mismanagement is PM Modi's irresponsibility and his attention towards West Bengal elections," he added.

DDMA panel for phased resumption of all classes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Schools in the Capital may be reopened in a phased manner as an expert committee, set up by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), has submitted a report to the authority recommending that senior students can be called to school in the first phase. The report of the committee will however be taken into consideration at the next DDMA meeting.

According to government sources, the DDMA panel has recommended that schools be reopened for all classes but senior-wing students be called in the first phase followed by middle-class students and ultimately the primary classes. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that experiences from other States are mixed and the Delhi government is keeping a close eye on the situation. "We don't want to take any risks when it comes to children. We also want to open schools as soon as possible. I will let you know whenever there is a decision on this," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Plea to ban sex-selective surgeries on infants

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Delhi government and the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) on a petition highlighting the need to ban sex-selective surgeries on infants born with "intersex traits".

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh gave the direction on a petition by Srishiti Madurai Educational Research Foundation seeking to declare a ban on medically unnecessary, sex-selective surgeries on intersex infants and children, except in cases of life-threatening situations.

The organisation, which

claims to have done extensive work on issues pertaining to human rights violations of intersex people, stated that in April 2019, the Madras High Court in a landmark verdict directed the Tamil Nadu government to effectively ban sex reassignment surgeries on intersex infants and children.

The plea, filed through advocate Robin Raju, said the issue of sex-selective surgeries or "medically unnecessary normalising surgeries" had a long-lasting drastic psychological impact on the minds of intersex people and deterred them from even seeking medical attention in future.

The court will hear the case on October.

People facing issues while applying for COVID relief, admits welfare Minister

Officials told to make process hassle-free, expedite disbursal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Wednesday said people who lost family members to COVID-19 are facing issues while applying for financial assistance schemes.

Children who have been orphaned due to the virus are also facing problems, Mr. Gautam said, while directing officials to expedite disbursal of compensation.

On Monday, the High Court had said it "would be unfair to expect children who lost their parents to procure documents and avail benefits" and directed the government to fix issues

in the process. The court made the observation after an NGO said that even though numerous schemes were framed after April this year, nothing much has moved on the ground.

"People are facing issues while applying for the scheme. A major problem is the issuance of survival member certificates. These certificates are not issued on time, which is creating pendency in approving these cases. As directed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the application process should be hassle-free. There should be sensitivity among officials visiting homes of families who have lost a loved

one. We should not create any additional burden on them," the Minister said.

There are 6,200 children left with a single parent and 292 orphaned as on August 16 due to the virus, as per a Delhi government report.

Mr. Gautam told officials there should be minimal rejection rates and ordered District Magistrates to conduct ground surveys to identify affected families.

"In many cases, the family member died due to COVID but their reports came after 2-3 days. Such cases need to be identified, so that they also come under the ambit of the relief scheme," Mr. Gautam said.

COVID-19 Rapid Response Centre opens at Rajiv Gandhi Hospital

It has a 23-bed ICU and centralised oxygen supply: officials

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Health Minister Satyendar Jain inaugurated a 'COVID-19 rapid response centre' at Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital on Wednesday.

The centre will offer immediate treatment to patients upon arrival without waiting for admission.

As the city is preparing for a possible third wave, the Minister said more such centres will be opened to ensure efficient emergency response.

The centre has been divided into two areas: a seven-bed triage area and a 23-bed ICU. All beds have multipara monitors with critical care equipment like ventilators, BIPAP machines, HFNC and crash carts, an official said.

It is fully equipped with a centralised oxygen supply. A rapid response team, comprising critical care consultants, resident doctors, nursing staff and orderlies, and technicians will man the



Nurses at the newly inaugurated rapid response centre at Rajiv Gandhi Hospital in Delhi on Wednesday. • R.V. MOORTHY

centre round the clock.

"This centre will ensure immediate treatment to patients upon arrival without waiting for admission and the patients will be shifted later on to the wards concerned depending on their condition," Mr. Jain said.

City reports one death
Meanwhile, the city reported only one COVID-19 death and

35 new cases in the past 24 hours, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government. While the total cases stood at 14,37,550, the death toll touched 25,080.

A total of 73,511 tests were done in a day and the test positivity rate was 0.05%. Of the total cases, 14,12,081 people have recovered and there are only 389 active cases, the health bulletin stated.

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Notes: 1) That our 498-Jamnagar Branch has also extended financial assistance (CUB OSL TERM EMI-BR-501812080025885) dated 09-11-2020 requested by No.1 of you represented by Nos. 3 & 5 of you as Directors for which Nos. 1, 3, 4 & 5 of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of Rs. 50,00,000/- at a ROI of 10%. The same has been also classified as NPA on 29-05-2021 and the outstanding balance as on 02-07-2021 is Rs. 4,75,47,559/- plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rests to be charged from 03-07-2021 till the date of realization.

2) That our 498-Jamnagar Branch has also extended financial assistance (CUB OSL TERM EMI-BR-501812080029643) dated 21-07-2017 requested by No.1 of you represented by Nos. 3 & 5 of you as Directors for which Nos. 2, 3 & 4 of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of Rs. 1,00,00,000/- at a ROI of 11%. The same has been also classified as NPA on 29-05-2021 and the outstanding balance as on 02-07-2021 is Rs. 3,73,07,473/- plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rests to be charged from 03-07-2021 till the date of realization.

3) That our 498-Jamnagar Branch has also extended financial assistance (CUB OSL TERM EMI-BR-501812080025885) dated 28-02-2017 requested by No.1 of you represented by Nos. 3 & 5 of you as Directors for which Nos. 1, 3, 4 & 5 of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of Rs. 4,80,00,000/- at a ROI of 11%. The same has been also classified as NPA on 29-05-2021 and the outstanding balance as on 02-07-2021 is Rs. 4,34,360/- plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rests to be charged from 03-07-2021 till the date of realization.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A : (Property Owned By Mr. Pankaj Vallabhdas Joisar, S/o. Allahbhdas)
All that Piece and parcel of Immovable Property bearing Plot No. 765 admeasuring 1,250.37 Sq.Mtrs. of Land area of Revenue Survey No. 1177 of Village Dared situated in GIDC Industrial Estate, Phase - II Near Dared By - Pass Road, Jamnagar. The same is bounded as under: East : Plot No. 764, West : Plot No. 766, North : Plot No. 741, 742 & 743, South : 20.00 Mtrs. wide Road.

Movables Hypothecated to our Bank
Schedule - B
All stocks, Plant and Machinery at Plot No.765, GIDC Phase II, New Dared, Jamnagar - 361004. Place: Kumbakonam, Date : 18-08-2021 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, (CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR (MED).
Fax No: 0194-2497053, email: xenmds@gmail.com, website: www.medkashmir.org

DATE EXTENSION NOTICE-I
Subject: Repair to TATA LPT -1109 bearing registration No JK01U-9238 pertaining to the office of Executive Engineer, Transmission Line Maintenance Division-7 JKPTCL, Srinagar.
Reference: 1. This office nIT No: MDS/TS/2021-22/ 74 /e-tendering Dated: 18.08.2021
2. Tender Id: 2021_PWDJK_134905_1).

Due to no response, the critical dates of the above referred nIT are extended as under:

Last date of submission of technical bids	Extended Dates
28.08.2021 upto 12.00 Noon	28.08.2021 upto 12.00 Noon
Date of opening of technical bids online	28.08.2021 at 14.00 Hrs

The bidders may please note part no. of BoQ/Items as under:

Item Description	Part No.
Clutch Plate (fan Type)	3320018100
Pressure Plate	272425400138
Flywheel Assy	252703110118

All other terms, conditions and technical specifications of the NIT/corrigendum shall remain same. Sd/- (Er. Rajesh Sharma) Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Srinagar
DIP/K- 7101/21

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANS. LINE MAINT. DIV-II, JKPTCL, GLADNI, JAMMU.
Jammu & Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited (e-mail-xentlmd2@gmail.com) Ph. No. & fax No. 0191-2950860

INVITATION OF e-BIDS FOR
ENIT No.: TLMD-II/J/12 of 2021-22 Dated: 17.08.2021

Executive Engineer, TLMD-II, JKPTCL Gladni (hereinafter referred to as "the Employer") for and on behalf of Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites e-bids from experienced Contractors/Companies/Firms for "Renovation of Control Room Building and divisional office building at 220/132/33 KV Grid Station Gladni".

Bidders are advised to study the bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-bid against this Standard Bidding Document (SBD) shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the standard bidding document with full understanding of its implications. The tender document is available at website http://jtenders.gov.in. Interested bidders may download the e-bid document, submit their e-bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

Scope of Work:- "Renovation of Control Room Building and divisional office building at 220/132/33 KV Grid Station Gladni"
Rs 51.67 Lacs.

Estimated Cost:- Rs 51.67 Lacs.
Earnest Money:- Rs 103000 (Rupees One Lac Three Thousand Only)
Cost Of Tender Document:- Rs. 3000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only) in the shape of non-refundable bank draft drawn in favour of Executive Engineer TLMD-II, JKPTCL, Jammu Payable at Jammu.

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be loaded over http://jtenders.gov.in from 19-08-2021 (17:00 PM onwards)
B	Tender Document Issue date	17/08/2021 at 4:00 PM
C	e-Bid submission start date (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	21-08-2021 from 10:00 AM
D	Last date for submission of hard copy of e-bid	13-09-2021 up to 4:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission end date & Time	13-09-2021 at 04:00 PM
F	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	15-09-2021 at 2:00 PM
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & Time	Shall be communicated to the Qualified Bidders separately.
H	Estimated cost	Rs 51.67 Lacs
I	Venue of opening of technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of Executive Engineer TLMD-II, JKPTCL, Gladni, Jammu
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1.03 Lacs

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Trans. Line Maint. Div II, JKPTCL, Gladni, Jammu.
DIP/J-2466/P-21

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़

शुद्धि पत्र
एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि PR No. 251760 Road (21-22) D द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा में कार्य का नाम "पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़ अन्तर्गत सिम्पुर (MDR-245 पर) (नलहट्टी-पाकुड़िया पथ, ODR पर) (पश्चिम बंगाल सीमा तक) पथ (लंबाई -0.00 से 23.406 कि०मी०) में चौड़ीकरण एवं मजबूतीकरण / पुनर्निर्माण कार्य। वित्तीय वर्ष 2021-22" के स्थान पर "पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़ अन्तर्गत सिम्पुर (MDR-245 पर) राधानगर (नलहट्टी-पाकुड़िया पथ, ODR पर) (पश्चिम बंगाल सीमा तक) पथ (कुल लंबाई 0.00 से 23.406 कि०मी०) में चौड़ीकरण एवं मजबूतीकरण / पुनर्निर्माण कार्य। वित्तीय वर्ष 2021-22" पढ़ा जाय।

कार्यपालक अभियंता पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़
PR 252051 Road(21-22).D

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer-1, (Lakes), 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02
No.EE 1(Lakes)/TEND/14/2021-22 Date: 25-08-2021

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer-1 (Lakes) BBMP Bengaluru, invites tenders proposals (Technical & Financial) for appointing Contractor for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Cost of the Project (Rs.in Lakhs)
1.	Providing fencing to Kacharakanahalli Lake.	250.00

Earnest Money Deposit Declaration from as specified in the Tender Document as per G.O. No: FD 675 Expenditure-12/2020 Dated: 22-12-2020.
Calendar of Events: (1) Pre bid meeting will be held on 23-09-2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Office of the Chief Engineer Lakes, BBMP, Bengaluru. (2) Request for Proposal (RFP) Document & it may be downloaded from the Govt. of Karnataka e-Procurement from: 26-08-2021. (3) Bids must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on 28-09-2021 before 4:00 p.m. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on: 30-09-2021 at 4:30 p.m. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer-1, (Lakes), BBMP, Bengaluru.
HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APHAMITRA ON 14410

Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

Onus on States to regulate gambling websites: Centre

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court was informed by the Centre that online gambling was a State subject and the State governments have to make laws to regulate such activities. "The legislative competence to determine whether a game is a game of skill or a game of chance or is involved in gambling [played with stakes or not] is conferred on the States only or to the court of laws [which possess the judicial wisdom]," the Centre said in an affidavit.

'MeitY powerless'
It, additionally, said the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) "does not possess the judicial wisdom to determine whether an online game is involved in gambling or not".

The Centre's submission came in response to a petition filed by Avinash Mehrotra seeking directions to the authorities to take appropriate steps to ban or prohibit online gambling websites from operating in the country. A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh, which was hearing plea, observed that online gambling is dangerous and websites earning cannot be at the cost of youngsters. The court posted the case for further hearing on October 11.

The plea claimed that despite there being laws enacted by various States prohibiting such activities, a large number of websites providing gambling, betting and wagering games are still accessible in India. The plea contended that "all these activities are being carried out because of a lack of enforcement of the laws in question".

IN BRIEF

Skills varsity joins hands with NGO for courses

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University has partnered with the Nudge Foundation to incorporate English speaking and digital skills into various diploma and degree courses being offered at the university.

Smog tower to be functional after monsoon

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The smog tower inaugurated by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday to fight air pollution will be functional after monsoon as the filters for it will be fitted only after the rainy season ends, a government official said.

"The filters will be installed only after monsoon because if we install the filters now and run it during the monsoon, then there will be fungal growth in the filter due to the moisture," the official added. He added that the tower will not function around the year.

"The smog tower need not work when the air quality is good. Its function is to reduce pollution when it increases," the official added. After inaugurating the smog tower at Connaught Place on Monday, Mr. Kejriwal had said that similar towers would be built in other

parts of the national capital, if results of the current pilot project are satisfactory. The smog tower is a 24 metre-high structure fitted with fans and filters. It will draw in polluted air from the top and release filtered air near the ground through fans fitted on the sides.

'BJP not paying civic bodies for hoardings'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday alleged that the BJP is looting the municipal corporations of crores of rupees by putting up advertisements on hoarding sites of civic body's without paying any money.

"These are sites by the civic bodies for paid advertising, where you have to pay ₹1 lakh-₹3 lakh a month. Such unipoles have been put up by the civic bodies. The AAP surveyed the Delhi BJP's advertisements on these unipoles. Wherever we saw advertisements, we noted its

GPS location and publicly asked BJP Delhi chief Adesh Gupta whether they had paid the corporations for the ad," AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said. The party leaders did not even once say that the BJP had paid money for the advertisements, he said.



Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited

Registered Office:- Plate B & C, 5th Floor, Block 1, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023
Registration No. 126 & Date of Registration with IRDAI: October 30, 2003 | CIN: U74999DL2002PLC118123 | Toll Free No.: 1800-116-515

AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH 2021

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH, 2021

Sl. No.	Particulars	Schedule	Year Ended	
			31.03.2021	31.03.2020
			(Rs. '000)	(Rs. '000)
1	Premium Earned (Net)	1	68164290	18463089
2	Profit/Loss on Sale/Redemption of Investments		693789	38803
3	Others:-			
	a) Accretion of Discount on Investments		46555	164663
	b) Income from administration of outgoing Co-insurance Business		355727	503217
4	Interest, Dividend & Rent -Gross		4386851	3721661
	TOTAL (A)		73647212	22891433
1	Claims Incurred (Net)	2	62967676	21310882
2	Commission	3	(1555119)	(2658513)
3	Operating Expenses related to Insurance Business	4	2805780	2842856
4	Premium Deficiency		1010000	0
5	Bank Interest		25521	0
6	Expenses related to Investments :			
	a) Amortization of Premium on Investments		135291	154011
	b) Bank Charges		15	29
	c) Stock Holding Charges		3475	3149
	d) Other Expenses		59	4
	TOTAL (B)		65392698	21652418
	Operating Profit/(Loss) from Crop Insurance Business C=(A-B)		8254514	1239015
	APPROPRIATIONS			
	Transfer to Shareholders' Account		8254514	1239015
	Transfer to Catastrophe Reserve		0	0
	Transfer to Other Reserves		0	0
	TOTAL (C)		8254514	1239015

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2021

Sl. No.	Particulars	Schedule	Year Ended	
			31.03.2021	31.03.2020
			(Rs. '000)	(Rs. '000)
A	SOURCES OF FUNDS			
1	Share Capital	5	2000000	2000000
2	Reserves & Surplus	6	44339935	39437983
3	Fair Value Change Account			
	(a) Fair Value Change Account (Shareholders)		(17132)	(151023)
	(b) Fair Value Change Account (Policyholders)		(61000)	(436386)
4	Deferred Tax Liability (Net)		0	0
5	Borrowings	7	0	0
	TOTAL		46261803	40850574
B	APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
1	Investments			
	(a) Investments (Shareholders)	8	30006805	19130238
	(b) Investments (Policyholders)	8A	106843115	55277288
2	Loans	9	147532	140137
3	Fixed Assets	10	2339291	2507672
4	Deferred Tax Asset (Net)		91656	63377
5	Current Assets:			
	(a) Cash & Bank Balances	11	50816033	68960217
	(b) Advances & Other Assets	12	58310063	74569379
	Sub- Total (A)		109126096	143529596
6	Current Liabilities	13	194498801	168593866
7	Provisions	14	7793891	11203868
	Sub-Total (B)		202292692	179797734
	Net Current Assets (C) = (A) - (B)		(93166596)	(36268138)
8	Miscellaneous Expenditure (to the extent not written off or adjusted)	15	0	0
9	Debit Balance in Profit and Loss Account		0	0
	TOTAL		46261803	40850574

KEY ACCOUNTING RATIOS

Sl. No.	Particulars	2020-21 Percentage/ Ratio	2019-20 Percentage/ Ratio
1	Gross Direct Premium Growth Rate	28.75%	35.65%
2	Gross Direct Premium to Net Worth Ratio	2.60	2.37
3	Growth Rate of Net Worth*	11.83%	4.69%
4	Net Retention Ratio	52.72%	22.44%
5	Net Commission Ratio	-2.45%	-12.66%
6	Expenses of Management to Gross Direct Premium Ratio	2.83%	3.38%
7	Expense of Management to Net Written Premium Ratio	5.36%	15.05%
8	Net Incurred Claims to Net Earned Premium	92.38%	115.42%
9	Combined Ratio	94.34%	116.30%
10	Technical Reserves to Net Premium Ratio	1.22	1.95
11	Underwriting Balance Ratio	0.05	-0.14
12	Operating Profit Ratio	12.11%	6.71%
13	Liquid Assets to Liabilities Ratio	0.83	1.30
14	Net Earnings Ratio	7.72%	8.41%
15	Return on Net Worth Ratio	10.58%	4.48%
16	Available Solvency Margin Ratio to Required Solvency Margin Ratio	2.09	2.83
17	NPA Ratio		
	Gross NPA Ratio	0.40%	0.74%
	Net NPA Ratio	0.00%	0.00%

PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH, 2021

Sl. No.	Particulars	Schedule	Year Ended	
			31.03.2021	31.03.2020
			(Rs. '000)	(Rs. '000)
1.	OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS)			
	Crop Insurance Business		8254514	1239015
2.	INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS			
	a) Interest, Dividend & Rent-Gross		1232044	1287985
	b) Profit on Sale of Investments		194851	13429
	Less: Loss on Sale of Investments		0	0
	c) Accretion of Discount on Investments		13075	56986
3.	OTHER INCOME			
	a) Miscellaneous Receipts		14631	95051
	b) Profit on Sale of Assets		0	0
	c) Prior Period Income		19577	0
	TOTAL (A)		9728692	2692466
4.	PROVISIONS (other than Taxation)			
	a) For diminution in the value of Investments (Net)		0	0
	b) Provision for Matured Investment		0	150000
	c) Provision for Non-Performing Investments		0	(150000)
	d) Provision for doubtful debts		1979162	0
	e) Provision for Premium Defalcation		(23)	0
5.	OTHER EXPENSES			
	a) Expenses other than those related to insurance business:			
	i) Amortisation of Premium on Investments		37996	53300
	ii) Stock Holding Charges		976	1090
	iii) Bank Charges- Investment		4	10
	iv) Other Expenses related to investment		17	1
	b) Bad Debts written off		20838	0
	c) Others:			
	i) Loss on Sale of Assets		219	647
	ii) Prior Period Expenses		23143	36400
	iii) Corporate Social Responsibility		198272	64909
	TOTAL (B)		2260604	156357
	PROFIT BEFORE TAX (C=A-B)		7468088	2536109
	PROVISION FOR TAXATION			
	a) Income Tax (Current Year)		2594415	616700
	b) Income Tax (Earlier years)		0	166709
	c) Deferred Tax		(28279)	(14330)
	TOTAL (D)		2566136	769079
	PROFIT/(LOSS) AFTER TAX (E=C-D)		4901952	1767030
	APPROPRIATIONS			
	a) Interim Dividend paid during the year		0	0
	b) Proposed Final Dividend Paid		0	0
	c) Dividend Distribution Tax		0	0
	d) Transfer to General Reserve		4901952	1767030
	TOTAL		4901952	1767030
	PROFIT/(LOSS) AFTER TAX & APPROPRIATIONS		0	0
	Add: Balance of Profit/(Loss) brought forward from last year		0	0
	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD TO BALANCE SHEET		0	0
	Basic Earning per Share (in Rs.)		24.51	8.84
	Diluted Earning per Share (in Rs.)		24.51	8.84
	Number of Equity Shares (in thousands)		200000	200000
	Nominal Value per Share (in Rs.)		10	10

Note : This public disclosure is made in accordance with IRDA Circular No. IRDA/F&I/CIR/F&A/012/01/2010 date: 28.11.2010

Place: New Delhi
Date: 10.08.2021

For and on behalf of the Board

"Insurance is the subject matter of solicitation"

MALAY KUMAR PODDAR
Chairman Cum Managing Director

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THE HINDU
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SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one female named **Rani, W/o Sheinkey Kumar, R/o Near Community Centre, Village Singhu, Delhi, Age: 22 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Thin, wearing Orange colour Suit & Green colour Salwar and Pink Jutti in feet, has been missing from her house since 01.08.2021 at 4:30 PM. In this regard a DD No. 32A, dated 01.08.2021 has been registered at P.S. Alipur, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Alipur, Delhi
DP/1194/ON/2021 Ph. No.: 011-27202290, 27202265

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons namely (1) Dhammu (2) Chiku @ Pawan both S/o Bhagat Ji @ Gullu both R/o H. No. 372, Gali No. 01, Bhagtan Moahalla, Vill-Ghonda, Delhi (3) Ankit S/o Ram Kishan R/o H. No. 527, Bhagtan Mohalla, Vill-Ghonda, Delhi (4) Rahul S/o Ramesh & (5) Ramesh S/o Khem Chand Both R/o H. No. 23, Gali No. 01, Bhagtan Mohalla, Vill-Ghonda, Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. 121/20 U/s 147/148/149/380/427/411/452/436/188/34 IPC registered at P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said (1) Dhammu (2) Chiku @ Pawan (3) Ankit (4) Rahul & (5) Ramesh could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused (1) Dhammu (2) Chiku @ Pawan (3) Ankit (4) Rahul & (5) Ramesh have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Dhammu (2) Chiku @ Pawan (3) Ankit (4) Rahul & (5) Ramesh are required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.09.2021.

By Order
Sh. Fahaduddin
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Karkoodana Courts, Delhi
DP/988/NE/2021
(Court Notice)

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayats, Opp. IT Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun
Ref. No. 1332/11-02(xvi)/ITCO/URRDA/21 Dated : 24.08.2021
PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice (First Call)

The General Manager (Project), BRIDCUL on behalf of URRDA Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system (First Call) for construction of Roads and Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the **Bering (District-Pithoragarh)** for 01 number of Package with estimated cost totalling to Rs. 349.58 Lakh including their maintenance for 5 year from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent.
Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement : 25.08.2021.
Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission : The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.
The bidders are required to submit original affidavit correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the Projects related to **Garhwal Mandal** at Office of BRIDCUL HQ Opp. Govt. ITI Majra, Niranjapur, Saharnpur Road, Dehradun-248001 & Projects related to **Kumaon Mandal** at Office of BRIDCUL PMGSY PIU-Garur, Bageshwar, First Floor, CSD Canteen, Mandalsera, Bageshwar Pin-263642 on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No Physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.
Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering : 14.09.2021, 01:00 PM
For further details please log on to www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in
Chief Engineer
URRDA, Dehradun
*Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2522941 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM in any office days.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown** about 55 years of age was found dead at K.M. Pole No. 6/20-6/32, North Railway Line, Opp. Jwala Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi due to train accident on 23.08.2021 at 7.50 AM. In this regard a DD No. 01A, dated 23.08.2021 has been registered at **Police Station Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi**. Dead body has been preserved in Mortuary of GTB Hospital for Identification. His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 55 years, Height: 5'4" ft., Complexion: Wheatish, Injury Mark: Head Injury & Scratch on Body, Wearing: Pink Colour Shirt, Grey Colour Pant, Bhagwa Angocha and Hawaii Chappal.
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.
SHO
P.S. Old Delhi Rly. Strn., Delhi
Ph. No. 011-23961522
Mob. No- 8750871302
DP/222/RLY/2021

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: **Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx. 25-30 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Normal, Face: Round, Wearing : Light Blue Half Pant who was found dead at Under Water, Yamuna Bank Ghat No.10, Kashmir Gate, Delhi. In this regard, a DD No.47-A, U/s 174 CrP dated 19.08.2021 has been lodged at PS Kashmere, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.
SHO
P.S., Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23967889, 8750870123
DP/1442/N/2021**

Delhi Timings
DELHI
THURSDAY, AUG. 26
RISE 05:57 SET 18:50
RISE 21:21 SET 09:20
FRIDAY, AUG. 27
RISE 05:57 SET 18:48
RISE 21:51 SET 10:14
SATURDAY, AUG. 28
RISE 05:58 SET 18:47
RISE 22:23 SET 11:08

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 36 27
Safdarjang 36 27
Palam 36 29

Delhi Palam Today
37°C Comfortable morning with light surface winds over area. Mainly sunny sky and hot afternoon likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Comfortable morning and hot afternoon likely with occasional partly cloudy sky and light winds likely.

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Bihar further eases COVID restrictions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday announced further easing of COVID-19 restrictions after a review meeting.

With Unlock-6 coming into effect in Bihar on August 26, all shops, shopping malls, parks, gardens and religious places will function normally.

All colleges, universities, technical institutes, coaching institutes and schools (from Class 1-12) will resume normal classes. Cinema halls, clubs, swimming pools, gyms and restaurants can function with 50% capacity.

AMU to probe appearance of posters condemning V-C

Tariq Mansoor had expressed condolences on U.P. ex-CM Kalyan Singh's demise

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

The Aligarh Muslim University has ordered an internal inquiry to probe the appearance of posters on the campus that said the condolences by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Tariq Mansoor on the demise of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh had brought disgrace to the Aligarh fraternity, its traditions, and the Aligarh Movement that believed in justice and fairness.



Tariq Mansoor

In English, Urdu Titled "praying for a criminal is an unforgiving crime", the posters in English and Urdu described the deceased BJP stalwart as the main culprit in the demolition of the Ba-

ri Masjid. It also said how he violated a Supreme Court order.

The unsigned posters, that only had students of Aligarh Muslim University written at the bottom, condemned the V-C for "supporting the leader of a party that firmly believes in

fascism" only for his vested interests. Local sources said the posters were pasted on the walls of the university mosque and neighbouring hostels. They first appeared on Monday night but were quickly removed by the authorities, said a student, requesting anonymity. They reappeared on Tuesday.

Hamza Sufiyan, former vice president of AMU Students' Union and a member of the Azad Samaj Party, said the V-C should refrain from making political statements while holding an academic post. University spokesperson Shafey Kidwai said an internal probe has been ordered and CCTV footage is being

looked into after two posters were found in SS Hall. "The university is closed and on-line classes are going on," he said.

Roots in Aligarh
Prof. Kidwai reminded that Kalyan Singh was not only a former Chief Minister and Governor, but has his roots in Aligarh.

"As a matter of practice, the university mourns the death of prominent leaders," he added.

Aftab Alam, professor of political science and former secretary of AMU Teachers' Association, said those who have put the posters are contributing to the divisive narrative of certain sections of the media.

Indore bangle seller arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
INDORE

A 25-year-old street vendor of bangles who was beaten up in Indore city of Madhya Pradesh a few days ago by a group of people has been arrested for allegedly touching a girl inappropriately and also for forgering, police said on Wednesday.

Taslim Ali was thrashed in Govind Nagar here on Sunday for using a 'fake' name while selling bangles to women in the locality. Four persons were arrested in connection with the assault.

Proposal now to change name of Miyaganj to Mayaganj in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The latest proposal to change the name of a place in Uttar Pradesh under the BJP government has come from Unnao where a gram panchayat has sought to change the name 'Miyaganj' for 'Mayaganj'.

Miyaganj is a word used to address Muslim men in some cultures and as per the 1903 Unnao gazetteer, Miyaganj town was built in 1771 by Miran Almas Ali Khan, a finance minister under Asaf-ud-Daulah and Sadat Ali

Khan. The village was formerly called Bhopatpur.

The proposal for the name change was first raised in a letter by Bamba Lal Diwakar, BJP MLA from Safipur seat in Unnao, on July 31 and passed by the local bodies.

Govt. action sought
Unnao District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar sent a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary Panchayati Raj on August 24 seeking action by the government on the name change.

"The proposal has been sent to the government for further action," the DM said.

The gram panchayat has not stated any reason for the name change.

Recently, the zilla panchayat in Aligarh passed a proposal to rename it as Harigarh. After coming to power, the Yogi Adityanath government changed the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj and Faizabad to Ayodhya and since then several BJP legislators have made similar demands in Muzaffarnagar, Sultanpur, Agra and Mirzapur districts.

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Mrs. Renu Kumar
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		11 kV Outdoor	950			
		11 kV Indoor	600			
		33 kV Outdoor	400			
		33 kV Indoor	200			
2	CCP-II/12/2021-22	Onsite Checking & Testing of LT Single Phase & Three Phase meter		09.09.2021 upto 17:00 Hrs.	10.09.2021 at 15:30 Hrs.	
		Name of Package	No. of Connections			
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Land Mark Iqbal Market Sopore Phone No: 01954 - 222482 E-Mail: phesopore@gmail.com
Corrigendum
Sub: Cancellation of E-NIT.
Ref: This Office E-NIT No: 32 of 08/2021 dated: 10-08-2021 issued under endorsement No: PHE/SP/CS/3157-3171 dated: 10-08-2021.
E-tenders invited for various works figuring at S.No 1, 2, 3, 4, vide this office E-NIT No. and date mentioned under reference is hereby cancelled as per the directions issued by the Mission Director JMM.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PHE (Jal Shakti) Division Sopore
DIP/K- 7156/21

Ex-Meghalaya MLA gets 25-year jail term in POCSO case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court in Meghalaya has sentenced an extremist-turned-former MLA to 25 years in jail for raping a minor almost five years ago.

Special Judge Febroneous Silkam Sangma also imposed a fine of ₹15 lakh on Julius Dorphang, besides sentencing Mamoni Parveen, Darisha Mary Kharbamon and Sandeep Biswa to life imprisonment for trafficking the minor for him and imposing a fine of ₹1 lakh each.

The court in Ri-Bhoi district headquarters Nongpoh adjudged Dorphang, former chairman of the outlawed Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council, guilty, on August 13. The quantum of punishment was pronounced on Tuesday.

Mamoni and Darisha were accused of procuring and inducing the minor for prostitution and abetment for other offences under POCSO.

Complaint in 2016
On December 23, 2016, the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) registered a complaint with the East Khasi Hills district police, alleging that Dorphang had indulged in illicit sexual act with a minor, which was a violation of the child's right to life and dignity. The SCPCR filed another FIR on January 5, 2017, in Ri-Bhoi district, alleging that Dorphang had committed a similar offence against the same minor somewhere within the district. Dorphang went into hiding after these two cases and was arrested on January 7, 2017.

Campaigns to focus on good governance in Rajasthan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Two campaigns being launched in Rajasthan for taking the administration to the villages and the cities will focus on good governance and resolve people's grievances related to as many as 20 government departments. The administration in all districts is set to connect a large number of citizens with the drive.

Chief Secretary Niranjan Arya said here on Wednesday that the special camps to be organised at village panchayat headquarters during the campaign would help resolve all the issues.

The subjects to be covered will include water and power supply, conversion of land, regularisation of slum colonies and social security pensions.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FOND REMEMBRANCE
Mrs. L. MEENAKSHI ACHI
04.06.1944 - 25.08.2020
Dr. Justice AR. LAKSHMANAN
22.03.1942 - 26.08.2020
"Lived Together And Left Together To Their Heavenly Abode"
L. Arunachalam @ Chandru - AR. Sophy, AR.L. Sundaresan - S. Abirami, AL. Umalay - AL. Kumar, S. Swarnavalli - M. Saminathan R. Arunachalam - A. Soundaram, Grand Children, Great Grand Children & A. RM.A. L. A. A. Family, DEVAKOTTAI.

DEATH
"Sangeetha kalaratnam" Smt Thiruvavarur R Anandhavalli
Beloved Mother of Mridangam Maestro **Dr. Thiruvavarur Bakthavathsalam**
Passed away on 24/8/2021
Ph: 9444395858, 6383437760

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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

Heavy rain triggers landslide at Nandi Hills

Visitors have been barred; restoration work expected to take at least 20 days

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Nandi Hills in Karnataka's Chickballapur district was hit by a landslide on Wednesday following heavy rain the previous night. No casualties were reported. The tourist destination, around 60 km from Bengaluru, will be out of bounds for visitors for at least 20 days.

Gopal N., Special Officer, Nandi Hills, said around 20 feet of the road was damaged. He added that no one was injured. Chickballapur Deputy Commissioner Latha R. said, "We have built a temporary road, but it is risky for tourists. So it will be closed for visitors."

Ms. Latha said some guests of Mayura Pine Top

Nandi Hills, a Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation property, were shifted out early on Wednesday morning, and their vehicles were moved out later in the day. "The hotel will have to stop taking further bookings till the work is done," she said.

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre said the rainfall-induced mudslide occurred 100 m from the check post. Heavy rain brought down one big boulder, taking with it the soil, plants and the road.

According to the India Meteorological Department, the southwest monsoon was normal over interior Karnataka and weak over coastal Karnata-



Out of bounds: A landslide at the Nandi Hills 10th curve has washed away the road connecting the hill top for tourists, near Bengaluru on Wednesday. *K. MURALI KUMAR

taka. Thondebhavi (Chickballapur district) recorded heavy rainfall of 13 cm; Chickballapur recorded 11 cm; Mulbagal (Kolar) record-

ed 10 cm; and Sidlaghatta (Chickballapur) recorded 8 cm. T.V. Ramachandra from the Centre for Ecological

Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, who was part of the expert committee that looked into landslides in the Western Ghats, said they are

quite common in the terrain, which is mismanaged with activities such as blocking stream network (natural water flow path), land degradation through removal of vegetation and loss of trees resulting in the binding capability being lost, and road cuts.

"High-intensity rainfall indicates the changes in the temporal patterns of the rainfall due to changes in the climate. The problem at Nandi Hills is mismanagement of landscape coupled with the high-intensity rainfall. We need to come up with the mitigation and adaptation strategies — decarbonisation is the best option," he said.

With Nandi Hills among the places suffering from "over tourism", Ms. Latha said the administration had already limited the capacity at the parking lot for visitors.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Sikkim, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Yanam, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3	32.2	25.4	Kozhikode	...	31.9	25.0
Ahmedabad	...	34.6	26.1	Kurnool	...	34.8	26.0
Aizawl	Lucknow	...	34.4	25.6
Allahabad	...	32.8	26.4	Madurai	...	36.6	24.1
Bengaluru	1	28.8	20.7	Mangaluru	...	30.3	23.8
Bhopal	...	30.9	23.2	Mumbai	...	31.8	25.2
Bhubaneswar	10.1	34.4	24.4	Mysuru	...	30.0	20.4
Chandigarh	...	36.7	28.0	New Delhi	...	36.4	27.4
Chennai	0.6	35.7	25.3	Patna	...	32.4	25.8
Coimbatore	...	33.8	23.4	Port Blair	...	27.1	22.9
Dehradun	18	29.7	25.1	Puducherry	...	35.2	25.3
Gangtok	3.4	20.1	18.0	Pune	...	30.7	21.0
Goa	...	31.0	24.7	Raipur	...	34.0	25.2
Guwahati	...	34.0	26.5	Ranchi	...	30.4	25.0
Hubballi	...	29.0	22.0	Shillong	...	0.2	26.5
Hyderabad	7	32.3	23.3	Shimla	...	22.3	17.4
Imphal	...	30.4	21.6	Srinagar	...	33.3	18.8
Jaipur	...	35.4	28.1	Thiruvananthapuram	...	6	31.4
Kochi	2	30.6	24.2	Tiruchi	...	36.8	25.1
Kohima	10	25.2	18.0	Vijayawada	...	35.8	26.8
Kolkata	18	35.2	27.3	Visakhapatnam	...	34.4	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	25	31	19	59	82	Good
Bengaluru	6	37	40	36	54	Good
Chennai	3	22	68	24	56	Good
Delhi	12	51	98	221	221	Unhealthy
Hyderabad	41	37	14	77	86	Unhealthy
Kolkata	11	28	29	107	110	Unhealthy
Lucknow	11	32	77	39	56	Unhealthy
Mumbai	14	10	77	104	104	Unhealthy
Pune	29	86	92	82	82	Unhealthy
Visakhapatnam	19	45	42	92	99	Unhealthy

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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.

PM_{2.5} & 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 premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IN BRIEF



Jagan launches PCV immunisation drive

VIJAYAWADA
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) immunisation drive for infants at his camp office here. The State has been included in the PCV drive this year.

Panel fixes fee structure for A.P. schools, colleges

ANANTAPUR
The Andhra Pradesh School Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission has notified fee structure for school students of private unaided institutions in gram panchayats, municipalities, and municipal corporations and colleges in the State.

Kerala's COVID-19 control activities a failure: Satheesan

'Govt. keeping valuable health data under wraps'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The COVID-19 control activities in Kerala are a total failure, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan has said.

He accused the government of data secrecy, at a time when the cumulative cases have crossed 38 lakh. The government's attempt to keep valuable health data relating to COVID-19 under wraps was affecting the control strategies for combating the third wave.

Failure to share the data and analyse it appropriately had seriously affected research activities too, Mr. Satheesan said while ad-



V.D. Satheesan

ressing presspersons here on Wednesday.

He said the State had failed to do contact tracing of positive cases properly. When it was the norm that for every case, at least 20 contacts needed to be tested, Kerala's contact tracing ratio was woefully inadequate at 1:1.5, meaning that not even two contacts were

traced for every case.

Of the ₹817 crore collected through vaccine challenge, the government had utilised only ₹29 crore. Ideally, this amount should be used for purchasing vaccines and distributing it free of cost through private hospitals, Mr. Satheesan said.

He said all COVID control activities were now decided by a coterie of IAS officers, including the Health Secretary.

The recent government order fixing a charge of ₹750 a day for a bed in the general ward in government hospitals was a clear indication of the manner in which the bureaucracy had taken over the reins of COVID control. The Health Minister still had not agreed to withdraw the order, he said.

College student raped near Chamundi foothills

Her male friend was assaulted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

In a shocking case, a girl was allegedly gang-raped and a male friend accompanying her assaulted near Chamundi foothills on Tuesday night.

The girl, a college student, and her friend were admitted to a private hospital. Both of them are out of danger. An FIR has been filed at Alanahalli police station. The gang of four to five persons were believed to be under the influence of alcohol.

A team of police personnel, including senior police officials, visited the deserted area near Chamundi foothills on Wednesday as part of the investigation.

The incident has sparked

widespread concern and outrage among residents of Mysuru, who recently witnessed an armed robbery at a jewellery store where a gang opened fire and killed a bystander.

Minister for Co-operation S.T. Somashekar, who is also Minister in charge of Mysuru, convened a meeting with senior police officials and people's representatives on Wednesday evening to take stock of the situation.

Meanwhile, activists of the National Students Union of India gathered near the law court complex in Mysuru and protested against the State government for its failure to protect the student and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

BJP used Kalyan Singh for Hindutva: SP hits back

It always treated the former CM only as a 'backward', it says

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Responding to jibes of "Muslim appeasement" by BJP leaders against Akhilesh Yadav for not attending the last rites of former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, the Samajwadi Party accused the BJP of using Singh for Hindutva but always treating him like a 'backward'.

'Out of party'

Udaiveer Singh, SP MLC and close aide of party chief Akhilesh Yadav, on Wednesday said the BJP deployed Kalyan Singh for Hindutva but always considered him a 'backward'. "This is why [they] threw him out of the party, and neither gave him a place in the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Trust nor invited him for the foundation ceremony [of the Ram Man-

dir on August 5, 2020]," Mr. Udaiveer said.

Another SP leader and former Minister Pawan Pandey from Ayodhya also said Kalyan Singh was not given a position in the Trust due to his OBC background.

'Look inside first'

"The BJP should first look at its own character before pointing fingers at others," Mr. Pandey said in a tweet in response to a jibe by Swatantra Dev Singh, BJP U.P. president.

On Tuesday, Mr. Yadav had come under fire of the BJP for not physically paying final respects to Kalyan Singh, who died aged 89 on Saturday evening.

Singh, under whose watch the Babri Masjid was demolished on December 6, 1992, was cremated on

Monday in Bulandshahr by the Ganga.

While former CM and BSP chief Mayawati visited Kalyan Singh's residence on Sunday and offered her last respects, Mr. Yadav stayed away physically though he tweeted the customary condolence message.

Senior BJP OBC leaders accused Mr. Yadav of trying to appease Muslims by not paying his respects to Singh, who was a Lodh Rajput (OBC) and a key face of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple movement, which brought the BJP to power for the first time in U.P. in 1991. "Did the charm of Muslim vote bank prevent him from paying tribute to the biggest leader of the Backward Castes," Mr. Swatantra Dev Singh asked in a tweet.

Munnawar Rana's son held for faking attack: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Poet Munnawar Rana's son was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly faking an attack on himself to implicate his uncles in a false case.

The noted poet's son Tareez Rana, who is embroiled in a dispute with his uncles over their ancestral properties, was arrested by the Raebareli police from Lalkuan locality in the Naka area here.

Rana, who wanted to contest the Assembly elections from Tiloi, had staged the attack on himself to get security and media coverage, besides implicating his uncles, a senior officer said. He had lodged a complaint with the Raebareli police alleging that he was attacked by two bike-borne men on June 28.

Revert to single-member ward system, SEC tells corporations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THANE

The State Election Commission (SEC) on Wednesday asked civic corporations in Maharashtra, whose term ends in 2022, to begin the process of delimitation of wards from August 27, and revert to single-member ward system.

The term of the civic bodies in Mumbai, Thane, Ulhasnagar, Bhiwandi-Nizampur, Panvel, Mira Bhayander, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune, Solapur, Nashik, Malegaon, Parbhani, Nanded-Waghela, Latur, Amravati, Akola, Nagpur and Chandrapur will end in 2022.

In a letter to the municip-

pal commissioners of 18 cities, the SEC directed them to start the process of forming wards from August 27, and stated that it would be reverting to the single-member ward system from the multi-member one.

The wards should be formed keeping in mind the population data of 2011 census, changes in the geographical factors of the wards, and reservations should be adopted in keeping with the directions of the courts, the letter stated.

The process of preparing the draft of ward limits should be done well in advance so that the polls were completed on time, the SEC said.

AMC seeks details about Afghan returnees to give polio vaccines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AURANGABAD

The civic body in Aurangabad has directed the airport authority here to share details about people travelling to the city from Afghanistan to administer polio vaccines to them as a preventive measure, an official said on Wednesday.

The Aurangabad Municipal Corporation has written to the airport authorities instructing them to share names, addresses, and contact details of people travelling from Afghanistan, on a daily basis.

People have started migrating from Afghanistan and even Indians working in the country are returning to

India, following the Taliban takeover earlier this month. Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two countries where polio is still endemic.

"We have heard that nearly 400 travellers have come to India from Afghanistan. However, we don't know where they will travel further. If they come to Aurangabad in connecting flights, there is a chance that they may skip vaccination. Hence, we have sought details of travellers coming from Afghanistan," civic health officer Dr. Neeta Padalkar said.

Polio vaccines will be administered orally and also through injections to all travellers, she added.

Mumbai Youth Cong. executive president resigns

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Mumbai Youth Congress executive president Suraj Thakur resigned on Wednesday, a day after his appointment, stating that he was disappointed that hard work and dedication were ignored and other factors were considered in selecting the president.

The party had been delaying appointment of Mumbai

Youth Congress president for more than a year. On Tuesday, it appointed Bandra east MLA Zeeshan Siddiqui as the president and Mr. Thakur as the executive president.

Lobbying for months

Both the leaders had been lobbying for the post in Delhi for months. Mr. Siddiqui is the son of former Congress MLA Baba Siddiqui, while

Mr. Thakur had risen in the organisation through student politics.

Mr. Thakur, when contacted, said he would continue serving the party as an ordinary worker. "But the recent decision has disappointed me and I am totally uncomfortable working with a non-political and inexperienced person in a key organisation of the Congress," he said.

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Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research
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The Director, (AMD), Begumpet, Hyderabad invites for and on behalf of the President of India, sealed tenders in two parts (TECHNICAL and COMMERCIAL) from eligible Core Drilling contractors, for the following Drilling works in the part of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Item No.	NIT No., TENDER NO. & SCOPE OF WORK	Estimated job value (in Lakhs INR)	Earnest Money (in INR)	Last Date and time of availability of Tender Documents for download	Last Date and time of Submission of online Tender	Date and Time of Opening of Part I	Period of completion in months
1.	NIT No. : AMD/CD/NR/CORE/2021-22/T-216. DATE: 18.08.2021. Tender No. : AMD/CD/NR/LRK-SBL-GLT/CORE/2021-22/T-216 6,000m core drilling in Loharkar-Sibal-Galot-Nalty Sector, Hamirpur District, Himachal Pradesh with borehole depth varying from 250 to 400 metre.	266.22	NIL *	09-09-2021 at 15:00 hrs.	13-09-2021 at 17:00 hrs.	14-09-2021 at 15:00 hrs.	18 (EIGHTEEN)
2.	NIT No. : AMD/CD/WR/UMR-UDSR/CORE/2021-22/T-217 Tender No. : AMD/CD/WR/UMR-UDSR/CORE/2021-22/T-217 10,000m core drilling in Umra West, Umra North and Udaisagar East Block, Udaipur District, Rajasthan with borehole depth varying from 200 to 500 metre.	319.90	NIL *	09-09-2021 at 15:00 hrs.	13-09-2021 at 17:00 hrs.	14-09-2021 at 15:30 hrs.	14 (FOURTEEN)
3.	NIT No. : AMD/CD/NR/CORE/2021-22/T-218. DATE: 23.08.2021. Tender No. AMD/CD/NR/KDR/CORE/2021-22/T-218 10,000m core drilling in Kudar area, Sonbhadra District, Uttar Pradesh with borehole depth varying from 200 to 500 metre.	323.30	NIL *	09-09-2021 at 15:00 hrs.	13-09-2021 at 17:00 hrs.	14-09-2021 at 16:00 hrs.	14 (FOURTEEN)
4.	NIT No. : AMD/CD/ER/CORE/2021-22/T-219. DATE: 24.08.2021. Tender No. AMD/CD/ER/TRK(N)/CORE/2021-22/T-219 10,000m core drilling in North of Tirukocha fault, East Singhbhum District, Jharkhand with borehole depth varying from 950 to 1300 metre.	433.90	NIL *	09-09-2021 at 15:00 hrs.	13-09-2021 at 17:00 hrs.	14-09-2021 at 16:30 hrs.	16 (SIXTEEN)

* The Bidder including MSE registered firms shall submit the Bid Security Declaration in lieu of Earnest Money Deposit. Without Bid Security Declaration, the bid will not be considered. It is mandatory for the bidders to upload the Bid Security Declaration in Website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE along with the Tender document. Detailed tender notice along with other documents are available on website: www.tenderwizard.com/DAE. Detailed NIT is also available on website www.amd.gov.in for view only. For further clarification, please contact on: 040-27776342/27776335/27776387.



Income and quotas

SC lays bare the limits of using economic criterion to determine reservation eligibility

The Supreme Court's ruling that economic criterion alone cannot be used to classify a member of a Backward Class as belonging to the 'creamy layer' adds an interesting nuance to the jurisprudence of affirmative action. There was a time when backwardness was primarily related to the inadequate social and educational advancement of a group. Ever since the Court, in *Indra Sawhney* (1992), introduced the concept of 'creamy layer' – a term describing the well-off among the Backward Classes – and declared that this section should be denied reservation benefits, the original idea of including groups based on social backwardness was matched by a parallel exercise to exclude the more advanced among them. This position has crystallised into law. Many support the formulation that once caste is accepted as a basis for determining backwardness, there is nothing wrong in excluding the affluent among the eligible castes. The Union government has unreservedly accepted the 'creamy layer' rule, and formulated criteria for identifying those who fall under the category. The proponents of economic criteria feel that genuine social justice means reservation benefits should be restricted to the poorer among the backward; while sections championing Backward Class assertion disavow any dilution of the social basis for reservation.

The Court's latest judgment in a Haryana case corrects a grave error by the State. It has struck down a notification fixing an annual income of ₹6 lakh as the sole criterion to identify whether a family belongs to the creamy layer. It was contrary to *Indra Sawhney* that had spoken of different criteria, including being the children of high-ranking constitutional functionaries, employees of a certain rank in the Union and State governments, those affluent enough to employ others, or with significant property and agricultural holdings and, of course, an identified annual income. The Court has found that the Haryana criterion based on income alone was contrary to its own law that specifies that the creamy layer would be identified through social, economic and other factors. The Constitution permitted special provisions in favour of 'socially and educationally backward classes' through the first Amendment, as well as reservation in government employment for 'backward classes'. Judicial discourse introduced a 50% ceiling and the creamy layer concept as constitutional limitations on reservation benefits. However, the 103rd Constitution Amendment, by which 10% reservation for the 'economically weaker sections' (EWS) has been introduced, has significantly altered the affirmative action programme. With the current income ceiling being ₹8 lakh per annum for availing of both OBC and EWS quotas, there is a strange and questionable balance between the OBC and EWS segments in terms of eligibility, even though the size of the respective quotas vary.

Dissension in the ranks

Crises in the Congress can be attributed to its leaders' lack of ideological commitment

With their backs up against the wall and in a crisis, resilient organisations are expected to run a tight ship. But in politics, if the organisation lacks a strong glue, there are enough malcontents to weaken it from within. The Congress finds itself in such a situation today. Beleaguered and limited to power on its own in only three major States – Rajasthan, Punjab and Chhattisgarh – the Congress should have focused on utilising the period in power to provide good governance and to inspire successes elsewhere. Since nothing succeeds like success, working together to achieve a functioning government is an imperative. But far from backing the respective Chief Ministers to the hilt, leaders in the Congress have tried to take on the mantle of rebellion to varying degrees of success. In Rajasthan, Sachin Pilot's rebellion against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot was managed last year, but no viable compromise between the two has been reached yet. In Punjab, despite being an import after a stint in the BJP, former cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu managed to wrest the position of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee president by mobilising enough discontent against Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. Now chafing, Capt. Amarinder's allies have sought their utmost to undermine Mr. Sidhu's leadership in another round of internecine strife. In Chhattisgarh, Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo's claim that he was supposed to get the Chief Minister's post as "promised" to him halfway into the government's tenure, has not yet been accepted by the party high command which, however, seems unwilling to back the incumbent, Bhupesh Baghel.

In none of these instances can a claim be made that the incumbent government's performance has warranted a change. The rebellions, therefore, can be attributed to the personal ambitions of three leaders and not even to traditional factional politics related to ideological differences. There has been a lot of focus on the party's national leadership and a concentration of power in the Nehru-Gandhi family, but the more pressing problem it confronts is the absence of a clear ideological commitment that draws leaders and cadre into closer coordination and camaraderie. By drawing from its history as the party that led the country to freedom and helped work out a constitutional consensus and a liberal democratic polity, besides its legacy since the 1990s as the party that pushed for economic reforms and welfare-based governance as the twin pedestals for progress, the Congress can still lay a strong claim to power. For that it must have a committed cadre that is willing to selflessly work toward that aim rather than rely upon self-seeking leaders professing vapid centrism, and for whom power is the overarching motive.

Negotiating the new global climate policy

Reducing per-person emissions to the global average as a first step to national net-zero requires a human rights frame



MUKUL SANWAL

The policy significance of the recent report (<https://bit.ly/3Dcm8zb>) of the United Nations (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is that reaching net zero alone is not enough as it is the cumulative emissions up to net zero which determine the temperature that is reached, and that a global policy which considers only current emissions will not limit global warming and its adverse effects.

Restricting well-being

For 30 years, climate negotiations have struggled with a frame that created an imbalance between countries sharing global carbon space, the only limited natural resource. Development depleted carbon space causing the climate problem and developing countries are being pressured to limit their use of the remaining space as the solution. At the G20 Climate and Energy Ministerial meeting in July, India proposed that major economies bring down their own per capita emissions to the global average by 2030.

Reframing negotiations in terms of bringing per-person emissions, or human well-being, as the essential first step highlights that merely achieving net zero of current emissions by 2050 – the proposal of the G7 – restricts well-being and is unacceptable as global policy. Varying levels of per-capita emis-

sions converging to a common point will allow those who have already used more than their fair share of the carbon space a larger share of the remaining space than countries such as India which need the remaining carbon space to grow to comparable levels of well-being.

Per capita emissions

The policy significance of the imbalance becomes clear when per-capita emissions are compared. The world's per capita greenhouse gas emissions are 6.55 tonnes of carbon dioxide. India's per capita emission at 1.96 tonnes is less than one-third; emissions of the United States, Canada and Australia are more than two-and-a-half times; Germany, the United Kingdom and France are above, and China, at 6.4 tonnes, is just below the global average. Accepting 'net zero' emissions by 2050 effectively prevents India's urbanisation and shift of the rural population into the middle class.

India is rightly objecting to the obfuscation, as the Objective of the Climate Treaty is "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations". By contributing over 60% of global cumulative emissions, with just one-fourth of the global population, North America and Europe are responsible for nearly 970 billion tonnes of carbon emissions.

Whereas, the world's remaining carbon budget – the total amount we can emit to have a chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C – is only 400 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide, and the U.S. alone has contributed this amount for its high standard of living. For a global consensus, such countries will need some



flexibility in the new climate policy.

Emission sources

The reframing should stress 'essential' emissions to justify the flexibility and the need. Infrastructure, or construction, essential for urbanisation and quality of living is responsible for two-fifths of global carbon dioxide emissions from fuel combustion and 25% of emissions overall. These emissions arise from energy intensive cement production and half of the steel produced which is used in construction, both having no substitutes.

The varying levels of per capita emissions are accounted for by expressways and the urban boom in the U.S. and Europe between 1950 and 2000, before China began its infrastructure push, leading to per-capita material use that is four times that of China. The U.S. first recognised the implications of its way of life preparing for the Stockholm Summit in 1972, but then shaped the global agenda in terms of current emissions which were going to grow in developing countries as they urbanised, rather than the scientifically correct stabilisation of cumulative emissions, to draw attention away from its

A Taliban outreach that needs correction

The overwhelming narrative to engage with the Taliban must change, which will lead to the budding of policy options



CHETAN RANA

Very few, if any, might have been surprised when the Taliban unleashed violence to take over territories in Afghanistan. What has surprised many is the pace at which the Taliban pushed their lines and replaced the Afghan state. The Doha peace deal with the United States and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi's warm welcome to a Taliban delegation in Tianjin, in July, reflect the diplomatic successes of the Taliban at the international level. Almost all regional stakeholders at this point are engaging with the Taliban, openly or behind closed doors. The Special Envoy of the State of Qatar for Counterterrorism and Mediation of Conflict Resolution, Mutlaq bin Majed Al Qahani, in June, confirmed India's outreach to the Taliban. Now that the Afghan state has failed, the Taliban is the most powerful political entity. But the Afghan people are the most important stakeholders and India must resist engaging with the Taliban.

Issue of legitimacy

Where is 'the good Taliban'? In the past, leaders and analysts have used the terms 'Taliban 2.0', or

'the good Taliban', to create an environment conducive to negotiate with them. The Taliban's unleashing of war to secure power has put an end to those arguments. The claim that the Taliban shall have to reform to secure international legitimacy is exaggerated. The conclusion of an agreement with the U.S. while excluding the Afghan government, and talks with China, have already accorded the required legitimacy to the Taliban, internationally. On the domestic front, if the Taliban cared for legitimacy from the Afghan people they would have contested elections instead of capturing territory through force.

Long-term settlement

Several reports that have emerged over the last couple of months have confirmed that violence and oppression are the Taliban's *modus operandi*. Women, as expected, have been hit the worst. Female students and employees have been let off. News of the Taliban forcing women to marry their soldiers or else assaulting them has increased. The already dwindling Afghan Sikh community is leaving the country. The progress made during the fragile peace in the last two decades has been undone in a matter of weeks. As the struggle for power with and within the Taliban gains momentum, ethnic divisions will accentuate, and the minorities will become more and more vulnerable.

Sadly, the Afghans who are leav-



ing their homes today will not be returning to their homes anytime soon, if at all. Historically India has been one of the preferred refuges for Afghans beyond their immediate neighbourhood. First, nations must see refugees as their responsibility rather than a burden. This shall involve rapid processing of visa applications and ensuring safe routes to commute. Second, there should be an effort to develop a regional, and potentially an international, coalition to address the needs of Afghan refugees. An active policy to provide shelter, education, vaccination, and employment opportunities instead of sending them to congested, unhygienic, and then ignored refugee camps is needed. The policy must look beyond an immediate fix, and instead towards a long-term settlement strategy.

Looking beyond the Taliban

Many have argued that India must negotiate with the Taliban. The argument that India can engage with certain segments of a heterogeneous Taliban overestimates India's

own urbanisation and lifestyle.

Ideas and implications

New ideas such as 'climate justice', coming from India have three strategic implications. First, a focus on drivers and patterns of natural resource, not just anthropogenic emissions, highlights that as against measuring emissions when considering solutions, the causes become important, in particular, the shift of the human population from rural to urban areas. Second, the IPCC report has reiterated that impacts such as a rise in sea level, variability of rainfall and temperature increases will not be reversible for some time even after emissions fall. The adverse effects of climate change, or adaptation, are no longer a local but a global concern. Third, consequently, multilateral cooperation will shift from common rules monitoring emissions based on international environmental law to common goals of human well-being as a universal human right based on a policy consensus.

Shifting from environmental damage and its implications for well-being to comparable levels of well-being within global ecological limits provides a very different conceptual frame to understanding climate change and the negotiations. First, there is a need for a debate on what society values and whether societal priorities or market exchange and pricing mechanisms determine what is to be valued, produced, and consumed. Second, with consumption of the urban middle class now more important than production in terms of GDP, it has become clear that the rising prosperity of the poor and its need for infrastructure is

not endangering planetary life support systems as stress on population and national emissions suggests. Third, with different civilisational values, consumption of the middle class in developing countries is less wasteful than in the first phase of urbanisation. These socio-economic trends are not captured in the models based on natural sciences designed for countries whose emissions have peaked with questionable global policy relevance.

For a new policy objective

It took 25 years for the 'Paris Agreement' to reverse the defining feature of the 'Framework Convention', the division of countries into 'annexes', while providing for a 'common cause' instead of commitments. India's proposal supports this evolution. Moving away from regulating emissions to recognising ecological limits makes the subsidiary bodies for scientific advice and implementation review established to ratchet-up commitments redundant. Sharing prosperity should be the objective of new intergovernmental mechanisms, with the involvement of the private sector, for example, supporting solar energy, joint research in new crop varieties and exchanging experiences on infrastructure viability. We now know that climate change is not just an environmental or sustainable development concern involving trade-offs. It requires a civilisational transformation in what we value, the way we live, and how we interact with one another.

Mukul Sanwal is a former civil servant, negotiator and UN diplomat in the climate change secretariat

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Political feud

Political rivalries have always existed, but there was always some kind of civility. The political climate in the nation has deteriorated so much that a Union Minister can go to the extent of talking about roughing up a Chief Minister. The kind of language being used across the political spectrum is disgusting, with no hope of improvement. Hopefully this comment should not develop into a law and order problem, given the antecedents of the protagonists.

ANTHONY HENRIQUES,
Mumbai

■ A Chief Minister unwittingly seeks the help of his aide when his mind goes blank. And then springs into action when a former party mate and now Union Minister has the temerity to cast aspersions for his 'brainfade'. The people's

court has to decide now who is more culpable.

BELLUR S. DATTA, TATRI,
Bengaluru

■ It is a bit over the top to be calling this incident a "murder of democracy" and a "violation of constitutional values". The fact is that the limits of decency in public life are being violated. Those in the political arena making comments are conveniently forgetting how journalists, activists, student leaders and others are being harassed and arrested on flimsy grounds. That is a "murder of democracy" and a "violation of constitutional values".

TILAK SUBRAMANIAN V.,
Kunjibettu, Udipi, Karnataka

■ The happenings are distasteful, given the high offices both leaders hold in a democratic set-up. The culture in our democratic polity has reached an all-time low, and making

disparaging and crude personal comments against the other has become commonplace. A very poor example is being set.

PRABHU RAJ R.,
Bengaluru

Economic revival

The Centre is trying every trick in the book rolling out ambitious plans and schemes to revive animal spirits of the economy by way of disinvestment of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Air India and others. We now have the National Monetisation Pipeline. The Government seems unable to fix accountability as far as the babus entrusted with the job are concerned. The second is the lack of transparency and allegations of rigging. Customisation of bids to suit a few cronies is unacceptable. Until the culture of *quid pro quo* is obliterated, we are sure to see the Government

announcing what it thinks are catchy and flagship schemes, but to no avail.

DEEPAK SINGHAL,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

■ The National Monetisation Pipeline is not a wise move and betrays the NDA's poor record of governance since 2014. The conversion of fixed assets into cash cannot be a permanent or even long-term remedy. It will spell doom for the economy.

MANOHARAN MUTHUSWAMY,
Chennai

House in disorder

In spite of being cast into a pit, politically and at the national level, it seems the Indian National Congress has not learned any lessons and continues with its culture of infighting, instead of seeking electoral successes (Page 1, "Amarinder Ministry reels under Congress feud again", August 25). Issues such as curbing drugs and the transport mafia, being raised

by Navjot Singh Sidhu's supporters, are perennial subjects that require long-term action but are being used as a smokescreen to fight personal battles. If the Congress is perceived to be incapable of solving its internal problems, its recent efforts at forging a united Opposition front at the national level will come to naught. Else, it can happily continue with its internecine battles and inconsequential Twitter wars.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

■ When the Congress party found itself rudderless across much of political India, it was Capt. Amarinder who could keep the Congress ship steady. When the State is so close to the Assembly polls, the developments are sure to demoralise the cadre. The high command is responsible for the miasmic situation.

AVYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH,
Aranmula, Kerala

Paralympics

The Paralympics have started in Tokyo and one wishes the sportsmen and women luck. The Indian contingent deserves to be encouraged to the same level we did for the contingent that has returned from Japan. Let us mainstream these sportspersons as it is still Citius, Altius, Fortius - Communis for them too.

SATISH SRINIVASAN,
Bengaluru

CBSE review process

The CBSE needs to look into student grievances quickly. In my case, more than 10 days have passed since I submitted my Class 12 result grievance under the 'CBSE Dispute Settlement Type 3' category. The delay has cost me dear and I have lost a seat in a renowned institution. It is distressing.

PIYUSH MAHAJAN,
Amritsar, Punjab



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Helping and hindering justice

Technology can be a game changer, but it is not a panacea for the ills plaguing courts



B.N. SRIKRISHNA

In early June, while dealing with issues arising in connection with the CoWIN portal, the Supreme Court pointed out some of the major impediments in the delivery of vaccines to the people at large. They were: inadequate digital literacy across the country, inadequate digital penetration, and serious issues of bandwidth and connectivity, particularly in remote and inaccessible regions. Despite the ambition of bringing the benefits of vaccination to every human being in the country, the policy was falling short of its goal because of the inherent difficulties pointed out. The premise in the observations of the court was that relying solely on digital transformation may not be a sound idea. It could result in exclusion of a large section of the population on account of the enumerated shortfalls. Soon after this, the government said that CoWIN registration would no longer be mandatory for vaccination.

Rising to the challenge

What the court observed about the delivery of vaccines through digital portals alone is equally true of the delivery of justice, which is as important as ensuring the health of the people of the country. Although the courts have risen to the challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, by using existing technology at an unprecedented scale and speed, it is proving to be an uphill task. In the wake of the pandemic, courts began using facilities like e-filing in earnest. In May 2020, the Supreme Court also introduced another innovation: a new system of e-filing and artificial intelligence-enabled referencing. This was meant to herald efficiency, transparency and access to court delivery services for every user.

The judiciary's effort is not merely a one-off action to tide over the pandemic-created emergency. It also seeks to harness technology in overcoming and resolving the intractable ills that have for long dogged the judiciary. These include the massive backlog of cases and unacceptable levels of judicial vacancies across the country at all levels.



ISTOCK PHOTO

Deep house cleaning is required in each court and there also needs to be an outreach to all litigants in a cost-effective, convenient and efficient manner. Perhaps, this could be the opportune time for making lasting changes that could transform the creaking justice delivery system in India. But an over-reliance on technology is not a panacea to all the ills plaguing the courts and if done without forethought, could become counterproductive.

Let us take the analogy of vaccination a little forward. Just like the rigorous process of vaccine trials is a pre-requisite to rolling out universal vaccination programmes, after which technology is incorporated across the board, it would be imperative to resort to performance audits and sandboxing measures to carefully understand and gauge the potential and risks. Evidence shows that despite considerable investment to digitalise judicial infrastructure and administration, beginning with Phase I of the eCourts in 2007, the judiciary's performance during the pandemic period has left a lot to be desired. In absolute terms, data show that pendency reached an all-time high during this year of virtual functioning of the courts. In the case of district courts, pendency rose sharply by 18.2% between December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2020, according to the National Judicial Data Grid. Across the 25 High Courts, pendency witnessed its sharpest increase of 20.4% in 2019-2020. This, of course, does not include all those matters that were never filed.

The way forward

Given that the pandemic caught all institutions by surprise, there is bound to be teething trouble. However, now that we are in its second year, our next course of action should be based on an evidence-based rational approach. For instance, we need to study and understand why video conferencing in criminal cases has neither shortened trials

nor reduced the number of people awaiting trial. Similarly, we need to address uneven digital access: while mobile phones are widely owned and used, access to the Internet remains limited to urban users. Lawyers in semi-urban and rural districts find online hearings challenging, mostly due to connectivity issues and an unfamiliarity with this way of working.

Just as doctors cannot be replaced by chatbots, technology, no matter how advanced, cannot be a substitute for judges of whom there remains a big shortfall. The India Justice Report 2020 pegs vacancies in the High Court at 38% (2018-19) and in lower courts at 22% for the same period. More than four out of every 10 posts of High Court judges remain vacant as on August 1 this year.

If deployed with adequate data-based planning and safeguards, technological tools can be a game changer. However, technology is not per se value-neutral – that is, it is not immune to biases – and therefore, it must be properly evaluated for us to see whether it works to increase the power imbalance between citizens and the state or whether it affirms and furthers citizens' rights.

Open court is a cardinal principle in the delivery of justice. The question of public access cannot be pushed to the sidelines but must be a central consideration. The shortage of technical infrastructure has too often meant that access to online hearings is curtailed. This ad hoc deviation cannot be allowed to become a habit of convenience.

The latest Vision Document for Phase III of the e-Courts Project seeks to address the judiciary's digital deprivation. It envisages an infrastructure for the judicial system that is 'natively digital' and reflects the effect that the pandemic has had on India's judicial timeline and thinking. However, we must keep in mind that there will always be an inherent resistance to change, whether for good or bad. Therefore, two preconditions need to be addressed: adequate trained manpower, and tailoring systems to the specifications and contexts that we require. This is more a matter of mindset – not just of judges, but of litigants and lawyers as well; and is linked closely to trust in digital interventions.

B.N. Srikrishna is a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India

A way of diluting credit discipline

The RBI regulations on opening current accounts have operational and regulatory issues



G. SREEKUMAR

Some bank borrowers have gone to court demanding that it quash the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) circular dated August 6, 2020 on opening current accounts. The RBI has since extended the date for compliance to October 31, 2021.

Diversion of funds is a major reason for large non-performing assets (NPAs). Internal diversion is for non-priority purposes such as limousines, plush offices, and vanity acquisition of companies. Funds can also be diverted to other firms, owned or controlled by the same group, friends or relatives. The first is the result of misguided strategies or muddled priorities. The second is an intention to defraud lenders, other creditors, and non-controlling shareholders.

Current accounts with non-lending banks are an important channel for diversion. To prevent this, the RBI mandates a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from lending banks before opening such accounts. Banks should verify with CIBIL, the RBI credit database, and inform lenders. Banks should also obtain a NOC from the drawee bank when an account is opened through cheques.

The regulations

The intentions of the impugned circular dated August 6, 2020 are unexceptionable. Widespread non-compliance with mandated safeguards forced the RBI to bar non-lending banks from opening current accounts for large borrowers. Thus, if borrowing is through a cash credit or overdraft account, no bank can open a current account.

If a borrower has no cash credit or overdraft account, a current account can be opened subject to restrictions. If the bank's exposure is less than 10% of total borrowings, debits to the account can only be for transfers to accounts with a designated bank.

If total borrowing is ₹50 crore or more, there should be an escrow mechanism managed by one bank which alone can open a current account. Other lending banks can open 'collection accounts' from which funds will be pe-



REUTERS

riodically transferred to the escrow account.

If the borrowing is between ₹5 crore and ₹50 crore, lending banks can open current accounts. Non-lending banks can open collection accounts. If borrowing is below ₹5 crore, even non-lending banks can open current accounts. The working capital credit should be bifurcated into loan and cash credit components at individual bank levels.

Operational issues

The regulations involve many operational issues. First, if a borrower has an overdraft, how can there not be a current account? An overdraft is the right to overdraw in a current account up to a limit. Without a limit, a banker may allow a temporary overdraft.

The second issue is that the circular forecloses such operational flexibility.

Third, why should a bank with low exposure transfer funds to another bank when it can use it to adjust other dues with it?

Fourth, share in borrowing is not static. Crossing the threshold both ways could happen often. It could be seasonal or monthly with salary payments or collection of dues. Nor are they smooth curves. Huge lumps accompany one-time heavy payments or large export proceeds.

Fifth, there is a mismatch between what a borrower needs and the regulations allow. Support of non-lending banks through current accounts in other banks is required for large accounts. The circular rules out this possibility. But such support is available when the exposure is below ₹5 crore, when it may not be required.

Sixth, transactions in an active current account enables a bank to monitor a borrower's account, however small. The lack of such control was why large development financial institutions of yesteryear built up huge NPAs.

Seventh, the regulation mandates splitting working capital into loan and cash credit components across all banks. Such a one-size-fits-all regulation does not factor in the purpose of the different facilities. A large company might avail itself of loans in Mumbai, but require current accounts with another bank in Assam where it might have a factory. Procrustean controls add costs with no concomitant benefits.

There are other regulatory issues.

First, it is more effective to base regulation more on principles that focus on outcomes than rules content with mere compliance. Rules are not flexible, do not provide for unforeseen circumstances, and can be easily circumvented. Second, regulation needs to use more generic terms. Terms such as Working Capital Term Loan might mean different things in different banks. Third, should regulation be designed to target exceptional events such as diversion of funds, and make the entire system bear the cost? Is it not better to leave management of such exceptional risks to the banks? Fourth, shouldn't the costs of regulation be justified by the benefits? Finally, is more regulation the answer to non-compliance?

Implications for compliance

There are also implications for compliance. When regulation ignores market practices, it lacks legitimacy, a construct from neo-institutionalist literature. When legitimacy is wanting, compliance suffers. The regulatee organisations will resort to what the literature calls cosmetic or creative compliance.

Thus, a new banking practice of overdraft in fixed deposits has emerged. Another form of creative compliance could involve sanctioning unnecessary non-funded limits to artificially boost exposure. A bank could also merely rename current accounts as overdraft, as there is no bar in having a credit balance in an overdraft account. All this will have the counter-intuitive effect of diluting credit discipline rather than strengthening it.

G. Sreekumar is a former central banker

It's time for Industry 4.0

Adopting Industry 4.0 technologies would make MSMEs more efficient and competitive

SAMEER MITTAL & MILIND KUMAR SHARMA

The term 'Industry 4.0' was coined by the German government in 2011. Additive manufacturing, Internet of Things, Cyber Physical Systems, Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality and data analytics are some of the technologies associated with Industry 4.0. With the help of these technologies, the manufacturing industry will be able to make data-driven decisions. The reduced costs of electronics like sensors, transmitters, and cloud have allowed us to capture the data produced during operational activities. With the availability of advanced algorithms, this captured data can be analysed for decision-making in real time. Thus, Industry 4.0 integrated 'data' with manufacturing and Information Technology. To take advantage of data-driven decision-making, the governments of other countries also coined their own industrial initiatives like Industry 4.0. For example, the U.S. calls it Smart Manufacturing, China calls it Made in China 2025, and India refers to it as Make in India or Digital India.

The potential of MSMEs

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are expected to become the backbone of India as the economy grows larger. MSMEs form more than 95% of the industries in India, produce more than 45% of the total manufacturing output and employ more than 40% of the workforce. According to the Economic Survey 2020-21, over 6 crore MSMEs employ more than 11 crore people and contribute roughly 30% to the GDP and half of the country's export. MSMEs are also ancillaries to larger enterprises, leading to a seamless supply chain integration. As a result, making MSMEs more efficient will be advantageous for the whole economy.

However, MSMEs face challenges when it comes to adopting new technologies such as Industry 4.0. First, they lack awareness regarding Industry 4.0 and its benefits. They consider such technologies disruptive and having the potential to demolish their existing system. However, Industry 4.0 believes in improving the existing system. Scientific literature

provides evidence of sensors and Wi-Fi networks being integrated with old machines like lathes and mills to improve their performance. Second, MSMEs will need to make major financial investments to adopt Industry 4.0. Investing in the right set of technologies will need experts and consultants as well. Third, for any new technology to be adopted, an organisation requires a positive organisational culture and the support of people. MSMEs need to believe in the advantages that Industry 4.0 technologies can offer. Fourth, the frameworks and steps that can assist MSMEs in adopting Industry 4.0 technologies have been missing. In this regard, MSMEs need to understand the data they are producing from all their operational activities. Based on such data, their readiness can be evaluated. Finally, MSMEs should develop their own vision of Industry 4.0 technologies that they want to adopt and identify the relevant tools and practices they need for such a tailored vision.

Transcending impediments

Though adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies by MSMEs requires transcending a labyrinth of impediments, it will make them more competitive as they will be able to offer world-class quality products to customers. Additionally, delivery timings and the flexibility to meet different needs will improve. As India joined the group of top 50 countries in the global innovation index for the first time in 2020, it is imperative for its MSMEs to embrace Industry 4.0 technologies without any hesitation. Proper sensitisation of the Government of India, higher education institutions, practitioners, entrepreneurs, industrial associations, trade unions, venture capitalists, consultants and research agencies would help to speed up this task. This becomes imperative given the manufacturing challenges abruptly posed by the COVID-19 pandemic when most of the healthcare infrastructure in India is MSME-dependent.

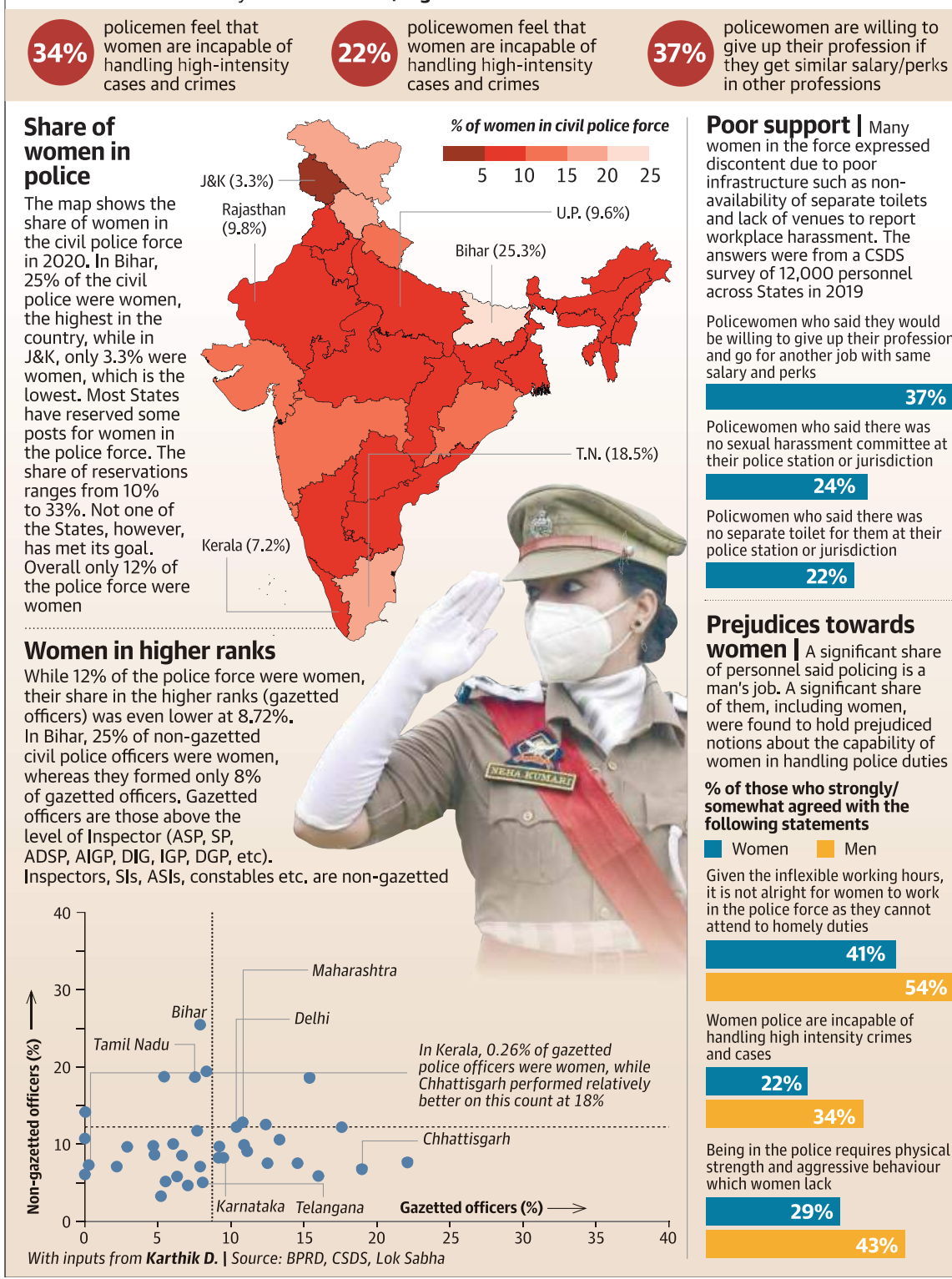
Sameer Mittal is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Tampere University, Finland, and Milind Kumar Sharma is a Professor at M.B.M. Engineering College, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur

DATA POINT

Women in the police force

Only 12% of the Indian police were women as of 2020. While many States have mandated 10% to 33% reservation for women in the police, not one of these States has met its goal. The share of women among the higher ranks was even lower at 8.7%. A significant share of policemen suffer due to patriarchal prejudices and are considered unfit for on-field tasks. Many stations also lack basic infrastructure such as separate toilets for women.

By Jasmin Nihalani, Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Sumant Sen



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 26, 1971

Astronauts given hero's welcome

The Apollo-15 astronauts received New York's traditional hero's welcome yesterday [New York, Aug. 25] with a mortorcade down Fifth Avenue and a gala reception at City Hall. Mayor John Lindsay rode with them and awarded the city's gold medal – its highest honour – in the City Hall ceremonies to Col. David Scott, Lt. Col. James Irwin and Maj. Alfred Worden. From the City Hall the astronauts and the wives of two of them went for a lunch at a restaurant in Rockefeller Centre. From there they went to the United Nations where each astronaut was presented by the Secretary-General, U Thant, with a specially minted gold medal with the word "peace" inscribed in each of the five official languages of the United Nations. Earlier appearing on the N.B.C. "to-day" show, Col. David Scott said he and his fellow astronauts followed instructions to eat as much as they could on their trip to the moon. "We only had a very little bit of food left when we returned. We attempted to eat everything," he said. David R. Scott said in Washington yesterday that he was eager to fly with Soviet cosmonauts in a joint space venture. Speaking at the National Press Club, he said, "I know six cosmonauts personally. I will be glad to fly with any of them any day. And I hope we get that chance."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 26, 1921

Unrest among mill hands

Owing to the long unsettled labour condition in Perambur, the feeling between the Adi-Dravidas and the strikers has become embittered which leads to assault, stone-throwing, or incendiarism, on the part of one party, or the other causing great inconvenience, disquiet and panic among the peaceful inhabitants of the locality. We are informed by the Police that while the Adi-Dravidas were returning to the Mills after their mid-day meal the strikers threw stones at them. But the Adi-Dravidas were prevented by the Police from retaliating and sent to the Mills. Meantime some of the Adi-Dravidas not employed in the Mills threw stones at the Muhammadan huts opposite the Mills. Again at 6:30 P.M. it has been reported that a mob of caste men went to the old Slaughter House Cheri and attacked it with stones and brick-bats. The Police, who happened to be on the scene already, brought the situation well under control. The fusillade of stones was so strong that a Sergeant opened fire and shot one round. The crowd then dispersed.

No coercive action against Rane till Sept. 17: Maharashtra

Union Minister's plea in HC says he was falsely implicated

SONAM SAIGAL MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court on Wednesday that no coercive action would be taken till September 17 against Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane in the First Information Report (FIR) registered at Nashik for making a "slap" remark against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.



Narayan Rane

Mr. Rane moved a Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.J. Jamadar to quash the FIR registered at the Nashik cyber police station on Tuesday.

Advocate Satish Maneshinde, appearing for Mr. Rane, told the court that

there were multiple FIRs against him, and he would amend the petition with all the details.

Senior advocate Amit Desai, representing the government, said no action would be taken against him in the Nashik FIR till September 17.

Mr. Rane, in the petition filed through advocate An-

iket Nikam, said he was falsely implicated in this crime. "The investigation in the said crime is completed and nothing remains to be investigated. Crimes at various police stations against Mr. Rane for the same series of transactions is nothing but causing harassment and multiplicity of litigation," the plea said.

He has been charged with Sections 500 (punishment for defamation), 505 (2) (statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill will between classes), 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Indian Penal Code.

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Disgruntled Cong. leaders meet Rawat

The ongoing infighting within the Congress is harming the interests of Punjab, says Aam Aadmi Party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

A day after raising the banner of revolt against Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, four Ministers and a few Congress MLAs on Wednesday met All India Congress Committee (AICC) in charge of Punjab affairs Harish Rawat in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, to apprise him of their concerns and disappointment against the Chief Minister.



Breaking point: Congress leader Harish Rawat in New Delhi earlier this year. ■PTI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), meanwhile, said the ongoing infighting within the Congress was harming the interests of the State.

Charanjit Channi, one of the Ministers who met Mr. Rawat, told *The Hindu* that all their concerns were shared with Mr. Rawat and he promised to take up the issues with the central lea-

dership. "All the issues that were raised and discussed by us yesterday [at a meeting in Chandigarh] were conveyed to Mr. Rawat. He assured us of taking up our concerns with the high command and getting back to us," said Mr. Channi.

The four Ministers – Sukhinder Randhawa, Tript Rajinder Bajwa, Sukhbinder Sarkaria and Mr. Channi – apart from close to 20 MLAs, on Tuesday, expressed a lack of faith in the leadership of the Chief Minister in fulfilling the party's 2017 election pro-

poses. However, within hours, seven of the 20 MLAs and ex-MLAs purported to have been party to the demand for removal of Capt. Singh, categorically disassociated themselves from any such move.

'Unfortunate for State' Leader of the Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema termed the ongoing rift in the ruling Congress as unfortunate for the State and its people.

He said the allegations levelled by a faction of the Congress MLAs and Ministers, who were advocating for "Punjab" against their own government, were absolutely correct.

"We have been raising all the issues, be it the transport mafia, the liquor mafia, the mining mafia or other pu-

blic-centric issues. Now, the Congress members are also raising them, thus vindicating the AAP. For the last four-and-a-half years, these rebel Congressmen have also been part of the 'mafia rule'. These Ministers are equally responsible for every good or bad decision. When the MLAs and Ministers have been silently or mainly advocating, they cannot blame the failures of the government on any one person or faction," he stated.

The AAP leader asked Congress State chief Navjot Singh Sidhu that when the AAP was seeking answers from the State government on the "mafias" and other important issues related to Punjab inside or outside the Assembly, then why did all these Congressmen shield the Chief Minister.

Afghans can enter India now only on e-visas

All previously issued visas cancelled: govt.

SHASINI HAIDAR DEVESH PANDEY NEW DELHI

In a move that could affect hundreds of Afghans desperate to leave the country, India decided on Wednesday to "invalidate" or cancel all visas issued to Afghan nationals, including about 2,000 issued in the last few months, as the Taliban began to make advances across the country.



Desperate wait: Crowds near an evacuation control checkpoint at the airport in Kabul on Wednesday. ■AP

The Union government announced that all Afghans

must enter India now only on special e-visas applied online. "Keeping in view some reports that certain passports of Afghan nationals have been misplaced, previously issued visas to all Af-

ghan nationals, who are presently not in India, stand invalidated with immediate effect. Afghan nationals wishing to travel to India may apply for e-Visa at www.indianvisaonline.gov.

in," said a statement issued simultaneously by the Union Home Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry.

The news has come as a blow for Indian national Ashiya Iqbal, who is married to an Afghan, and received visas for her husband and in-laws before the Taliban claimed Kabul on August 15. Ms. Iqbal was able to return on the evacuation flight operated by the government from Kabul, but not her family. She said they would have to reapply for visas.

When asked about the announcement, officials said the government was concerned that passports depo-

sited by Afghan nationals for visas, which were being stored at the Indian Embassy and the Indian visa centre in Kabul, could get into the hands of anti-India terror groups. As a result, the Home Ministry decided to cancel them. However, the processing of "e-Emergency X-Misc visas" also appeared to be delayed. Sources said "very few" e-visas had been issued more than a week after the launch. Only about 20 of those "closely associated" with India had been allowed to travel on evacuation flights, the sources said. (Names changed to protect identities)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A special Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft is expected to evacuate at least 200 stranded individuals from Kabul in one of the final Indian airlift flights from Afghanistan following the takeover by the Taliban.

The passengers, who include Indian nationals as well as Sikhs and Hindu citizens of Afghanistan, are likely to arrive early on Thursday.

The aircraft is operating under difficult circumstances as the Taliban has refused to extend an August 31 dea-

line for the U.S. control of the airport in Kabul, which has led to a scramble among several countries to evacuate as many persons as possible within the next few days.

'Provide assistance' Vikramjit Singh Sahney, international president of World Punjabi Organisation, told *The Hindu* that his organisation would provide assistance to rehabilitate needy families under a scheme, 'My Family, My Responsibility'.

The Hindu had reported earlier that apart from the

210 Sikhs, there were some more Indians who were likely to be evacuated later.

Third country It is possible that a third country could also step in to evacuate these vulnerable individuals. There are reports that some of the stranded Sikh citizens of Afghanistan have approached Canada for evacuation.

Canada's Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan announced on Wednesday that the country had carried out its largest evacuation of 530 persons from Kabul airport on Tuesday.

'India anticipated Taliban takeover'

Ready to deal with possible upsurge in terror activities, says Rawat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India anticipated the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban, said the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, here on Wednesday. Speaking at a think tank event, he observed that India was ready to deal with a possible upsurge in terror activities that may be an indirect outcome of the victory of the Taliban.



Bipin Rawat

"Everything that has happened was something that had been anticipated, only the timelines have changed. From the Indian perspective, we were anticipating the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan," said Gen. Rawat at the event titled, "The India-US Partnership: Securing the 21st Century" and organised by the Observer Research Foundation.

The event was attended by Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (US-INDOPACOM) Ad-

miral John C. Aquilino, who also met the tri-service chiefs and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar.

Gen. Rawat expressed India's concern over a possible increase in terror activities following the arrival of the Taliban fighters in Kabul. India's "contingency planning" had been ongoing and the Indian forces were "prepared for that", he asserted

He expressed surprise over the fast pace in which the Taliban moved into various cities of Afghanistan and captured Kabul. "The timeline has surprised us because we were anticipating this happening, may be a couple of months down the line."

The visit of Admiral Aquilino came ahead of the 25th edition of MALABAR-21 which will be held during August 26-29 in the Philippines Sea.

The Indian Navy said, "The aim of the exercise is to increase interoperability amongst the participating navies, develop common understanding and SOPs for Maritime Security Operation". The MALABAR-21 would witness exercises covering all three domains of maritime warfare, including live weapon firing, anti-surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills, joint manoeuvres and tactical exercises, it pointed out.

BCCI-appointed panel to 'look after affairs' of JKCA met with criticism

Panel also faces flak for changing criteria for selectors, coaches in J&K

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

The sub-committee appointed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) "to look after the affairs" of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) has met with quite a bit of criticism.

The sub-committee is headed by Brigadier Anil Gupta, a BJP spokesperson according to his Twitter account. It also comprises advocate Sunil Sethi, a BJP leader who shot into limelight during the Amarnath land row agitation of 2008, and former cricketer Mithun Manhas, who owns the Jammu Cricket Club (JCC).

member of the sub-committee and in contempt of the Division Bench of the J&K High Court at Srinagar," the letter read.

Brig. Gupta, however, brushed aside the criticism. On being a politician and a member of the BCCI sub-committee, Brig. Gupta said, "The Lodha Committee does not bar a politician but a Minister or a politician who holds any official position from being a member."

'A proverb'

"Wasn't [National Conference president] Dr. Farooq Abdullah a politician and a member of the JKCA? These accusations are being made as those who looted the JKCA are getting exposed now," he added.

On using the term "nail him down" in reference to the captain of the Jammu and Kashmir team, Parvez Rasool, Mr. Gupta said it was "a proverb, which means if we have enough evidence to back what we are writing".

"There is no dispute with Mr. Rasool except that he should return the machinery. After checking the stocks, we realised a pitch

roller and a pitch cover worth lakhs [of rupees] were being used by individual clubs and cricket academies. We will not allow it. We have many options. A disciplinary committee will also be constituted in case he [Mr. Rasool] fails to return it," he added. "JKCA should approach the affiliated body in districts for recovery of any machinery and not me. If the JKCA wants any help in that direction I can try my best but don't drag my name in this," Mr. Rasool insisted. When asked how many pitch rollers the JKCA has in Kashmir and how many were missing, Brig. Gupta said, "I do not possess the number right now."

Eligibility criteria

The sub-committee is also facing criticism for changing the eligibility criteria for selectors and coaches in J&K, which are tougher than that in Punjab and Uttarakhand "in a bid to sideline many young talents from a particular region".

"The National Cricket Academy's selection of local coaches for training is also being scuttled," an insider said.

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sr. No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1	SE/Transmission-II	T-2206	1

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website, www.tantranco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Expression of Interest Proposal (REoI)

Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No./Credit No.: 9066-IN
Grant No.:
Date: August 26, 2021

The Chief Engineer-cum-Project Director, State Roads Project, HPRIDCL Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh India invites the Request for Expression of Interest Proposals from national consultants for the consultancy services as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of the Consultancy Services	Date of availability of Detailed Request for Expression of Interest Proposals Document on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/Time for submission of Proposals
1.	Consultancy services for Preparation of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for HPRIDCL	August 26, 2021 (Request for Expression of Interest Proposal document)	September 15, 2021

Note:- Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Expression of Interest Proposals Documents shall be available to all interested firms on official web site of HPRIDCL under link <http://himachalroadservices.nic.in/hpridcl/HPSRTP.html>. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by September 15, 2021 at 15:00 hours (IST).

Chief Engineer-cum-Project Director, State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002
Facsimile: +91-177-2620663; Tel: +91-177-2627602

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA
At : Ichhapur, Post : Shree Baladevjev, Email : eerwskendrapara@gmail.com
Identification No. RWS/13/2021-2022
Letter No. 4118 / Dated 23.8.2021

Corrigendum for Revocation of Tender

This corrigendum for Revocation of Tender has been made against this office bid identification No. RWS/13/2021-22 with letter No. 2353 / Dated, 31.05.2021 due to unavoidable circumstances. The technically disqualified bidders have been wrongly accepted instead of rejection for opening up their financial bid in the e-tender portal based on the Technical Evaluation committee approval report in connection with RPWS to Nikirei and Tarapur of Kendrapara Block vide tender ID: 2021_RWSS_68968_2 and DK Bhola, Palai & Derabish of Derabish Block vide Tender ID 2021_RWSS_68968_3 respectively. Hence the renovation of tender for above two nos. of RPWS Scheme is needed for re-updation of technical bid Status in e-portal and all other terms and condition of the notice remain unaltered.

(Er.B.K.Nayak)
Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara
Q-596: QJPR25004/11/0016/2122

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आधुनिक शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (JIPMER)
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान), (An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GOI)
कर्मचारी नगर, पुदुच्चेरी/Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006
Phone : 2272380 to 2272389 E-mail : purchase@jipmer.edu.in Fax : 0413-2272067/06 website: <http://www.jipmer.edu.in>

No.Pur.8(1)/2021-TENDER-II Dated: 26.08.2021
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE FOR DRUGS
(Electronic Tendering mode only)

The Director, JIPMER Puducherry-605 006, invites online Tender for supply of the Drugs, Disinfectant Fluids and Surgical Dressing Items to the Department of Pharmacy, JIPMER Hospital for the period from October 2021 to September 2022. Tender Document may be downloaded from the JIPMER official website <http://www.jipmer.edu.in> or <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> from 26.08.2021 onwards. All addendums/Corrigendums relating to this Advertisement will appear in above said websites only.

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SH-7, Gaya-Panchanpur Road, Gaya-824236, Bihar

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CUSB invites online application for admission in 25 Ph.D. Programmes. Online Application Period: 25.08.2021 to 10.09.2021. Fee Payment Period: 01.09.2021 to 10.09.2021. For eligibility criteria, mode of direct admission, programme wise vacant seats, etc. please visit University website: www.cusb.ac.in
Controller of Examinations

MISSING

Thomas Kutty, age 57, S/o Mathai Mathuni, Puthazhathu Kizhakkathil Veetil, Pallikkal Naduvil Muri, Bharanikkavu Village, Alappuzha district has been missing from 15.01.2018 and he has not returned so far. Hence if any information is received about him, please inform to the nearest Police Station or below mentioned phone numbers.

Description: Height: 165 cm; Complexion: Fair; Body Shape: Fat
Contact number: ISHO Kurathikad - 9497980278
DySP , Chengannur - 9497990043
District Police Chief, Alappuzha - 94979 96982.
1386/F2/2021/I&PRD

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Chief Engineer (Transmission South), Pattom, Tvm
Ref: PR /MC1 /E303/ E- Tender /2021
E-Tender ID_2021_KSEB_433523_1
PAC-Rs.10,28,34,000 /- Last date -03.09.2021 – 5pm.
Visit www.tenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र-प्रथम, जोधपुर
Tel: 0291-2650750, Email: rj_acejo@nic.in
क्रमांक : अमुअ/जो./प्रथम/20-21/3995-4007 दिनांक : 12.08.2021

विड संशोधन सूचना, NIB संख्या 21-23/2021-22
इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी की गई निविदा संख्या 21-23/2021-22 में निविदा प्रपत्र में आंशिक संशोधन होने के कारण विड संशोधन जारी किया जा कर संशोधित निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> एवं <https://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> पर अपलोड किया गया।
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निविदा संख्या 22/2021-22 (UBIN No. PHE2122WSOB05245)
निविदा संख्या 23/2021-22 (UBIN No. PHE2122WSOB05246)

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NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL TENDER – CPRI/R21NIT11 Date: 26/08/2021

Online e-tenders are invited from eligible manufacturers/suppliers for the following in conformation to National / International standards wherever applicable:-

1) Supply of "Three phase Coupling Decoupling Network (CDN) and accessories" for the existing EFT/Burst immunity test system (Model: AXOS 5 EFT/Burst, Make: Haefely).

Tender documents with detailed specifications, terms & conditions, instructions, and other details be kindly availed/downloaded from CPRI website: <http://www.cpri.res.in> and CPRI e-procurement portal: www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI from 26/08/2021 onwards.
CPRI/ADVT/23/2021 Purchase Authority-CPRI

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त डूंगरपुर
क्रमांक: टी.एस./ निविदा फॉर्म/2021-22/ डी-755-762 दिनांक: 16.08.2021

निविदा सूचना संख्या: 01/2021-22
NIB Code: PWD2122A1164

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से विभिन्न सड़क व पुल निर्माण कार्य मय पांच वर्षों की मरम्मत एवं संभरण की अन्तिम उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संयन्त्रों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 3 कार्यों जिन्हकी कुल लागत राशि रु. 1028.10 लाख है, प्राप्त की जायेगी। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाइट <http://dpp.rajjasthan.gov.in> व <http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यालय यू.बी.एन, संख्या निम्नानुसार है:-

(एन.एस. चौण)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त डूंगरपुर
DIPR/C/829/2021

Delta sub-lineage AY.12 found in India

INSACOG reports prevalence of the micro-lineage that has been linked to a surge in Israel

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Some cases of the novel coronavirus Delta variant, the most widely prevalent variant of concern in India, are being "reclassified" to another sub-lineage that has been associated with a large number of cases in Israel, the India SARS-CoV-2 Genome (INSACOG) Consortium said in a report on Monday.

The Delta variant (B.1.617.2) has birthed several sub-lineages called 'Delta plus' variants that bear most of its characteristic mutations but are different in other ways. One of these sub-lineages, called AY.12, has all the characteristic Delta mutations except one.

The spike in cases in Israel is of concern because it is a country with nearly 60% of its adults fully vaccinated and reports that the Pfizer vaccine's effectiveness in that country is significantly less than what emerged over clinical trials.

"The reclassification is primarily to assist micro-epidemiology and is not based



Solid surveillance: A health worker in New Delhi collects a sample for COVID testing, as States continue their efforts to track and trace. ■R.V. MOORTHY

on acquisition of significant mutations. Thus, it is not currently known whether AY.12 is clinically different from Delta," the INSACOG report noted. "No new mutations of concern are noted in the spike protein (S). However, its rapid growth in Israel means that it should be examined further."

The Delta variant, because of its preponderance in coronavirus cases global-

ly, has several sub-lineages, making it necessary to re-classify them as not doing so would make naming them unwieldy, said Anurag Agrawal, Director, CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology. "A large number of cases in Israel have been linked to AY.12. In India, there are several micro-lineages and some of them are AY.12. We need to wait and watch to see how significant

this micro-lineage is in driving infections in India. But as of now, it has exactly the same risk classification, no more and no less, than Delta," he told *The Hindu*.

Making an estimate

A complete reclassification and estimating the prevalence of AY.12 in India is expected to take some time, according to the INSACOG. "Since the AY.12 definition is

inconsistent, final numbers will take some time. AY.12 analysis will be added to the portal (a public website), along with other new lineages, once there is greater consensus," the report noted.

So far, according to INSACOG, about 70,000 coronavirus samples have been sequenced for their genomic structure, of which 50,000 have been allotted to various lineages. About 60% of them consist of international variants of concern or interest (VoC or VoI) that are globally tracked and linked to outbreaks as well as instances of vaccine breakthrough and reinfections. Within these VoC, the Delta variant comprises 70% of samples. The Delta plus cases, in which AY.12 is included, only number 67, though this is expected to swell after the reclassification.

Though the overall trajectory of daily cases in India is downwards, Kerala has reported nearly 31,000 cases on Wednesday, which accounts for nearly all of India's caseload.

No curbs on inter-State travel, says Centre in new guidelines

Protocol made uniform across the country: Health Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry, in its revised 'Guidelines for domestic travel (flight/train/ship/bus inter-state travel)' issued to States and Union Territories on Wednesday, has said that there shall be no restrictions on inter-State travel by air, rail, water, or road.

The revised guidelines, according to the Ministry, has been issued following a "declining trajectory of COVID cases across the country after a peak in reported cases during mid-May as part of the second wave".

"...To facilitate inter-State travel, while observing required precautions, the guidelines for domestic travel (flight/train/ship/bus inter-state travel) are revised so as to have a uniform protocol for domestic travel across the country," said the Ministry.

It added that in case RT-PCR or RAT tests are required prior to entry into a



The revised guidelines apply for all modes of transport.

State, as notified by the State government, it must be publicised widely to maximise traveller convenience.

As per the revised guidelines, the requirement of a negative RT-PCR or RAT test report can be done away with for asymptomatic persons who have taken both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, on the condition that 15 days have gone by since the administration of the second dose. Such persons must be able to show the vaccine cer-

tificate from the Co-Win portal.

It added that previously States were allowed to develop their own protocols with regards to quarantine and isolation as per their assessment of the local COVID-19 situation. According to the revised guidelines, passengers who are found symptomatic on arrival shall be subjected to Rapid Antigen Test at the terminal to aid early identification.

"In the event of an unusual surge in cases in any State or Union Territory, the States or Union Territories may institute appropriate public health measures promptly and States may implement additional restrictions, based on local requirements," the Ministry added.

Meanwhile, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan chaired a high-level meeting on Wednesday with representatives from the States and Union Territories.

RSS-affiliated trade union slams monetisation plan

'It is akin to selling the family silver'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-affiliated trade union, was opposed to the Union government's plan to monetise assets worth ₹6 lakh crore over four years and was planning to protest against the same, BMS general secretary Binoy Kumar Sinha said on Wednesday.

Mr. Sinha told *The Hindu* that the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) launched by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday was akin to "selling the family silver".

"We understand that the government needs funds,

but this is not the way. They should come up with an alternative plan. We are considering our next course of action, including protests," Mr. Sinha said.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) also came out against the plan on Tuesday, terming it the government's design for "loot of national assets".

"The NMP is a pipeline of corruption while handing over public assets to private hands. It is a project of destroying the national economy and bringing untold miseries to the workers and other sections of the toiling people," CITU general secretary Tapan Sen said in a statement.

Cong. should do its homework: Sitharaman

Finance Minister accuses Rahul of 'misleading' people about the National Monetisation Scheme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday castigated the Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi for "misleading" people and "telling" untruths by accusing the government of selling the country's assets created over the last 70 years.

She was responding to a question from a TV channel journalist on the flak the government received after announcing the ₹6 lakh crore National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).

"I wish the Opposition questions with some homework done. Who actually monetised the Mumbai-Pune corridor," she asked.



Quick rebuttal: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said assets had been monetised during the UPA regime too. ■PTI

"Was it not done by the Congress party which was headed by Sonia Gandhi and ₹8,000-odd crore raised by that?" she said, at a media conference organised on the review of public sector banks.

"New Delhi Railway Station... who called the RFP [Request for Proposal] on it? Was it not the Congress Party in 2008?" she asked.

"In 2008, who was the Prime Minister? Who was the Finance Minister then?

And I would definitely ask Shri Rahul Gandhi when the PM was abroad and when he [Mr. Gandhi] thought that one of the ordinances was so outrageous that he tore it up in front of the media, did he tear up this RFP call for the New Delhi Railway Station to be monetised?" she queried.

Delhi railway station

"Is this not monetisation? They sold off the New Delhi Railway Station and it is owned by *jijaji* [brother-in-law Robert Vadra] now," said the Minister, adding that she could give more examples of asset monetisation during the UPA regime.

"Does he understand what is monetisation?...We

are not selling off. They [the assets] will be handed back to the government," she asserted.

"He [Mr. Gandhi] said we sold everything that was built in 70 years... 70 years... what happened during the Commonwealth Games? With one Commonwealth Games, they finished off all which can be creamed out into the accounts of their cronies," she declared.

She said that in the National Monetisation Pipeline there would be no change of ownership.

"It [assets] will remain with Government of India. They are brownfield assets, which are almost completed but are underutilised," the Minister said.

Govt. move to retain power, says Mamata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday criticised the Centre's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) policy, saying the assets which the Union was in the process of monetisation were not the personal assets of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I have already said these are not Mr. Modi's assets. He cannot sell public assets like this. It is not the BJP's party affairs; it's the country's affairs. We are really shocked. It is an unfortunate decision. Not only me, the whole country will join me in condemning this," she stated.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson alleged that the Centre was selling everything from rail, ports, public sector and insurance in the name of the newly announced policy.

"They are selling everything. I do not support this government. After selling everything, they will keep the money in reserve and use it for elections and remain in power. For holding on to power, they are selling everything," she accused the Centre.

The Chief Minister was also critical of certain Central teams visiting the State. "Parliamentary Committees can come but the Centre sends some people without informing us," she said.

Trafficking survivors write to Bengal CM

They seek the compensation awarded to them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Twenty-nine survivors of human trafficking, who were awarded compensation by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in West Bengal over the past three years, are yet to receive it. The survivors have now approached the West Bengal Chief Minister and urged her to release the funds.

A letter dated August 24, addressed to the Chief Minister by three survivors' collectives - Bandhan Mukti, Uthan and Bijoyini - says, "Eventually, the DLSA has given orders allowing compensation to 29 of the survivors who had applied. When they approached the SLSA [State Legal Services Authority] to release the victim compensation amount which has been awarded between 2019 till date, they were told that the SLSA does not have the necessary fund[s], and the recipients of the compensation need to

wait until SLSA does get the funds." It goes on to add: "At this point when we are told by our State government that they don't have the funds, it leaves us feeling anxious, angry, and in despair."

The survivors' collectives have also sought an appointment with the Chief Minister. Their letter emphasises the importance of compensation to the survivors: "Some of us want to start microbusinesses to earn, for some of us the money will help in continuing education, for health treatment, for building a house of our own, for

securing our future by putting part of the money in some term deposits, etc.," the letter said.

The award of compensation varies from ₹1 lakh to ₹6.50 lakh; most of the victims have been awarded ₹3 lakh to ₹4 lakh.

"Compensation is not a *gratis* or benevolent thing which the State is doing for the survivors. Once the amount is awarded, it becomes statutory right of the person," a senior lawyer of the Calcutta High Court, who has represented several trafficking survivors, said.

Google and Amar Chitra Katha to offer Internet safety lessons

Information will be available in eight languages

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Seeing a heightened need to strengthen Internet safety post the pandemic, Google on Wednesday announced ramping up of resources in India to respond to online threats, including the launch of an updated Google Safety Centre, and introducing the global kids safety program in the country.

The company has launched the global 'Be Internet Awesome' program for kids in India, wherein it will partner with Indian comic book publisher Amar Chitra Katha to offer Internet safety lessons through popular comic book characters across eight Indian languages.

It added that launch of the newly expanded Safety

Centre in Hindi, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada and Telugu, and in Bengali, Tamil, and Gujarati by the end of the year, will serve as a single destination that is dedicated to educating and empowering Google's users on the importance of digital safety covering important topics like data security, privacy controls, and online protection.

THE CROSSWORD + 13336 SCAN TO PLAY

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids! @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjpTn>

ACROSS

1 Doctor Dolittle trimming edges of durable fabric (6)

5 Spooner's group ridicules Lucifer's case (8)

9 Persistent objections about physicist (8)

10 Plastic surgeons go off with caretakers (6)

11 Elusive smart soldier hides in exotic blanket after killing knight (10)

12 Crazy setters leave Greenlanders (4)

13 Lay to rest - take top off in time (5)

14 Capture trophy in opening Olympic competitions at Italy finally (6)

17 Perhaps the sycophant's catch phrase (6)

19 Bank staff may not give you this on brief strike (5)

22 Scrap left by associate in dispute - false cases dismissed (4)

24 Universal Studios initially leaves on special expedition to make humorous story (5,5)

25 Nut heard to conceal bad breath (6)

26 Battalions at sea liquidated Taleban extremists on vessel (8)

27 Deal with volunteers about extraterrestrial feud (8)

28 They are fictional from the records revealed by soldiers (6)

■ **DOWN**

2 Look after fashionable design (6)

3 Occasionally "laid bare" sign at quiet places (9)

4 It is believed husband is in testing time (7)

5 Fare for the consumption of hotel guests at small court (7)

6 Say cheese cycling fruit (7)

7 Leading actress reportedly shot one bird (5)

8 Commands public works (8)

15 He is experienced to go after rooks and thieves primarily (9)

16 Nomad moved around shelter for drink (8)

18 What a winning contestant in poll does not like to narrate? (7)

19 Problematic asthma, a big fuss in India! (7)

20 Spirit from borders of Kampuchea carried by neighbour (7)

21 Five-dollar bill on drink brings the end (6)

23 Insect anticipated problem first and camouflaged (5)

SUDOKU

7				9	6	1	2
6						9	
9	3	2					
8				3			
	9	1	4		7	8	3
			8				4
					6	4	9
	7						5
4	5	6	9				3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13335

S	H	R	I	N	K	S	P	L	E	A	S	E	S
U	O	I	Y	O	C	I	H						
N	A	M	E	S	H	I	N	D					
S	A	J	P	I	O	C	T						
P	A	N	T	A	L	O	N	S	B	E	N	T	
O	T	S	G	B	E	R							
T	A	I	L	S	P	I	N	Z	O	M	B	I	
C	H	A	W	L	A								
R	U	S	S	I	A	T	O	R	T	U	R	E	
S	E	A	M	P	O	B	E	R					
F	O	A	M	N	B	E	R	L	I	N	E	S	
O	X	V	I	L	E	C	S						
C	H	I	D	E	R	A	I	N	C	O	A	T	
U	A	I	K	N	T	D	E						
S	A	L	I	N	A	S	G	R	O	C	E	R	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	5	8	6	1	7	4	9	2
1	9	6	3	4	2	5	8	7
7	2	4	5	8	9	3	1	6
6	3	2	8	9	5	7	4	1
5	7	9	4	6	1	8	2	3
4	8	1	7	2	3	9	6	5
9	4	3	1	7	6	2	5	8
8	1	5	2	3	4	6	7	9
2	6	7	9	5	8	1	3	4

FAITH

Mahabali's justification

Mahabali's guru Sukracharya sees through Vamana's disguise. He is able to see that the One who has come as a Brahmachari is Lord Narayana, the Supreme One. He, therefore, warns Mahabali. He tells the king that the One before Him can take away everything that belongs to him, said Kidambi Narayanan, in a discourse. With one step He can measure this world, and with another He can measure the world above. With Mahabali having promised Him land measured with three steps of His, where will He place the third step, wonders Sukracharya. If Mahabali were to promise to give what Vamana asks and then goes back on his promise, he will go to naraka. So he must think before making rash promises, Sukracharya warns.

But Mahabali says he has already promised the Brahmachari that he will give Him whatever He asks for. Having made such a promise, to refuse to give the land that has been asked for would be equal to lying. And isn't lying a sin? Bhooma Devi Herself has said that She can support many burdens, but cannot bear liars.

And so Mahabali says he will keep his promise to Vamana. "Even if I were to lose my wealth and my position by giving this daana, I will still go ahead. Anyway, when a man dies, he is no longer going to enjoy his wealth. Nothing will be of use to him when he dies, whether it is fame or relatives. So, let me give now. I will be giving to a learned One. You must give daana to a good recipient, and here we have One such. Why hesitate to give? You say that Vamana is the Supreme One. He is the One we worship through yagas. That being the case, I should give what He wants. Even if this Brahmachari is an enemy, I will still give Him what He wants," says Mahabali.



PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

Move over BYOB, it is time to BYOC: Bring Your Own Car. With customers still nervous about eating at busy restaurants, but eager to get out of the house after successive lockdowns, a trend from the 70s is making a comeback and drive-in restaurants are sprouting across the country.

At Drive & Dine by Dhuaan in Kanpur, golf carts deliver food to cars packed in designated spots. Launched last August, by the Status Hospitality Group, this idea was a response to the pandemic. "The hospitality industry was shook. We have hundreds of employees to support. Home delivery was the only thing that was working but that was not enough to cover costs," says Yash Malhotra who has taken over the family hospitality business along with his sister Insha Malhotra.

With large banquet lawns at their dis-

Pancakes on the move

Drive-in restaurants are catching the fancy of diners in the pandemic era, with portable trays hitched to car windows, QR-coded menus and curated playlists

posal, they realised a drive-in diner was a great way to capitalise on their expansive property. "This way diners can maintain distancing while being able to go out of the house and enjoy a meal," says Yash. Picnic benches are placed alongside cars,

in case people wish to stretch their legs, and get out of the car as well. Orders are made via QR codes.

The drive-in experiment got more traction than the Malhotras expected (roughly 60 cars over the weekend), and



Meals on wheels Drive-in breakfast in Mumbai; game night at Arjun Garden Cafe in Medavakkam; and Sri Kamatchi Mess in Esplanade • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, VELANKANNI RAJ AND R RAGU

has now become a permanent feature. "Seeing the success, a couple of small restaurants from cities such as Surat and Chandigarh reached out to us and have implemented a similar concept," says Yash. As Drive & Dine by Dhuaan turns one this week, the team continues to make an effort to keep the space exciting. They host themed evenings such as movie nights, Sufi nights, and even distance dancing nights. "Sometimes clients book the entire or part of the space to play tambola in their cars or for social events," adds Yash.

Drive-in birthday parties are trending too. Shyam Sunder, who runs Arjun Garden Cafe in Chennai's Medavakkam says he often hosts families and friends who park their cars at his cafe, and celebrate special occasions with confetti and cake. Flash mobs have also taken place here, he says.

Shyam, who worked briefly at the Imperial in Delhi, and trained at the Indian Accent restaurant, also in the capital, returned home to Chennai in 2019, to set up the drive-in Cafe with his father Bala

Sunder. Spread over an acre, it houses a seating area with a thatched roof, another space for pets and their owners, as well as 30,000 square feet of open space that can accommodate 45-50 cars.

When launched two years ago, he says, no one really came just for the drive-in. He tried telecasting cricket and football matches on the large screen, which drew in a few clients. Post pandemic, it is a different story.

"People are more comfortable sitting in their car as it's their space, while we take care of everything else," says Shyam. He adds that once the pandemic hit, he lost out on his bachelor clients as most of them moved back to their home-towns. Instead, he saw a rise in the family crowd. "I now have 80% more sales from the drive-in than I did pre-pandemic," he says.

What makes it safer

To ensure physical distancing, a metre's gap is maintained between the cars. Although the drive-in cafe is busiest at dinner time, they have a growing clientele com-

ing in early in the day, to breakfast on the cafe's popular *uthappam* waffles, gingelly oil dosa and chicken keema dosa. Regulars often call in and order in advance. Some call to pre-order slow-cooked meat, which they then enjoy outside on areca palm plates.

In an attempt to make clients feel safer, restaurants are constantly upgrading systems now. At Kaasa Kitchen, Kochi, finger bowls and fumigators (to get rid of the smell of the food) are part of the process. Others, like Zam Zam in Thiruvananthapuram are thoughtfully providing trays that can be attached to the cars' windows, so diners can eat comfortably without juggling hot food on their laps.

Recently launched Sri Kamatchi Mess drive-in in Parrys Corner, Chennai, has a carefully thought out system in place. "We have designed wooden benches that we slide into the cars, so customers can eat off them. They come in two different sizes to suit different models of cars," says producer-turned-actor, V Natarajan, who launched this venture along with his daughter-in-law Rani Kumar. Their earlier businesses include *maavadu.in* (a Thanjavur-style meal delivery service), Sri Kamatchi mess in West Mambalam, and a food truck.

"We also have tables and chairs placed for those who prefer to sit outside and eat," says Natarajan. Functioning out of the canteen building in the Raja Annamalai Mandram complex, the facility can hold about 40 cars at a time. Their strategic location, with the High Court and many Government offices located in the vicinity, has made it convenient for many to stop by for breakfast or lunch.

"Our USP is reviving old-style tiffin items such as Kanjeevaram idli, *more koozh*, *puli upma*, *arisi upma*. We also have a tandoori and Chinese counter, but the focus is on South Indian dishes," says Rani. This is an effective module, provided there is ample parking space. Some, like Sante Spa Cuisine in Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, have made drive-in an extension of its dine-in restaurant. Kanesha Jain, who owns this branch, says their parking area can easily hold up to 50 cars.

To cater to this car dining audience, the restaurant has invested in eco-friendly, plastic-free cutlery, hands-free ordering service via their app and a Spotify playlist that enables in-car diners to listen to the same music being played inside the restaurant.

People want to be in their safe bubbles and think of their cars as one. Yes, home delivery is always an option agrees Kanesha, but certain dishes lose their flavour and character by the time they get delivered. This way, one gets to enjoy the best of both worlds: People get to go out and be safe at the same time. And of course, a little nostalgia never hurt anyone.

With inputs from
Chitradeepa Anantharam



WOODLANDS DID IT FIRST

In 1962, at the centre of what is now Semmozhi Poonga, stood Woodlands, in Chennai, South India's first drive-in restaurant. The Woodlands Hotel Group leased out 18 of the 320 acres of the Agri-Horticultural Society on Cathedral Road to build what would go on to become one of the city's most popular landmarks until it shut down in 2008.

Considered an innovative venture then, it helped popularise Udipi style vegetarian cuisine. The entire car parking area functioned as the restaurant and steel trays, with glasses of water, were fitted to the front doors of the cars. Waiters would then come to the car and narrate the items on the menu that day.

Its sprawling greenery that included a play area for children made it popular among families. Located in the heart of the city, it attracted many morning walkers who would stop by for breakfast and be assured of steaming hot pongal and *idli* as early as 6 am.

Their *chole bhature*, *masala dosa*, *sambar vada*, chilli cheese toast, *bonda* and coffee were the most popular items on menu.

DON'T CHECK OUT

General managers of luxury hotels in Chennai teamed up on bikes with one goal: they want you to check-in



All revved up (Left to right) Rajesh Radhakrishnan, Sudip Sengupta, Shafee Ahmed and Shabin Sarvotham • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

Dishevelled hair, biker jackets and knee guards are not something one normally associates with general managers of hotels. And yet, here they are ditching power dressing – sharp suits, ties, Oxfords – for biker chic as they ride down Chennai's East Coast Road, to raise awareness about tourism.

The second edition of the Rediscover Chennai, Rediscover Life bike ride took place over the weekend. It began last year as four passionate bikers and hoteliers – Rajesh Radhakrishnan, Shafee Ahmed, Shabin Sarvotham and Sudip Sengupta – brainstormed to find a way to promote tourism in Tamil Nadu.

"The travel and hospitality industry is badly hit due to the pandemic. When hotels opened last September, business was bad with a few hotels having only 10-15% occupancy. It was demotivating," says Shafee Ahmed,

general manager of E Hotel, adding, "We had to send out a loud and clear message informing our guests that hotels are safe."

Rajesh Radhakrishnan, general manager at The Park, adds, "We had to create a buzz around hotels reopening." The question was – how to get people to take notice. Bikes were the answer. That is how the first edition took place last year with 30 general managers riding up till Mamallapuram and back. This year the number swelled to 45. They were joined by those unaccustomed to the charms of two-wheel rides cheering on in cars. "The idea is to promote Chennai and its hotels, focussing on places to see," says Radhakrishnan.

Supported by India Tourism and Tourism of Tamil Nadu, this time the event was flagged off by Venkatesan Dattatreyan, Regional Director, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and Sandeep Nanduri, IAS – Director of Tourism and Ma-

naging Director of TTDC, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The bikers rode around 80 kilometres, up to Kovalam, stopping by Bay of Life, on the way, where surfing and other water sports were showcased.

"We plan to make it an annual feature," says Radhakrishnan. Is it a challenge to find new destinations every year? No, says Shabin Sarvotham, senior general manager, GRT Radisson Temple Bay. "There are a lot of hidden places in India," he states, adding that he was in Udhagamandalam for over nine years and still has so much to explore.

Sarvotham, Ahmed, Radhakrishnan and Sengupta (Vice President at Green Park) ride together almost every weekend. After 14 hour work-days from Monday to Saturday, Shabin says riding on Sundays is de-stressing, even if it means being out and about by 5.30 am. He adds, "On our rides we don't discuss hotels or business."



Blink and miss

Folk-inspired acrylic paintings come alive in this AR-enabled display of Karnataka-based artist Manjunath Wali's works

GOWRI S

Birds flutter across as the leaves of a coconut tree sway gently. All around them are mud houses – in bright hues of blue, red, peach and green – that cling to each other. The structures sit on what seems to be a river: the water ripples as the moon climbs higher and higher, against passing stars. A static, rather abstract, folk-inspired acrylic work thus comes alive when one holds a screen against it.

In Chennai's quaint Vennba Gallery, 10 such works by Karnataka-based artist Manjunath Wali are set to motion using Augmented Reality (AR), in an exhibition titled Folk Phorescence.

Wali's first solo show in Chennai, on until August 31, the display showcases 28 of his works, done across mediums like charcoal,

pens, pencils and acrylics. While 11 of them are AR-enabled (rendered by the design team at Vennba), the rest gives a glimpse into Wali's affinity toward folk motifs and how he interlaces them with contemporary elements.

Reliving childhood

Crowded with meaning, and with recurring images of village landscapes, the canvases are meant to introduce an urban audience to the simple joys of the countryside. "I am interested in the folk style of architecture, and inspired by historical monuments. I thought I could merge



Colours of the countryside (Clockwise from left) Work is Worship; frames from the My Villager series; (below) Manjunath Wali • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



them into contemporary landscapes too," says Manjunath who spent his childhood in Huvina Hipparagi, in Karnataka's Bijapur district.

His own village, especially when decked up during festivals with "a combination of colours splashed on walls", has served as a muse many times. The series on display, which screams happiness and nostalgia, is largely inspired by familiar landscapes and forgotten scenes from his childhood.

The artist, in fact, says he was confused when he saw the AR version of his own work. "My birds were not flying on the canvas, but they were flying on the screen!" he laughs. These versions can be viewed on any device

through an app called Artivive.

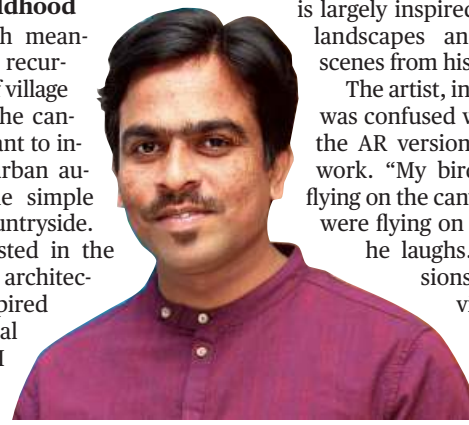
In contrast to this interactive series stand his equally intricate, black and white works. "Black and white works are very challenging. Especially when you have to show dimension in a single tone. It is a risky task!" he says.

Done using charcoal, pen and pencil, Manjunath takes a single object and creates a world within it. In the piece titled *Live Together*, the artist zooms in on the facade of a lorry, on which he portrays homes, castles, fragments of doors and windows, roofs, and mud tiles, and juxtaposes them a serene, mountainous landscape.

Perched atop the lorry are scores of birds. For Manjunath, birds are metaphors for happiness and freedom – and so, most of his canvases house a bird or two. "Earlier, I used to experiment with different styles to arrive at a bird figure. Lately, my birds have also become inspired by folk art," he adds.

Unwind, another acrylic work in varying shades of brown, shows a gramophone that encapsulates similar architectural and natural elements – birds make an appearance there too, since the gramophone is an allegory to a liberated and therapeutic experience.

Manjunath always goes back to "once upon a time" in his works. "I represent that time. I want the coming generations to know more about village architecture and traditional objects." He plans to fashion fibre and bronze sculptures, while sticking to the same concept that he has worked on since 2011.



Biking through history
Ramanujar Moulana at the Madras Medical College Museum; the obelisk at Stanley Medical College
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Cyclist Ramanujar Moulana's medical heritage bike trail takes you through the city's iconic hospitals, dispensaries and institutions

Who are Chennai's caregivers?

SWETA AKUNDI

Shortly after the second wave of the pandemic abated, cyclist Ramanujar Moulana spent his days riding to the city's hospitals, clinics, dispensaries and medical colleges. Born out of these rides in those two months is his fourth book, *Madras By Cycle: Medical Heritage Trails of Chennai*.

The guide booklet offers cyclists trails to ride on, in order to learn about the history of Chennai's medical institutions (like the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital established as early as 1664 for British soldiers, making it just a decade younger than the Taj Mahal), and understand why the city

has grown to be a hub for medical tourism. It is accompanied by QR codes for cyclists to map the locations mentioned.

The trails include the Madras Medical College (MMC) and its hockey ground which is currently undergoing a facelift; The King Institute of Preventive Medicine in Guindy, which played an important role in supplying smallpox vaccines; and native medicine centres such as the Amrutanjali building and the Dubba Chetty Shop in Mylapore.

A special section is dedicated to four pioneer doctors who also had an interest in cycling. This includes Dr Charles Donovan, the first Medical Superintendent of the Government Royapettah

Hospital, and Dr Ida Scudder, founder of CMC Vellore, who is said to have cycled all the way from Philadelphia to New York to attend the Cornell Medical School in 1898.

Mapping the city

The booklet is in continuation of Ramanujar's series of trails exploring OMR/ECR, George Town, and North Chennai, that he releases every Madras Day.

For this year, he had planned one on the city's iconic food joints. And then the second wave of the pandemic began. "We (his group, the Cycling Yogis) had completed most of the food guide before the second wave. But then so many eateries shut down permanent-

ly," he says, explaining why he turned to the medical heritage trail instead. Sankar Nethralaya is the youngest building mentioned in the book, and Ramanujar says the organisation holds a special place in his heart, for helping with his mother's cataract surgery.

Referring to media reports, historian columns, and hospital websites, Ramanujar discovered pieces of history as he charted the rides.

"At Stanley Hospital campus, I found an obelisk that mentions the names of Assistant Surgeons of the Presidency who died during the First World War," he says. "I had also always wanted to visit the Red Fort which is what they call the MMC Museum (owing to its brick facade)."

While Ramanujar will start working on remapping the food joints that are still surviving despite the pandemic, he has another idea for a guide book. "I want to focus more on institutions and Government bodies, instead of places, like I did before," he says. "Some of our cyclists are part of the police administration, so I thought it would be nice to document the city's police heritage. Some of our police stations are over a hundred years old."

to people, but they can read these messages."

The decals speak five languages – English, Tamil, Marathi, Hindi and Kannada. The combination of languages changes with the itinerary. Priti explains that at some point they will head into Gujarat, and then, decals with anti-spitting messages in Gujarati would make it to the metal.

Attitudes can be unyielding to the toughest of edicts. And, to expect awareness stickers to bend one, reeks of Pollyannish optimism at best and ostrich-like naivete at worst. Let us face it: What are the realistic expectations from this exercise?

"We joined hands with volunteer organisations and started pushing for anti-spitting posters in Government offices," explains Priti, largely referring to how the drive went in Maharashtra, and to some degree in Bengaluru, where again they aligned with NGOs to promote the cause.

Though started in February, their inter-State road tour has been moving in fits and starts, due to the second wave and continuing region-specific lockdown restrictions. Priti points out that these restrictions define the course of the campaign.

they had founded.

"In the days before COVID-19, our volunteer groups would be working in public places – bus stands and railway stations – where they would do skits and Zumba on no-spitting. We have done wall paintings and conducted 20-minute sessions for students from Class VI and above in 150 schools in Pune," elaborates Priti. "Now, due to social distancing, we did not want to step out and talk



Message on wheels
The couple recently hit the streets of Chennai after covering parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Spit stop

in 2010, responding to the swine flu (2009-10) and the fact that India is a tuberculosis hotspot.

In the following years, Raja would turn his back on a corporate career and Priti on an entrepreneurial engagement to focus on Sare Jahan Se Acha Foundation, a Section 8 not-for-profit company

A Pune-based couple and their Labrador travel across the country in a decal-covered vehicle that blares out an anti-spitting message

PRINCE FREDERICK

You and I go to Google Maps to avoid a traffic snarl. Raja Narasimhan and Priti Raja go to the app to get trapped in one. Here is why they drive against the tide. Their ride is clothed in decals that bear a message, and a busy road is where it is most read.

The Pune-based couple and their pet Labrador Cara drive around in their SUV, letting the vehicle spit out the message – that spitting can kill. After having rolled over vast swathes of Maharashtra and Karnataka, they recently hit Chennai's busy routes.

Though the pandemic has spawned many of them, anti-spitting campaigns are relevant as long as pathogen-carrying saliva exists alongside an attitude that views the road as a convenient spittoon. The couple started their way back

'There's no fear-based mentality at Marvel'

Director Destin Daniel Cretton discusses stepping into the Marvel Cinematic Universe with *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

When Destin Daniel Cretton was asked by president of Marvel Studios Kevin Feige during the former's pitch for *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, Feige and his team asked Cretton if he was ever keen on doing a Marvel movie.

The filmmaker froze and immediately recalled a phone call with his manager weeks before the pitching process, where he specifically said, "don't ever let me do a Marvel movie". Fast forward to 2021, and Cretton is sitting for a busy press day for the project.

Timeline-wise, *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* picks up after *Avengers: Endgame*; it follows titular hero Shang-Chi (Simu Liu) drawn into the cryptic Ten Rings organisation and is forced to confront a troubling past he left behind.

When Cretton was announced as the film's director in March 2019, the MCU zeitgeist was experiencing a furore that not many other cinematic franchises had the luxury of boasting.

Cretton is not embarrassed to admit his fears of stepping into

the MCU, though most people are. "I was scared of stepping into a big studio movie like this and of what it might do to me. I had a lot of fears," he recalls.

He had one person to turn to, though: old friend and long-time collaborator Ryan Coogler, director and co-writer of *Black Panther*.

"Ryan said, 'the pressure is hard; it'll be the hardest thing potentially that you have done up to



Asian superhero
Stills from the film
MARVEL STUDIOS 2021



this point, but none of that pressure or none of those complications come from the people you're working with or for." That eased my mind. Not to toot Kevin's horn, but there is an environment of curiosity and exploration that comes from the top down.

There is no fear-based mentality at this studio which has allowed us to take risks and chances and be able to instill that same fearless exploration with everybody involved in this film and that's a huge reason that the movie turned out the way that it did."

Feige on-boarded Cretton because of the filmmaker's determination to go deeper with Shang-Chi as both a superhero and a young man dealing with the sins of his father, while speaking to the Asian diaspora experience.

"If we were not putting Shang-Chi shoulder to shoulder with all the amazing other Marvel superheroes we have come to love in the past, that would be, to me, a big disservice to the culture and character."

Authenticity was more than a priority to Cretton and Marvel. After all, with Shang-Chi travelling to China, not everyone would be readily speaking English. "The conversation behind which language should be spoken was always rooted in just the logic of the characters, and who would naturally be speaking what language," he affirms, adding, "That conversation started in the writer's room and then once our actors came in, it was always a dialogue around all these. So, we were constantly having the discussion of what made sense for the scene."

Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings releases in theatres on September 3.

A world without artistes

Poet Madhu Raghavendra's latest collection of poems acknowledges a collective angst born of the pandemic

GOWRI S

I don't mind/ Being the non-essential/ knowing you will come looking/ when things are broken/ and nothing else works

In 2020, these lines surfaced on screens followed by a torrent of shares, saves and likes. An excerpt from *Artist*, a poem written by Guwahati-based Madhu Raghavendra, the verse spoke volumes on what it means to be an artiste in a world in the grip of a pandemic. Shared widely, including by English actor Amanda Abbington, musician Stanley Grill and others, the poem quickly waltzed its way into becoming a lockdown phenomenon.

The role of an artiste in unprecedented circumstances has been and continues to be debated, more than ever over the last two years. Madhu's new collection of poems titled *Being Non-Essential* (published by Red River), recently launched at Amdavadi, Chennai in an event organised by Prakriti Foundation, is an examination of this very question – and of art itself.

"The idea definitely came from the space that artistes were rendered non-essential across the world. It wouldn't have happened if the poem *Artist* itself had not spread," he says. When the popular verse made its rounds, people tried to make it their own – they made music out of it, set it against Russian paintings...the resonance and relatability was palpable.

Testament of the times

Around this time, Madhu also started writing about the importance of art by pointing at ourselves and our conditioning – of how we are taught to view art as a deviation, rather than a necessity. In his poem titled *Why Does Art Go Hungry*, he uses the allegory of a grasshopper: *In the story of the*

ants/and the grasshopper/ we tell our children/ to learn from the ants/ to fall in line, to follow, to pick a useful trade...

The farmers' protests and the brutal second wave of COVID-19 that hit India, bound these pieces together into a compendium of reactionary words, says Madhu, who is also the founder of Poetry Couture, a pan-India initiative that attempts to revive the culture of reading poetry and prose.

"Poetry should give hope in times of despair. And shake up society when the things are normal. I also feel that the artiste's job is to record his time in history. I want people to remember," says Madhu who, through Poetry Couture, has always looked at taking poetry out of the shelves.

"Poetry is an everyday exercise and that should be brought back," he says. To that end, *Read*, a poem from this collection, invites one to proudly reclaim one's words and read poetry "loud enough to reach beyond the radius of hate".

Some works also carry hints of visualisation, like the poem titled *Covid Helpline: The lines repeat: Please stay on line/your call is important to us*. Between the refrains, is an ECG, gradually on its way to flatlining.

Is visualisation an important tool for poetry as a medium? "There are many schools of poetry that have been doing things a certain way. Now, we need to break free and collaborate with artforms. There is opportunity for that now, with digital media."

His next book, Madhu says, is made from everyday waste – "whatever I find in dustbins, when I am walking on streets and so on. Looking at art in everyday things and questioning them is a very 1950s-60s, pop art-inspired way. I think once in a while, it should come back."



Lockdown verse
Madhu Raghavendra
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13427

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- Across
- 1 Den (4)
- 3 Versatile employee (8)
- 8 Cop shop (4)
- 9 Repeated without understanding (8)
- 11 Lawless adventurer (10)
- 14 They can never win (6)
- 15 Military engagement (6)
- 17 Propitious (10)
- 20 Spring-flowering bulb (8)
- 21 In the same place (Latin; abbr) (4)
- 22 Casual footwear (8)
- 23 Prolonged mutual hostility (4)
- Down
- 1 Low area where waste is buried (8)
- 2 Augment (8)
- 4 South American river (6)
- 5 Sixty (10)
- 6 One of four art galleries in England (4)
- 7 Constructed (4)
- 10 Anomaly – a Breton air (anag) (10)
- 12 South-east African country (8)
- 13 Not properly cared for (8)
- 16 Nurse – nursery rhyme doctor (6)
- 18 Knackered (4)
- 19 US agency responsible for space flight (4)

The solution will appear on September 2, 2021.
Solution No. 13426

H	A	I	R	S	P	L	I	T	T	I	N	G
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To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

Afghans race to flee Taliban regime

More than 80,000 people have been evacuated since August 14, but crowds remain outside airport

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Afghans on Wednesday faced an increasingly desperate race to escape life under the Taliban after President Joe Biden confirmed U.S.-led evacuations will end next week.

More than 80,000 people have been evacuated since August 14, but huge crowds remain outside Kabul airport hoping to flee the threat of reprisals and repression in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

Mr. Biden said on Tuesday the United States would stick to his August 31 deadline to completely withdraw its troops despite warnings from European allies that not all vulnerable Afghans would be able to leave by then.

"The sooner we can finish, the better... each day of operations brings added risk to our troops," Mr. Biden said on Tuesday.



Desperate wait: People outside the international airport in Kabul on Wednesday. *REUTERS/DAVID MARTIN

"We are currently on the pace to finish by August 31."

Washington and its allies have been flying out thousands of Afghans every day on hulking military transports, but it has become an increasingly difficult and desperate task.

Many Afghans fear a repeat of the brutal five-year Taliban regime that was top-

pled in 2001, and violent retribution for working with foreign militaries, Western missions and the previous U.S.-backed government.

Turkey, which had more than 500 non-combat troops stationed in Afghanistan, said on Wednesday it had started pulling out its forces.

The withdrawal signalled an apparent abandonment

of the plans it had been negotiating to help secure Kabul's strategic airport after the American departure.

Women's rights

There are particular concerns for women, who were largely banned from education and employment and could only leave the house with a male chaperone during the group's rule in the 1990s.

On Wednesday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the international community must maintain dialogue with the Taliban if it is to protect any progress made over the past 20 years.

Germany envoy Markus Potzel, meanwhile, said on Twitter he had met with Taliban deputy chief negotiator Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, who "assured me that Afghans with legal documents will continue to have the opportunity to travel on

commercial flights after August 31".

Kabul airport has been gripped by chaos as U.S.-led troops try to maintain a secure perimeter for evacuation flights, surrounded by desperate Afghans.

Some have foreign passports, visas, or eligibility to travel, but most do not. At least eight people have died in the chaos.

"Does anyone ... ANYONE ... have a contact inside the airport," pleaded one American on a WhatsApp group set up to share information on how people can access the airport.

"My guy worked for us 2010-15 and needs to get out with 5 of his family. This is real bad."

The Taliban have also been accused of blocking or slowing access for many trying to reach the airport, although they denied the charge again late Tuesday.

Kamala Harris reaches Hanoi after 'Havana syndrome' delay

China slams U.S. for 'bid to intimidate' nations in the region

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HANOI

Vice-President Kamala Harris began a visit to Vietnam on Wednesday to stress U.S. commitment to Asia, a trip critics have slammed as tone-deaf given the parallels with the superpower's evacuations from Saigon and Kabul.

Ms. Harris will meet the communist state's President and Prime Minister in Hanoi, a day after accusing regional giant Beijing of intimidation in the disputed South China Sea.

Her arrival was delayed due to what U.S. officials called an "anomalous health incident" in Hanoi, an apparent reference to the so-called "Havana syndrome", which has afflicted U.S. diplomats in several countries including China and Russia.

It is not clear what causes the syndrome and it has led to unproven allegations that Russians or others used sonic or other high-intensity



Kamala Harris

electronic devices to physically harm U.S. diplomats.

The visit, the first to Vietnam by a sitting U.S. Vice-President, comes after a two-day stop in Singapore, where Ms. Harris took aim at China and sought to shore up U.S. credibility in the wake of the Taliban's stunning return to power.

But the Vietnam leg of the Asian tour has sparked criticism after the chaotic evacuation of Kabul prompted comparisons with the trauma of 1975 Saigon, when U.S.

helicopters ferried final evacuees from the embassy roof in the last days of the Vietnam War.

Ms. Harris used a speech in Singapore to say Beijing "continues to coerce, to intimidate" and to make unreasonable claims to large areas of the South China Sea.

"We need to find ways to pressure and raise the pressure, frankly, on Beijing to abide by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea," she added.

China hit back at the accusations through its state media on Wednesday, accusing the U.S. of hypocrisy in attempting to "coerce and intimidate" countries in the region in its "scheme to contain China".

China claims almost all of the resource-rich South China Sea, through which trillions of dollars in shipping trade passes annually, with competing claims from four Southeast Asian states including Vietnam.

Putin, Xi agree to jointly combat 'threats'

Efforts to be made to combat terrorism as well as drug trafficking in the region

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping have agreed their countries will step up efforts to counter "threats" emerging from Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover, the Kremlin said on Wednesday.

In a phone call, the two leaders "expressed their readiness to step up efforts to combat threats of terrorism and drug trafficking emanating from the territory of Afghanistan," the Kremlin said in a statement.

They also spoke of the "importance of establishing peace" in Afghanistan and "preventing the spread of in-



Battle-ready: Afghan resistance forces during a military exercise in Dara district of Panjshir province. *AFP

stability to adjacent regions".

SCO summit

Mr. Putin and Mr. Xi "agreed to intensify bilateral contacts" and "make the most of

the potential" of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) that is due to convene for a summit in Tajikistan next month.

Several ex-Soviet republics in Central Asia - where

Moscow holds military bases - share a border both with Afghanistan and China.

While Moscow has been cautiously optimistic about the new leadership in Kabul, Mr. Putin has warned of Afghan militants entering neighbouring countries as refugees.

Mr. Putin has also criticised the involvement of outside powers in Afghanistan's domestic affairs and said Moscow had "learnt lessons" from the Soviet Union's decade-long invasion of the country.

For its part, after the Taliban swept to power, China said it is ready to deepen "friendly and cooperative relations" with Afghanistan.

No surrender, but open to talks: Massoud

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

The leader of a resistance movement to the Taliban has vowed to never surrender but is open to negotiations with the new rulers of Afghanistan, according to an interview published by Paris Match on Wednesday.

Ahmad Massoud has retreated to his native Panjshir Valley north of Kabul along with former Vice-President Amrullah Saleh.

"I would prefer to die than to surrender," Mr. Massoud said in his first interview since the Taliban took over Kabul. "I'm the son of Ahmad Chah Massoud. Surrender is not a word in my vocabulary."

U.S. top court reinstates 'Remain in Mexico' policy

SC decision deals a blow to Biden

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed the revival of an immigration policy that forced asylum seekers to wait in Mexico for their court dates, in a blow to President Joe Biden.

Under former President Donald Trump's "Remain in Mexico" programme, tens of thousands of non-Mexican asylum seekers - mostly from Central America - were sent back over the border pending the outcome of their applications.

The Biden administration moved quickly to start dismantling and end the controversial policy, officially called the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP).

The administration eventually asked the Supreme Court for a stay in reinstat-

ing the programme.

In a brief unsigned order, however, the court said on Tuesday that "the application for a stay... is denied."

In the order, the court referenced a separate case, in which it blocked Republicans in June 2020 from ending a federal programme giving legal status to hundreds of thousands of immigrants, known as Dreamers.

The court had found the Republican move to cancel the programme to be "arbitrary and capricious."

The Supreme Court similarly said in its order on Tuesday that the Biden administration had "failed to show a likelihood of success on the claim that the memorandum rescinding the Migrant Protection Protocols was not arbitrary and capricious."

'Search for COVID-19 origins stalled'

WHO experts warn the window of opportunity to solve mystery is 'closing fast'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

The international scientists dispatched to China by the World Health Organization to find out where the coronavirus came from said on Wednesday the search has stalled and warned that the window of opportunity for solving the mystery is "closing fast."

Meanwhile, a U.S. intelligence review ordered up by President Joe Biden proved inconclusive about the virus's origin, including whether it jumped from an animal to a human or escaped from a Chinese lab, *The Washington Post* reported on Wednesday.

Chinese reluctance

In a commentary published in the journal *Nature*, the WHO-recruited experts said the origins investigation is at



Key inquiry: A convoy of vehicles carrying the WHO team enters the Huanan seafood market in Wuhan on Jan. 31. *AP

"a critical juncture" requiring urgent collaboration but has instead come to a standstill. They noted among other things that Chinese officials are still reluctant to share some raw data, citing concerns over patient confidentiality.

Earlier this year, WHO sent a team of experts to Wuhan, where the first human

team concluded the virus probably jumped to humans from animals, and they described the possibility of a laboratory leak as "extremely unlikely." But the WHO experts said their report was intended only as a first step and added, "The window of opportunity for conducting this crucial inquiry is closing fast: any delay will render some of the studies biologically impossible."

For example, they said, "Antibodies wane, so collecting further samples and testing people who might have been exposed before December 2019 will yield diminishing returns."

China said on Wednesday that officials should "concentrate on other possible avenues that may help trace the origin" of COVID-19 and suggested studies should be pursued in other countries.

In their analysis, published in March, the WHO

Algeria cuts diplomatic ties with 'hostile' Morocco

Decision based on false pretext: Rabat

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ALGIERS

Algeria's Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra said on Tuesday that his country has severed diplomatic relations with Morocco due to "hostile actions", following months of resurgent tensions between the North African rivals.

The countries have long accused one another of backing opposition movements as proxies, with Algeria's support for separatists in the Western Sahara a particular bone of contention for Morocco.

Their rivalry took a new twist last year when outgoing U.S. president Donald Trump recognised Moroccan sovereignty over the territory - in exchange for Morocco normalising ties with Israel.

"Algeria has decided to cut diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Morocco from today," Mr. Lamamra said.

"History has shown... Morocco has never stopped carrying out hostile actions against Algeria," he told a press conference.

In a statement later on Tuesday, Morocco's Foreign Ministry said Algiers' move was "completely unjustified" but "expected given the logic of escalation seen in recent weeks".

Rabat said the decision was based on "false, even absurd pretexts".

The rupture followed a review of bilateral relations announced by Algeria last week as it alleged its neighbour was complicit in deadly forest fires that ravaged the country's north.

ELSEWHERE



Hochul adds 12,000 deaths to COVID-19 tally

NEW YORK
New York Governor Kathy Hochul promised more government transparency on her first day in office and by day's end her administration had quietly delivered it by acknowledging nearly 12,000 more deaths in the state from COVID-19. *AP

16 soldiers killed in southeast Niger

NIAMEY
An attack by hundreds of Boko Haram fighters on a town in Niger's southeast killed 16 soldiers and wounded nine others, Defence Minister Alkassoum Indatou has said. Nigerian soldiers "neutralised around 50 terrorists", he added. *AFP

Iran's Parliament approves President's Cabinet choices

18 out of 19 nominee put forward by Ebrahim Raisi approved

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran's Parliament on Wednesday approved almost all new President Ebrahim Raisi's Cabinet choices, enabling him to start working in earnest with his government, following a June election victory.

Lawmakers approved one-by-one 18 out of 19 candidates put forward by Mr. Raisi for the ministerial posts.

They rejected only his pick for the education portfolio, thus requiring the President to make another choice for that post.

In an Islamic republic where ultimate power rests with supreme leader Ayatol-

lah Ali Khamenei, Mr. Raisi inherits a difficult socio-economic situation.

Iran has been strangled financially by sanctions reimposed by Washington after then U.S. President Donald Trump pulled out of a multi-lateral nuclear deal in 2018.

Rise in infections

The country of 83 million people has since been hit by a severe economic crisis amplified by the pandemic.

Iran is currently grappling with a fifth wave of infections - the strongest wave yet.

The country recorded its highest single day death toll on Tuesday, with 709 fatalities registered by the Health

Ministry in 24 hours.

The conservative President won a June 18 election marred by record low turnout and an absence of significant competitors.

He succeeds moderate president Hassan Rouhani, architect of the political opening that culminated in the 2015 nuclear agreement between Tehran and major powers.

But that external opening was torpedoed by Mr. Trump and much of Iran's conservative camp.

The new President was sworn in by Parliament in early August, but the outgoing administration remained at the helm until Wednesday's parliamentary vote.

Two injured in acid attack at Tokyo station

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Two people suffered burns in an acid attack at a Tokyo subway station with the perpetrator still at large, police and local media said on Wednesday.

The attack took place at Shirokane Takanawa station in Tokyo on Tuesday night, while the Paralympics opening ceremony was being held.

One of the victims, a 22-year-old businessman, sustained burns to his face after the suspect sprayed liquid at him on an escalator, police said.

Public broadcaster NHK said the man was severely injured by the liquid. A 34-year-old woman also fell and reportedly suffered minor burns to her legs.

Fukushima nuclear water to be released via undersea tunnel

The aim is to avoid interference with local fishing

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO

The operator of the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant said on Wednesday it plans to build an undersea tunnel so that massive amounts of treated but still radioactive water can be released into the ocean about 1 km away from the plant to avoid interference with local fishing.

The operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, said it hopes to start releasing the water in spring 2023. TEPCO says hundreds of storage tanks at the plant need to be removed to make room for facilities necessary for the plant's decommissioning.



A file photo of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town. *AP

An official, Junichi Matsumoto, said TEPCO will construct the undersea tunnel by drilling through bedrock in the seabed near its No. 5 reactor, which survived the meltdowns at the plant, to minimise possible underground contamination or leakage of radioactive ground water into the tun-

nel. Radioactive water has been stored in about 1,000 tanks at the Fukushima Daiichi plant since 2011, when a massive earthquake and tsunami damaged three reactors and their cooling water became contaminated and began leaking.

The government decided in April to start discharging the water, after further treatment and dilution, into the Pacific Ocean in spring 2023 under safety standards set by regulators, a move opposed by fishermen and neighbouring countries.

Under the new plan, the water will be released at a depth of about 12 m below the ocean's surface, said Mr. Matsumoto.

MARKET WATCH

	25-08-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	55,944	-0.026
US Dollar	74.24	-0.06
Gold	47,428	-1.89
Brent oil	71.46	1.3

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	720.75	25.35
Asian Paints	3038.05	-7.90
Axis Bank	739.05	-7.30
Bajaj Auto	3689.65	-25.10
Bajaj Finserv	15904.40	-57.30
Bajaj Finance	6944.95	-35.15
Bharti Airtel	612.45	-7.65
BPL	460.70	4.30
Britannia Ind	3842.80	30.60
Cipla	912.60	-5.05
Coal India	138.85	2.65
Divis Lab	4856.50	-6.70
Dr Reddys Lab	4548.95	-38.45
Eicher Motors	2579.50	31.60
Grasim Ind	1447.70	-12.45
HCL Tech	1154.35	1.45
HDFC	2699.25	8.00
HDFC Bank	1557.40	-1.45
HDFC Life	687.55	16.45
Hero MotoCorp	2673.95	-1.90
Hindalco	430.70	9.85
Hind Unilever	2645.00	12.00
ICICI Bank	691.05	-3.40
IndusInd Bank	1005.55	0.50
Infosys	1735.55	14.70
IndianOil Corp	106.10	0.20
ITC	206.40	0.65
JSW Steel	683.85	-7.80
Kotak Bank	1697.20	-7.70
L&T	1593.80	-12.00
M&M	772.05	-6.10
Maruti Suzuki	6711.45	-91.75
Nestle India Ltd.	19909.85	130.00
NTPC	114.00	0.05
ONGC	115.65	2.45
PowerGrid Corp	175.50	-1.10
Reliance Ind	2202.60	18.90
SBI Life	1156.15	-4.25
State Bank	416.25	-1.35
Shree Cement	26288.25	55.30
Sun Pharma	769.05	-2.30
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	836.00	-0.90
Tata Motors	284.40	4.60
Tata Steel	1390.20	-14.45
TCS	3659.00	45.80
Tech Mahindra	1463.10	-0.25
Titan	1822.65	-46.95
UltraTech Cement	7382.35	-73.00
UPL	726.10	-4.95
Wipro	631.65	-1.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 25

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.05	74.37
Euro	86.90	87.28
British Pound	101.52	101.97
Japanese Yen (100)	67.37	67.66
Chinese Yuan	11.43	11.48
Swiss Franc	80.93	81.28
Singapore Dollar	54.65	54.91
Canadian Dollar	58.61	58.89
Malaysian Ringgit	17.61	17.70

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



IOC's drones to check fuel pipeline thefts

NEW DELHI Indian Oil Corp. (IOC) is deploying drones to monitor its vast network of pipelines across India to thwart attempts to steal fuel, helping not just save the commodity but also avoid accidents. PTI

Bharti board to consider fund-raising options

NEW DELHI Telecom operator Bharti Airtel said its board will meet on August 29 to consider various capital-raising options. "... a meeting of the board of directors of the company is scheduled on Sunday, August 29, 2021, to inter-alia consider various capital-raising options through equity or equity-linked or debt instruments or any combination thereof, as the board may deem appropriate," Bharti Airtel said in a BSE filing. PTI

RBI extends tokenisation to laptops, other devices

MUMBAI The Reserve Bank on Wednesday extended the scope of 'tokenisation' to several consumer devices, including laptops, desktops, wearables such as wristwatches and bands, as well as Internet of Things devices, beyond the original permission for mobiles and tablets. Tokenisation aims to improve the security of the system, and refers to the replacement of card details with a unique combination of card, token requestor and identified device. PTI

Canara Bank raises ₹2,500 cr. through QIP

MUMBAI State-owned Canara Bank on Wednesday said it has raised ₹2,500 crore through the qualified institutional placement (QIP) route. The QIP was fully subscribed and saw a strong response from foreign as well as from domestic qualified institutional buyers (QIBs), the bank said in a statement. "This capital will enable the bank to improve the CET [common equity tier] ratio and in turn, will support further asset growth," the lender added. PTI

'Words don't aid sales, need govt. action'

Bhargava asks if cars are only for the rich; Centre says it wants industry to grow to help reach \$5-tn goal

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI
Hitting out at the government over lack of support for the automobile sector, industry captains R.C. Bhargava and Venu Srinivasan on Wednesday said mere statements from officials on the importance of the automobile industry would not help sales, but that 'concrete actions' were needed to arrest the declining sales trend.

They also wondered whether the government recognised the contribution of the automotive industry to the economy, while highlighting how vehicles had become unaffordable for many consumers due to factors such as high taxation and new norms related to emissions and safety.



Plentiful but unaffordable: High taxation has put cars out of the reach of many consumers, says Bhargava. •PTI

Speaking at an annual convention, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Kenichi Ayukawa said the industry had been facing a "deep structural slowdown" even before the pandemic. And COVID-19 had further pushed volumes

back by many years, he added.

"I'm afraid words don't get us very much in the terms of extra sales, but you need concrete action to make this happen," Mr. Bhargava said, referring to remarks made by government officials about

the economic significance of the automobile industry. This made him wonder whether the old belief – that passenger cars were luxury products to be owned only by the rich – had ever really changed in the country, remarked the chairman of Maruti Suzuki.

Echoing Mr. Bhargava's sentiments, Mr. Srinivasan, CMD of TVS Motor Co. asked, "Is the automotive industry being recognised for what it has contributed to employment, to revenues, to earning foreign exchange?"

He pointed out that for mopeds the prices had risen 45-50%. The "basic mode of transportation" was being taxed equivalent to luxury level products. In addition, costs had gone up due to fac-

tors like ABS, clubbing of three years of insurance and the like.

'Engine of growth'

"I do understand the problems of the government because they have a budget to balance and the basic GST structure is not revenue neutral. So, I don't know a solution but I think we have given away too many low tax structures for other products which has made one of the major engines of growth globally, to stall," he said.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj assured industry that the government 'definitely recognises' its contributions. "I can't agree more with you that if we want to achieve a \$5-trillion economy, this sector has to do well."

Inflation to remain within 4%-6% range, says Bajaj

Taking steps to address supplies: FM

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI
Inflation will remain within the range of 4% to 6% and the government is taking periodic steps to contain it, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said on Wednesday.

"The RBI has come out with guidance on inflation and it has said that inflation, which is little bit up, will cool down in some time. And we also feel that once the crops come out, inflation should come down," Mr. Bajaj told a press conference in Mumbai.

The government had adopted various strategies to cool inflation including reduction of duties on several products including edible oil and pulses, he said.



Tarun Bajaj

"By periodically opening up imports of pulses, edible oil, reducing customs duty on them, we have managed to [ensure] supplies get a boost," said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. "We are ensuring that it [inflation] is not a cause for worry," she added.

Auto sector must change approach: PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the next 25 years are very important for the country and there is a need for government and industry to work together for next-generation infrastructure, world-class manufacturing and new age technology.

"There are rapid changes taking place in technology, lifestyle and economy and old approaches and old practices have to be changed," the PM wrote in a letter to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers on the occasion of its 61st annual convention.

The role of the auto industry in the economy has been remarkable, he said.

'Banks must lend funds where needed, to help revive growth'

Hold district-wise credit outreach programmes, exhorts FM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Centre has asked public sector banks to provide credit wherever required, on the lines of loan melas, to help revive growth. In her annual review of state-owned banks and meeting with the heads of the banks in Mumbai, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday asked the lenders to hold district-wise outreach programmes to provide credit.

In her interaction with MDs of these banks, she stressed the need for sharper focus on customer service, credit growth to sup-



Nirmala Sitharaman •PTI

port MSMEs and underserved segments, as well as credit for national initiatives for infrastructure, PLI schemes and for exports.

'Nudge for exports'

Banks have been directed to 'interact regularly' with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations to ensure exporters did not have to shuttle among various bankers to get the best rates.

Banks have also been asked to hand-hold industries from a particular sector to enable them to become an exporter and thereby play a vital role in assisting the government's 'One District One Product' scheme.

Centre raises family pension for bank staff

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Centre on Wednesday approved a proposal of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to increase the family pension for bank employees to 30% of the last salary drawn, besides lifting the cap on pension.

The move will result in a payout of up to ₹30,000-35,000 per family.

Debasish Panda, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, made the announcement at a press meet addressed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here on Wednesday.

The government also approved a proposal to increase employers' contribution under the NPS to 14% from the existing 10%.

SEBI unfreezes Rana Kapoor's bank accounts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Markets regulator SEBI on Wednesday ordered unfreezing of bank accounts as well as share and mutual-fund (MF) holdings of Rana Kapoor, former MD and CEO of Yes Bank.

Mr. Kapoor is currently in judicial custody after being arrested in March 2020 in the alleged Yes Bank fraud case.

The regulator, in March, had attached bank accounts, share and MF holdings of Mr. Kapoor to recover dues of over ₹1 crore. The decision was taken after Mr. Kapoor failed to pay the fine imposed on him.

SEBI, in September last, had levied a fine of ₹1 crore on him for not making disclosures regarding a transaction of Morgan Credit which was an unlisted promoter entity of the bank.

Gadkari tells automakers to shift focus from diesel

'Pollution by the fuel is hazardous'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari urged automobile manufacturers to move away from production and sale of diesel engine vehicles, stating pollution from such vehicles was harmful.

"Protection of ecology and environment must be the way of business and way of life for all of us," the Minister said, speaking at the annual convention of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

He added, "I appeal to the vehicle manufacturers to discourage the production and sale of diesel-engine vehicles. Diesel-based position is extremely hazardous to the environment and human health. Industry must promote alternative fuel technologies."



Nitin Gadkari

He added the industry must swiftly shift to Indian technologies that allows use of import-substitute, cost-effective, indigenous and pollution-free fuel.

The Minister said the government is promoting the adoption of cleaner and greener alternative fuels such as ethanol, methanol, bio-diesel, bio-CNG, LND, electric and green hydrogen fuel-cell technology to reduce dependency on petrol and diesel.

Walmart sees India as a \$1-trillion market by 2025

Country has uniqueness: CEO McMillon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Indian retail segment has its own uniqueness and the country is one of the most exciting markets globally that is poised to grow to over a trillion dollars by 2025, according to Walmart Inc. president and CEO Doug McMillon.

Speaking at the Convergence@Walmart event, Mr. McMillon noted that given the diversity of the Indian market, the company has to "think local and execute locally."

"India is such a diverse market, it's not one country in some ways and so we have to think local and execute locally, and it has its own rules, and so, we've got to comply with those rules."

Mr. McMillon added that currently, Walmart is not al-



lowed to make a foreign direct investment in multi-brand retail and so, it operates in a different way.

"We think the future is very bright, and we are going to see a market that is North of [a] trillion U.S. dollars by 2025, I believe. And the way that it is evolving is common in some ways with what we see in other countries, but has its own uniqueness, which makes it exciting," Mr. McMillon said.

Mills demand higher MSP for sugar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT COIMBATORE

The Indian Sugar Mills' Association has demanded an increase in the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar.

Director General of Indian Sugar Mills' Association Abinash Verma said following the increase in fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane for 2021-2022, the government should raise the MSP for sugar.

The MSP of sugar had remained static for more than 30 months, he said.

"ISMA feels the time is right for the government to decide on increasing the MSP to ₹34.50 to ₹35 per kilo," he said. This will be adequate to cover the rise in cane FRP and cost of producing sugar, he added.

The current MSP of sugar is ₹31 per kg.

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Anderson & Co. get the ball to talk, leave Indians speechless

The fast-bowling legend and Craig Overton scalp three each as Kohli's men are shot out for 78; Burns, Hameed take England to 120 for no loss

INDIA IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LEEDS
England great James Anderson ripped through the top-order as India collapsed for 78 on the first day of the third Test at Headingley on Wednesday. In reply, the hosts reached a commanding 120 for no loss in 42 overs, with Rory Burns (52) and Haseeb Hameed (60) at the crease.

England's new opening pair was hardly troubled by the Indian pace attack, leaving the match firmly in the home nation's grip. Earlier, Anderson took three for six in eight overs, including the prize wicket of India captain Virat Kohli, who decided to bat after winning the toss.

Two in two
Both Sam Curran and Craig Overton were on hat-tricks in the post-lunch session, with Overton finishing with three for 14 in 10.4 overs after being recalled in place of injured fast bowler Mark Wood.

This resulted in India losing six wickets for 22 runs after lunch, with the innings completed inside 41 overs after just over three hours' play.

Rohit Sharma (19) and vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane (18) were the only India batsmen to reach double figures apart from extras (16).

An unchanged India came into this match 1-0 up in the five-Test series after a superb 151-run win at Lord's last week.



Falling apart: Anderson sent back Rahul in the first over of the Test while Overton, returning to the side in place of Wood, got the important wicket of Rohit. Anderson's new-ball partner Robinson forced Rahane to edge behind. *AP/GETTY IMAGES

England, in contrast, recalled Overton after Wood joined fellow quicks Stuart Broad, Jofra Archer and Olly Stone on the sidelines.

Kohli won the toss and, despite the overcast conditions that promised to aid Anderson, decided to bat.

After bowling a few in-swingers, Anderson pitched

one that moved away and Rahul, fresh from his 129 at Lord's, fell for a duck when he edged to wicket-keeper Jos Buttler. India was one for one off just the fifth ball of the day.

Cheteshwar Pujara lasted just nine balls, undone by an Anderson delivery that swung away. Kohli, without a

Test hundred in two years and averaging just 23 since January 2020, fell for seven when he tried to drive an Anderson ball and edged to Buttler.

Ollie Robinson then struck with what became the last ball before lunch when he forced Rahane to nick behind. The dangerous Rish-

abh Pant fell for just two when he played a loose shot off Robinson and was caught by Buttler, who finished with fifth catches in the innings.

Rohit, who had made a fine 83 at Lord's, pulled a looping bouncer from Overton to Robinson at mid-on.

India was 67 for seven off the very next ball as Mo-

hammed Shami, who had defied England with a Test-best unbeaten 56 at Lord's, edged to Burns at slip.

Curran then took two in two balls, trapping Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah in front. The innings ended when Mohammed Siraj was caught by a leaping Joe Root off Overton at first slip.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS
Rohit Sharma c Robinson b Overton 19 (105b, 1x4), K.L. Rahul c Buttler b Anderson 0 (4b), Cheteshwar Pujara c Buttler b Anderson 1 (9b), Virat Kohli c Buttler b Anderson 7 (17b, 1x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Buttler b Robinson 18 (54b, 3x4), Rishabh Pant c Buttler b Robinson 2 (9b), Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Curran 4 (29b), Mohammed Shami c Burns b Overton 0 (1b), Ishant Sharma (not out) 8 (10b, 1x4), Jasprit Bumrah lbw b Curran 0 (7b), Mohammed Siraj c Root b Overton 3 (10b); Extras (lb-11, nb-5): 16; Total (in 40.4 overs): 78.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-1 (Rahul, 0.5 ov), 2-4 (Pujara, 4.1), 3-21 (Kohli, 10.5), 4-56 (Rahane, 25.5), 5-58 (Pant, 29.1), 6-67 (Rohit, 36.4), 7-67 (Shami, 36.5), 8-67 (Jadeja, 37.2), 9-67 (Bumrah, 37.3).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Anderson 8-5-6-3, Robinson 10-3-16-2, Curran 10-2-27-2, Moeen 2-0-4-0, Overton 10.4-5-14-3.

ENGLAND – 1ST INNINGS
Rory Burns (batting) 52 (125b, 5x4, 1x6), Haseeb Hameed (batting) 60 (130b, 11x4); Extras (b-4, w-1, nb-3): 8; Total (for no loss in 42 overs): 120.

INDIA BOWLING
Ishant 7-0-26-0, Bumrah 12-5-19-0, Shami 11-2-39-0, Siraj 7-1-26-0, Jadeja 5-3-6-0.
Toss: India.

India's lowest Test totals in England

- 42 Lord's, 1974
- 58 Old Trafford, 1952
- 78 Headingley, 2021
- 82 Old Trafford, 1952
- 92 Edgbaston, 1967

TV PICKS

Tokyo 2020 Paralympics: Eurosport (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m. & 1.15 p.m.
England vs India: 3rd Test, day 2, Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

Batting first a collective call, says Pant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LEEDS

India's wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant backed his skipper Virat Kohli's decision to bat first, though he admitted that the wicket was "soft" in the morning.

"The wicket was slightly on the softer side in the morning and they bowled in good areas.

"We could have applied ourselves better. We can only learn from it and move on," said Pant.

He revealed that the decision to bat first despite the wicket being damp was a "collective call."

"Whatever decision we take, we take as a team. So once we decided to bat first, we backed our decision. We can't keep on thinking too much about what happened at the toss," said Pant.

In the past, Pant has been pressed into action when a few top-order batsmen failed to deliver.

Though the youngster couldn't perform on Wednesday, he sees it as an opportunity and not something that puts him under pressure.

"If the top-order collapses and I get an opportunity, I see it as a chance to bail the team out."

QUICK SINGLES

Pressure mounts on Boucher as Nkwe resigns

JOHANNESBURG
South Africa assistant coach Enoch Nkwe resigned after apparent disagreements with under-pressure head coach Mark Boucher. Cricket South Africa announced Nkwe's resignation late on Tuesday even as it claimed to have made "every effort to retain his services." Nkwe's resignation comes against a backdrop of widespread criticism of Boucher following revelations made at ongoing hearings into racism in South African cricket. AFP

Indian women's team's schedule could be altered

SYDNEY
The Indian women's cricket team's schedule for the upcoming tour of Australia could be altered due to the border restriction and COVID-19 lockdowns in Sydney and Melbourne, according to a media report. India and Australia are set to battle it out across all three formats from next month. The schedule includes three ODIs, as many T20Is and a historic day-night Test match at the WACA Ground. PTI

India tops World Test Championship standings

DUBAI
India took top spot in the latest World Test Championship (WTC) standings with 14 points after its massive 151-run victory over England in the second game of the ongoing five-match series. The rain-forced draw in the opening Test gave India four points and the outright win at Lord's 12 points. However, the team has 14 points in total instead of 16, as it was docked two points for slow over-rate. India is followed by Pakistan (12 points). PTI

Shaheen delivers for Pakistan

His 10-wkt. match haul helps side draw two-Test series

PAKISTAN IN WI

REUTERS
KINGSTON
Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi took 10 wickets in the match as the tourists bowled out West Indies for 219 to win the second Test at Sabina Park and draw the two-match series on Monday. Shaheen claimed four for 43 to add to his six for 51 in the first innings as Pakistan won by 109 runs.

West Indies was always up against it after resuming on 49 for one, chasing an imposing target of 329. The hosts had survival on their minds than a win.

However, West Indies lost four wickets in the morning session to slump to 113 for

five at lunch, with Hasan Ali sending back top-order batsmen Nkrumah Bonner and Royston Chase cheaply.

Home captain Kraigg Brathwaite lost his wicket in the second over after tea as he cut Nauman Ali straight to point to be dismissed for 39.

A 46-run partnership for the seventh wicket between Jason Holder and Kyle Mayers only delayed the inevitable.

The scores: Pakistan 302/9 decl. & 176/6 decl. bt West Indies 150 & 219 (Kraigg Brathwaite 39, Kyle Mayers 32, Jason Holder 47, Shaheen Afridi 4/43, Nauman Ali 3/52).

Man-of-the-Match & Series: Shaheen Afridi, Pakistan won by 109 runs, series drawn 1-1.



Shaheen Afridi gets his souvenir. *AFP

Injured Serena Williams withdraws from US Open

REUTERS
NEW YORK

Serena Williams announced her withdrawal from next week's US Open with a torn hamstring. The American said on Wednesday that her injury had not healed completely ahead of the final Grand Slam of the year.

Serena, a six-time winner at Flushing Meadows, has had an injury-marred season and limped out of her first-round match at Wimbledon in tears due to the leg injury.

The 39-year-old, who has been on the hunt for a 24th Major, skipped the Olympics and also opted out of the Cincinnati Masters, a tune-up event for the US Open.

"After careful considera-



Serena Williams. *AP

tion and following the advice of my doctors and medical team, I have decided to withdraw from the US Open to allow my body to heal completely from a torn hamstring," Serena posted on Instagram.

Prajesh advances, Ramkumar bows out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK

India's Prajesh Gunneswaran defeated Canada's Brayden Schnur 6-4, 7-6(5) in the first round of the US Open qualifiers here on Wednesday.

But his compatriot Ramkumar Ramanathan frittered away a one-set advantage to lose 6-4, 6-7(1), 4-6 to Russia's Evgeny Donskoy in his opening round on Tuesday.

With Sumit Nagal and Ankit Raina having exited in the first round, Prajesh remains India's only player still with a chance to make the main draw in singles.

Greco wins first gold of Games

India's table tennis players Bhavina and Sonal lose openers



Cycling to glory: Australian Paige Greco is all smiles on the podium, while Britain's Sarah Storey reacts after winning her event. *AP, AFP

PARALYMPICS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO
British cyclist Sarah Storey added to her glorious golden history while Paige Greco, an Australian cyclist, had the honour of winning the first gold of the Games on the first day of competitions at the Paralympics on Wednesday.

World and Paralympic records tumbled in the swimming pool and on the cycling track on a pulsating first day of competition that saw 24 gold medals awarded.

Greco was in record-breaking form as she beat China's Wang Xiaomei in the gold medal race in C1-C3 class 3,000m individual pursuit at the Izu Velodrome.

Storey moved a step closer to becoming Britain's greatest Paralympian, shattering her own world record in the heats before powering to victory in the C5 3,000m individual pursuit final for her 15th Paralympic gold.

A medal away
Storey is just one medal behind the British record held by Mike Kenny, who won 16 swimming golds from 1976 to 1988.

Brazilian Daniel Dias, who is competing at his last Paralympics, has the chance to become the most decorated male Paralympic swimmer of all time if he wins three more golds to eclipse Kenny. But he could only take bronze in his opening event, the S5 men's 200m free-

style, which was won by Italy's Francesco Boccardo in a new Paralympic record time. Elsewhere, defending gold medalist Australia suffered a setback in its bid to become the first team to top the wheelchair rugby podium at three consecutive Games, edged out 54-53 by Denmark.

India's para table tennis player Bhavina Hasumukh Patel lost 3-11, 9-11, 2-11 in just 18 minutes to China's Zhou Ying in her opening Group A match in women's singles - Class 4.

Close contest
Sonal Manu Patel lost to China's Qian Li 11-9, 3-11, 17-15, 7-11, 4-11 in 36 minutes in her Group D women's singles - Class 3 contest.

We see hope in you, not just medals: Sports Minister

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

It was felicitation time on returning home for the young Indian team that bagged two silver medals and a bronze in the World junior athletics championship in Nairobi.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur felicitated the athletes and assured them that every effort would be made to provide the best possible support to help them excel further in the international arena.

"We see hope in you, not just medals. You are an inspiration for others. You have done a tremendous job in winning laurels even during the pandemic. I assure you that there will be no compromise in supporting your sporting journey," said the Sports Minister.

Meticulous planning

"First it was Neeraj Chopra's gold medal in the Tokyo Olympics. Now, the juniors have returned with three medals from the World Championships. It is an indication of the meticulous planning by the Federation," said World Championship medalist and AFI vice-president, Anju George. Anju's husband, coach



Proud moment: World junior silver medalist Shaili with Anju, coach Bobby George, right, and Thakur. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sports is gaining huge prominence and recognition of performances is boosting the morale of the athletes

SHAILI SINGH
Robert Bobby George, was all praise for long jumper Shaili Singh who won a silver medal in her maiden international competition.

Developing the culture

Bobby George also felt that parents needed to change their mindset if the country was to develop a sports culture. "Parents have to look at sports as important as academics," he said. The chairman of the AFI Planning Committee, Lalit Bhanot, was proud about

the federation conducting multiple National-level and zonal meets in 2021, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

On behalf of the athletes, Shaili said sports was gaining huge prominence in the country and that recognition of performances was boosting the morale of the athletes.

Race walker Amit Khatri had won the silver medal like Shaili, and the mixed relay team of Barath Sridhar, Summy Kaliravan, Priya H. Mohan and Kapil had bagged the bronze.

Triple jumper Donald Makimairaj, who finished fourth, and 4x400m runner Abdul Razzak were also present.

Sathiyam wins in style

K. KEERTHIVASAN

Top seed G. Sathiyam bagged his third International men's singles title with a convincing 4-0 (11-9, 11-6, 11-6, 14-12) win over Yevhen Pryschecha of Ukraine in the final of the Czech International table tennis tournament at Olomouc (Czech Republic) on Wednesday.

Earlier in the semifinals, Sathiyam's opponent Truls Moregard of Sweden conceded in the third game, citing back pain.

After the early loss in the round of 16 at the WTT Contender tournament in Budapest recently, the triumph will come as a huge morale-booster for Sathiyam.

The 28-year-old, ranked 39th in the world, was at his best throughout the final. His backhand blocks, forehand and backhand counters during long rallies, and

sidespin serves provided him the breakthroughs when he needed them the most.

The 36-year-old Yevhen, the fourth seed and ranked 111 in the world, had four game points in the fourth game, but Sathiyam saved them all. The Indian went on to win 14-12.

"After winning my second title (ITTF Challenge) in Spain in 2017, this is special as it comes after four long years," Sathiyam told *The Hindu*.

"I loved the way I played and dominated. I could see the old instinctive Sathiyam."

The results:
Men: Final: G. Sathiyam bt Yevhen Pryschecha (Ukr) 11-9, 11-6, 11-6, 14-12.

Semifinals: Sathiyam bt Truls Moregard (Swe) 11-4, 11-8, 8-2 (ret'd).

Women: Final: Xiaoxin Yang (Mon) bt Mariia Tialakova (Rus) 13-11, 11-4, 11-3, 11-9.



Emphatic victory: G. Sathiyam was at his best in the summit clash against Yevhen. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IN BRIEF



Garton replaces Richardson in RCB

BENGALURU
Royal Challengers Bangalore, on Wednesday, announced English fast-bowler George Garton as a replacement for Australian bowler Kane Richardson for the remainder of the 2021 Indian Premier League campaign. The left-arm quick has played 38 T20s and has taken 44 wickets with a bowling average of 20.06. He is currently playing for Sussex in the Vitality Blast T20.

Sheikh, Kavya stay in the lead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Mohammed Sheikh of Karnataka stayed in the lead in qualifying for the superleague in the men's event of the Indian online carrom challenge organised by the All India Carrom Federation (AICF).

Easily the best player on view, Mohammed Sheikh had one ultimate slam and three white slams in compiling a cumulative score of 16 points, which was 35 better than the next best of Abdul Rahman and Abdul Jabbar (5).

The top 16 qualified for the superleague.

In the women's section, Kavya Shree of Jharkhand held on to the lead with 95 points in qualifying for the superleague after four rounds.

Nidhi Gupta, Deepa Naik, Aakanksha Kadam, Shruti Sonawane, Tanishka Viswakarma, Supriya Viswakarma, Neha Kumari, Mman-tasha Iqbal, Farhin, Palak Patel, Mamta Kumari, Sharmila Borah, Stelina S, Kajal Singh, Reetambhara and Sanya Chadha were the others to make the superleague.

The organisers had to make additional room for a player, as Sanya and Reetambhara tied for the 16th spot with 150 points.

After the superleague, the tournament will progress into the champions league. Thereafter, it will lead to the knockout stage with the top four making it to the semifinals.

Tanvi to meet Sunayna in final

Velavan sets up a summit clash with Pradhan

SQUASH

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Tanvi Khanna has a languid grace about her that is a real treat to watch. The 25-year-old uses the angles of the squash court well and moves around without making much of an effort.

Seeded two, the Delhi lass dismantled Aparajitha Balamurukan 11-4, 11-5, 11-6 in the semifinals of the HCL-SRFI Indian squash tour tournament, a PSA Challenger Tour-10 event, at the ISA courts here on Wednesday.

Tanvi will take on top seed Sunayna Kuruvilla, who dispatched of Akshaya Sri 11-5, 11-9, 11-1 in 17 minutes, for the title.

Comfortable outing

Aparajitha was no match for Tanvi as the latter was comfortably ahead in all three games. Aparajitha did well in the second game, using her power from the backcourt to unsettle Tanvi, but that was



Easing through: Tanvi Khanna, right, was fluent in her win over Aparajitha Balamurukan.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

only for a brief while.

Akshaya Sri showed a glimpse of her potential against Sunayna in the second game, pushing the top seed to the maximum, but when it came to the crunch, Sunayna was always up to the task.

In the men's summit

clash, S. Velavan, seeded fifth, will clash with sixth seed Abhishek Pradhan.

Rock solid

While Velavan was rock solid both in front and at the back in his win over Abhishek Agarwal, Pradhan was very impressive against the 20-

year-old Rahul Baitha.

The results (semifinals):

Men: S. Velavan bt Abhishek Agarwal 11-8, 14-12, 11-5; Abhishek Pradhan bt Rahul Baitha 11-7, 11-3, 11-9.

Women: Sunayna Kuruvilla bt Akshaya Sri 11-5, 11-9, 11-1; Tanvi Khanna bt Aparajitha Balamurukan 11-4, 11-5, 11-6.

Kane to stay at Spurs

Says he is 100% focused on helping the team achieve success

FOOTBALL

REUTERS
LONDON

Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane said on Wednesday that he will stay at the club and be "100% focused on helping the team achieve success", ending weeks of speculation about a potential move to champions Manchester City.

"It was incredible to see the reception from the Spurs fans on Sunday and to read some of the messages of support I've had in the last few weeks," the England captain wrote on Twitter.

"I will be staying at Tottenham this summer and will be 100% focused on helping the team achieve success."

The 28-year-old was a major target for City, with manager Pep Guardiola earlier this month saying that it was up to Tottenham to make the transfer happen.

Kane, who signed a six-year contract at Tottenham in 2018, was keen on a new



Harry Kane. • AFP

challenge but an initial bid from City — reportedly worth £100 million (\$137.10 million) — was not enough for Tottenham to let him go.

The striker returned late to pre-season training following Euro 2020 and missed Tottenham's opening two games of the season against City, in the Premier League, and Pacos de Ferreira, in the Europa Conference League play-offs. He returned to action against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Sunday, coming off the bench to a loud reception.

Mohammedan faces IAF in opener

DURAND CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Mohammedan SC will take on Indian Air Force in the opening match of the 130th edition of the Durand Cup, Asia's oldest tournament, scheduled to be held here from September 5 to October 3.

Ravi Dahiya to miss World C'ship

WRESTLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Olympic silver medallist Ravi Dahiya says he has decided to give the upcoming wrestling World Championship a miss since he did not get time to prepare for the selection trials that WFI is organising next week.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will conduct trials on Tuesday for the Worlds, set to be held in Oslo, Norway from October 2-10.

Dahiya and other Tokyo Games medal winners have been hopping from one state

A total of 16 teams from four groups will vie for honours in the tournament, jointly organised by the Indian Armed Forces and the Government of West Bengal.

The groups:

Group A: IAF, Bengaluru United, CRPF, and Mohammedan SC.

Group B: Army Green, FC Goa, Jamshedpur FC, and Sudeva

Delhi.

Group C: Bengaluru FC, Delhi FC, Indian Navy, and Kerala Blasters.

Group D: Assam Rifles, Army Red, Gokulam Kerala, and Hyderabad FC.

The schedule: League phase: Sept. 5 to 19; Quarterfinals: Sept. 23, 24 (two matches) and 25; Semifinals: Sept. 27 and 29; Final: Oct. 3.



Ravi Dahiya. • PTI

to another for the numerous felicitation functions being organised in their honour.

"I don't want to be on the mat unprepared. What's the point in competing without

enough practice?," Dahiya told PTI.

Dahiya will be the second big star missing from the Indian line-up as Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang Punia has also been forced out due to a ligament tear in his right knee. "I will try to compete in one or two tournaments before the season ends after I begin serious training from next month," he said.

Dahiya, though, did not complain when asked if too many functions are bothering him. "How do you say 'no' to them? They are your own people, who want to show respect."

The draw, held in Kuala Lumpur and broadcast online, saw second seed Japan drawn with Malaysia, England and Egypt in Group-D.

Three Indian boxers in title round

Chamoli, Joon and Muskan assured of medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Three Indian boxers advanced to the finals of the Asian junior championships after notching up comprehensive victories in their last-four stage clashes in Dubai. While Rohit Chamoli (48kg) and Bharat Joon (+81kg) made the junior boys' finals, Muskan (46kg) entered the girls' summit showdown, on Tuesday night.

Bharat defeated Kyrgyz-

stan's Emir-Khan Razhapov 5-0 and Rohit got the better of Kazakhstan's Aidar Kadyrkhan by a similar scoreline. Muskan sailed past Kazakhstan's Yelanyur Turganova, pulling off an unanimous victory.

However, Supriya Rawat (66kg) lost to Sanowar Bozorboeva 1-4 and Aarzo (54kg) went down to Uzbekistan's Guldana Tileuergen 2-3 in another closely fought contest.

Devika Ghorpade (50kg)

was defeated 0-5 by Uzbekistan's Shaina Nematovain in another girls' semifinal.

Among boys, Ankush (66kg) was beaten 0-5 by Uzbekistan's Fazliddin Erkinboev in his last-four bout.

All four of them ended with bronze medals.

India's assured medal tally stood at over 20 on the day of the draws itself as many countries either skipped or fielded smaller squads due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Anirudh & Manish in quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
TRIER (GERMANY)

Fourth seed Anirudh Chandrasekar and Manish Sureshkumar beat Marvein Moeller and Benito Sanchez Martinez 6-2, 5-7, [10-8] in the doubles first round of the \$25,000 ITF men's tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

In the \$25,000 ITF women's event in Spain, Sowjanya Bavisetti & Sakura Hosogi and Rutuja Bhosale & Ya-Hsuan Lee also made the doubles quarterfinals.

The results:

First round: \$25,000 ITF men, Trier, Germany: Anirudh Chandrasekar & Manish Sureshkumar bt Marvein Moeller & Benito Sanchez Martinez (Ger) 6-2, 5-7, [10-8].

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Renta Tokuda & Jumpei Yamasaki (Jpn) bt Adil Kalyanpur & Rishi Reddy 7-6(5), 6-3.

\$25,000 ITF women, Vigo, Spain: Sakura Hosogi (Jpn) & Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Alba Rey Garcia (Esp) & Julia Riera (Arg) 6-3, 6-1.

Ya-Hsuan Lee (Tpe) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Marina Bassols Ribera (Esp) & Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) 6-4, 7-6(2).

India gets a tough draw in Sudirman Cup

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India has been drawn with top seed and defending champion China, Thailand and hosts Finland for the upcoming Sudirman Cup badminton tournament, making it a tough Group-A for the side to negotiate.

The prestigious World Mixed Team Championship is scheduled to be held in Vantaa, Finland, from September 26 to October 3.

India and Finland have been seeded in the 9 to 16 bracket, while Thailand is placed in the 5-8 bracket in the 16-nation event.

Chinese superiority

The Chinese team, which has won the title 11 times in the past, will have the opportunity to consolidate its position as it seeks a 12th title.

The draw, held in Kuala Lumpur and broadcast online, saw second seed Japan drawn with Malaysia, England and Egypt in Group-D.

Japan was runner-up in 2019 and is seeking its first Sudirman Cup title.

Indonesia, winner of the Sudirman Cup in its inaugural year 1989, is in Group-C with Denmark, Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) and Canada, while Group-B consists of Chinese Taipei, Korea, Tahiti and Germany.

Second most successful Four-time winner Korea is the second most successful team at the World Mixed Team Championships.

The top two teams from each group progress to the knockout round (quarterfinals). The quarterfinals draw will be held immediately after the last group match.

Each tie comprises five matches — men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles.

The Badminton Association of India will pick the team for the Sudirman Cup and Thomas and Uber Cup Finals in a selection trial on August 28.

Benfica again among Champions League elite

Malmo and Young Boys also make the grade for main draw

ASSOCIATED PRESS
EINDHOVEN

Benfica returned to the Champions League group stage, playing the last hour with 10 men at PSV Eindhoven to hang on for a 0-0 draw. A 2-1 win in the home leg last week was enough to lift coach Jorge Jesus' team back into the Champions League elite after a one-year absence.

Benfica defender Lucas Verissimo was sent off in the 32nd minute and the two-time European champion held out with a veteran backline pairing of captain Nicolas Otamendi and Jan Vertonghen.

Best chance wasted

PSV, the 1988 European Cup winner against Benfica in the final, wasted its best chance in the 62nd when Israel forward Eran Zahavi struck the bar with a close-range shot.

Malmo's Veljko Birman-



Job well done: The Benfica team celebrates after ensuring it plays in the main draw of the Champions League. • AFP

cevic has been a star of the Swedish champion's progress through four qualifying rounds.

The Serbia international's fourth goal in five games — a free kick from distance — was key in a 2-1 loss at Ludogorets that carried Malmo through 3-2 on aggregate.

Young Boys advanced

with a second 3-2 win against Ferencvaros to repeat the first-leg result in Switzerland last week.

The Swiss champion led early through defender Cedric Zesiger's goal, then leveled at 2-2 early in the second half with Christian Fassnacht's goal.

Ferencvaros had defender

Aissa Laidouni sent off before Young Boys' United States forward Jordan Siebatcheu saw his penalty saved. The win was sealed in stoppage time by substitute Felix Mambimbi.

Wagner is back

Young Boys coach David Wagner, the former U.S. international, will lead his team back into the Champions League less than one year after being fired by Schalke during a Bundesliga-record winless run of games.

The results:

PSV Eindhoven 0 drew with Benfica 0 (Benfica wins 2-1 on aggregate).

Ludogorets Razgrad 2 (Nedyalkov 10, Sotiriou 60-pen) bt Malmo 1 (Birmancevic 42) (Malmo wins 3-2 on aggregate).

Ferencvaros 2 (Wingo 18, Mmaee 27) lost to Young Boys 3 (Zesiger 5, Fassnacht 56, Mambimbi 90+3) (Young Boys wins 6-4 on aggregate).

pal bt Sourabh Sehrawat 6-1, 6-4.

At Hajar: Jagmeet Kaur bt Steisha Buddhala 6-1, 6-1; Bela Tamhankar bt Shefali Arora 6-3, 6-2; Varshita Ranabothu bt Sanya Yadav 6-1, 6-2.

Himaanshika bt Sanjami Arora 6-2, 6-4; Kundali Majgaine bt Chandana Potugari 6-1, 6-0; Pooja Ingale bt Adrija Biswas 6-1, 6-2.

Vanshika Choudhary bt S Sridhithi 6-2, 6-2; Kashish Bhatia bt Yashika Venu 6-2, 6-0.

Shree Cement to continue to back East Bengal

Agrees to extend support to the club at the behest of West Bengal CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The clouds of uncertainty hovering over the continuance of the agreement between East Bengal Club and its investor Shree Cement cleared on Wednesday after the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee intervened to bring the conflicting parties together.

Shree Cement, which in a letter addressed to Ms. Banerjee had intimated its desire to pull out of the one-year-old deal a couple of days ago, has now decided to

continue with the agreement.

The announcement was made by the West Bengal Chief Minister at her Government's headquarters, Nabanna, after the representatives of the club and Shree Cement pledged to continue with the agreement at a meeting convened at her behest.

Muster its resources

This means the threat of SC East Bengal missing the ISL deadline this season is over but the club will have to mus-

ter its resources to get the team ready before the end of the month when the transfer season gets over.

Annoyed

"I was quite annoyed with them (Shree Cement) when they wrote to me stating their desire to pull out of the agreement. I then requested them to continue for the sake of the millions of East Bengal fans who will be greatly distressed if the team fails to play the ISL this season," Ms. Banerjee told the media after her meeting with

the representatives of the club and the investor.

"Teams like East Bengal and Mohun Bagan have great brand value with supporters spread all over the world. Congratulations to East Bengal now that Shree Cement has decided to continue."

It is not immediately clear whether the investor has agreed to the conditions set by the officials of the legacy club, who had been asking the investor to comply with their demands before they signed the final agreement.

Khera Kalan bounces back to win title

Wipes off a 0-3 first-half deficit to beat Rani Khera Club 5-3

HOCKEY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Khera Kalan Hockey Centre, Delhi staged a second-half comeback to defeat Rani Khera Club, Delhi 5-3 in the final of the Delhi State sub-junior women's hockey championship at the National Stadium here on Wednesday.

The teams were locked 3-3 at the end of the regulation period after Khera Kalan had wiped off a 0-3 first-half deficit.

Rani Club scored through Muskan, Puja and Kumkum to take a 3-0 lead in the first half but Khera Kalan hit back when Varsha Pal (2)



Happy bunch: The Khera Kalan team after winning the Delhi state sub-junior title.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and Anshika scored. Varsha's equaliser came three minutes from the end.

In the tie-breaker, Komal, Muskan, Anjali and Pooja

missed for Rani Club while Hockey Centre took the winning lead through Varsha and Anjali.

In the match for the third

place, Jhilmil Hockey Centre defeated Mundka XI 3-0.

The scorers were Khushi, Dimple and Anshika.

Sushant edges out Ayyoque

TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU
GURUGRAM

Sushant Dabas pipped Ayyoque Ahmed Khan 6-1, 3-6, 7-6(6) in the pre-quarterfinals of the ₹100,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the Pradhan Academy on Wednesday.

Sushant will next challenge the top seed and

former National champion Dalwinder Singh.

Jagmeet cruises

Top seed Jagmeet Kaur was fluent as she beat Steisha Buddhala 6-1, 6-1 in the pre-quarterfinals of the ₹100,000 women's ranking tennis tournament at the Joygaon Academy in Hajar on Wednesday.

In the quarterfinals, Jagmeet will play fifth seed Be-

la Tamhankar.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): At Gurugram: Dalwinder Singh bt Ritabrata Ssarkar 6-1, 6-2; Sushant Dabas bt Ayyoque Ahmed Khan 6-1, 3-6, 7-6(6); Karan Singh bt Fardeen Qamar 7-6(4), 6-7(5), 6-3.

Yugal Bansal bt Mohit Bhardwaj 6-0, 6-3; Anuj Malik bt Shivam Dalmia 6-4, 6-3; Lakshya Gupta bt Ricky Sehrawat 6-1, 6-1.

Ajay Malik bt Chinmay Dev Chouhan 6-3, 7-5; Neeraj Yash-

pal bt Sourabh Sehrawat 6-1, 6-4.

At Hajar: Jagmeet Kaur bt Steisha Buddhala 6-1, 6-1; Bela Tamhankar bt Shefali Arora 6-3, 6-2; Varshita Ranabothu bt Sanya Yadav 6-1, 6-2.

Himaanshika bt Sanjami Arora 6-2, 6-4; Kundali Majgaine bt Chandana Potugari 6-1, 6-0; Pooja Ingale bt Adrija Biswas 6-1, 6-2.

Vanshika Choudhary bt S Sridhithi 6-2, 6-2; Kashish Bhatia bt Yashika Venu 6-2, 6-0.