



No security clearance needed for drone licences, registration

page 8



SC will hear 'at length' plea for life ban on convicted MPs, MLAs

page 9



Kamala Harris ends Asia tour with fresh jab at China

page 11

Root's third century of the series puts England in a strong position

page 13



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NEARBY



'Delhi leads cities with most CCTVs per sq. mile'

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said Delhi was on top of a list of cities across the world in terms of the number of CCTVs installed per square mile. The Capital has 1,826 CCTVs installed per square mile, surpassing cities like London, Shanghai, New York and Singapore, he said.

CITY PAGE 3

CJI Ramana mentions 'plight' of police officers

NEW DELHI
Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Thursday mentioned the plight of police officers caught between rival political parties which come to power one after the other.

NEWS PAGE 9

Twin blasts kill 20 outside Kabul airport

12 U.S. servicemen among those killed, say officials; attacks target thousands waiting for evacuation

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
KABUL

Two powerful explosions outside the Kabul airport killed at least 20 people on Thursday, just hours after Western nations warned of an imminent terror threat while thousands of people gathered hoping for a flight out of Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's main spokesman, said that "between 13 and 20" people were killed and 52 wounded in the blasts, while Kabul hospitals reported six dead and up to 90 wounded. The Taliban condemned the blasts, saying they were in an area under U.S. military control.

At least 12 U.S. service members were killed, including 11 Marines and one Navy medic, the Associated Press quoted two U.S. officials as saying. A second U.S. official said the complex attack was believed to have been carried out by the Islamic State group.



Danger zone: A blast victim being brought to a hospital in Kabul on Thursday. • AFP

One of the bombers struck people standing knee-deep in a wastewater canal under the sweltering sun, throwing bodies into the fetid water. Graphic video shared on social media showed bodies lying in a canal adjacent to the airport, where thousands had gathered hoping for a flight out.

India said the attacks reinforced the need for the world to stand united against terrorism and those providing sanctuaries to terrorists. (Inputs from AP & PTI)

MORE REPORTS ON PAGE 11

Cong. calls Baghel to Delhi again

CM may parade MLAs loyal to him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has been summoned again by the Congress central leadership, and he is expected to be in Delhi on Friday, amid a power struggle between him and State Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo. Party sources did not rule out a change of guard, though Mr. Baghel is resisting it.

Ahead of Mr. Baghel's meeting with former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, several Ministers and MLAs are camping here. More are expected by Friday. Sources say a show of strength is expected with MLAs supporting Mr. Baghel paraded at the party headquarters.

The Baghel camp says replacing a Chief Minister from



Bhupesh Baghel

the Other Backward Classes will cost the Congress in a State that has a predominant population of the community. They say a majority of the MLAs are with the CM.

Mr. Baghel returned to Chhattisgarh from here on Wednesday to a rousing welcome at the airport. On Thursday, more than 30 MLAs paid him a visit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Inaccessible UIDAI system leaves Aadhaar users in lurch

EPFO, PAN linking stalled ahead of deadlines

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The IT systems of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) have been down over the past week, sending Aadhaar holders into a tizzy as deadlines loom to link their UIDAI identity details with their Employees' Provident Fund accounts and the Income Tax Department's Permanent Account Number (PAN).

More worry
That the new Income Tax portal is yet to become fully functional, has compounded



The deadline to link Aadhaar and PAN is September 30.

ed problems for those seeking to link their Aadhaar to PAN by September 30.

Separately, by August 31, all EPFO members are required to link their Aadhaar cards to continue to get their monthly PF contributions deposited.

Even those who just want to update their Aadhaar particulars to correct mismatches with other identity docu-

ments are at their wits' end.

Several users complained that attempts to update details were not possible online or at Aadhaar centres due to technical issues.

An official source confirmed that there were some glitches due to which the systems were down last week. "The system downtime impacted multiple cities," he said.

However, it could not be ascertained if this was a national outage and whether the systems are now back online.

Queries to the UIDAI on the issue did not elicit any response till the time of going to press.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Can PM-Cares help COVID orphans, asks SC

Court concerned over education of such children

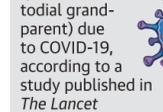
KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Union government if it can immediately release money from the PM-Cares Fund for the education of children who have been orphaned or have lost legal guardians or either of their parents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose highlighted that education was a fundamental right of children. Children needed to stay in school. The Bench was especially anxious about the future of children who studied in private schools where the fee may be on the

Need for care | The top court called for help to children who lost primary caregivers during the pandemic

As many as 1.19 lakh children in India lost their primary caregiver (parent or custodial grandparent) due to COVID-19, according to a study published in *The Lancet*



There had been a

marked increase in child trafficking, especially of girls among those who had lost caregivers, according to news reports

L. Nageswara Rao, one of the judges hearing the matter, highlighted that information about children who have lost their caregivers had been uploaded by the States on the website of the NCPCR

higher side and had lost their parents after the COVID-19 virus began disrupting lives since March 2020.

"Children should not lose the benefits of education because of the pandemic... Can the PM-Cares Fund come forward and immediately release some funds for the education of these

children at least for the year? Is there any facility for that," Justice Rao asked Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati.

He said the Centre could coordinate with the States and help with the funds for education of children.

He told Ms. Bhati to enquire with the Central auth-

orities about the release of funds later in the day so that the court could pass an appropriate order. The Bench observed, "We can say that the States can contact the Central government for funds for the education of these children..."

Justice Rao asked whether children who were eligible for financial help under the PM-Cares Fund had so far been identified.

Ms. Bhati said, "The children have been separated into three categories - those who have lost both parents, those who have lost either parent and those who have lost their legal guardians." The onus of identifying the children had been given to the district magistrates concerned.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Boeing 737 Max jets to fly again in India

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation on Thursday cleared the decks for operating Boeing 737 Max aircraft. The order will take immediate effect, aviation sources said.

The DGCA banned their operation in March 2019 after two fatal accidents involving the aircraft (Lion Air Flight 610 and Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302).

In the March 2019 order, the DGCA directed that for the purpose of securing safety, operation of Boeing 737-8 and 737-9 would not take place from/to Indian airports and transit or enter into Indian airspace.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Will withdraw cases filed against farmers: U.P. CM

Adityanath vows to protect their rights, saying 'won't let you have any problems'

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

In a bid to woo agrarian communities at a time when farmers in western Uttar Pradesh have been protesting for months against the three new farm laws, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has promised to withdraw cases lodged against them for stubble burning while also considering an increase in the procurement price for sugarcane.

Mr. Adityanath's efforts to reach out to farmers, espe-

cially those in western U.P., come days before the scheduled panchayat called by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, a body of farmer unions leading protests around the national Capital for the last eight months, in Muzaffarnagar on September 5.

'Withdraw stubble fine' The Chief Minister said his government would not only take steps to withdraw cases and fines imposed on farmers for stubble burning but also ensure that electricity



Yogi Adityanath

connections of farmers are not cut. Fines imposed on farmers for stubble burning have been a major cause for anger among the community.

In another announcement, Mr. Adityanath said his

government was considering increasing the procurement price for sugarcane and a step would be taken after a discussion with all the stakeholders. "The farmer should not worry or come under any influence," he said on Wednesday at an interaction with farmers under the banner of 'Kisan Bhaiyo se Samvad'.

At a time when farmers in western U.P. could upset the BJP's poll calculation in the region, Mr. Adityanath vowed to protect the rights of the farmers. "We will not let you have any problems," he said.

From 2010 to 2017, U.P. had pending cane arrears and since the BJP came to

power, its government paid dues worth ₹1.42 lakh crore, said the Chief Minister. He also promised that sugar mills in western U.P. would start running from October 20, those in central U.P. by October 25 and eastern U.P. by the first week of November.

Responding to the Chief Minister's announcements, Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Chaudhary, whose party has been at the forefront of the protests, tweeted: "Why did you not increase the procurement price for cane? You had promised to pay the dues in 14 days but now you say this will break the back of the mill owners."

Privacy invasion: HC comes to rescue of actor

Court directs online platforms to remove objectionable videos and audio clips

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has observed that "right to privacy" includes the right to be forgotten and the right to be left alone while directing various online platforms, including YouTube, to take down certain objectionable video clips of a Bengali actor.

Justice Asha Menon was of the opinion that "the right to privacy of the plaintiff (woman) is to be protected, especially when it is her person that is being exhibited, and against her will".

The woman, who claimed to be a well-known actor in Bengali films, said she was approached by Ram Gopal Verma Studios for filming a web series. She said on the



'Right to privacy' includes the 'right to be forgotten', observes Delhi High Court.

promise made to her of giving her the lead role in the web series, she was lured into participating in a demonstration video/trailer, comprising explicit scenes of complete frontal nudity. However, the project fell through and the web series

was never produced. In December 2020, the woman came across the videos, which had been uploaded by the producer on his YouTube channel and website. On her request, the producer later removed them. However, without her consent, several other websites uploaded those videos.

'Anonymous callers' "Some of them also superimposed objectionable and obscene commentaries on the videos. As a consequence of such action, the plaintiff was constantly subjected to anonymous callers and also subjected to insults," the plea said.

Justice Menon rejected the argument made by some

of the websites that the videos had been shot with the consent of the woman and hence she would not be entitled to any relief. "The plaintiff in this case has not permitted even the producer of the videos to publish them on his YouTube channel and website and the producer has respected her decision by taking down the videos," the judge said.

"In the present case, it is explicit videos that are being circulated, having a clear and immediate impact on the reputation of the person seen in the videos in a state of nudity," the court said while directing removal of the videos, footage, clip audio from the Internet till further order.

CBI registers nine cases on W.B. violence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The CBI has so far registered nine cases pertaining to the post-poll violence in West Bengal, following a Calcutta High Court directive earlier this month.

"The four teams constituted for probing the cases are in Bengal. The victims' statements are being recorded. Based on the information provided by the police, more cases are likely to be registered in due course," said a CBI official.

The CBI had written to the Director General of Police, seeking details of cases registered after the polls.

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

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DU comes under fire for dropping texts by Dalit writers

University counters backlash from several quarters, says present English syllabus inclusive in nature, includes works of renowned scholars

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University's decision to drop texts by two Dalit authors Bama and Sukirtharini — "Sangat" and "Debt" respectively — from the English syllabus has come under severe criticism from several quarters. The translated texts were part of the new syllabus that came into force in 2019 and were supposed to be taught to the current batch of third-year students for the first time, several DU professors said.

Additionally, Mahasweta Devi's "Draupadi" which has been taught at the university since 1999, according to professors, was also dropped from the syllabus by the varsity.

Due deliberations

Countering the backlash, DU in a statement on Thursday said that the empowered Oversight Committee "after due deliberations with recommendations of the Head, Department of English, finalised the syllabus".

The varsity also maintained that the present syllabus was "inclusive" in nature and that it included "pioneering works of various re-

nowned scholars of both national and international fame without consideration of their religion, caste and creed."

'Move disappointing'

Following the university's decision to drop the texts at an Academic Council (AC) meeting held on Tuesday, despite 15 elected members marking their dissent, several professors said that the move was "disappointing and shocking."

Mithuraj Dhusiya, an AC member who marked his dissent said, "There was no proper discussion regarding this. The Oversight Committee had members who did not have any expertise on the English syllabi. The English Department Head was a special invitee which meant that there were no rights to vote or dissent. The manner in which it was passed is shocking and disappointing. Why were only certain authors and certain texts dropped?"

Rudrashish Chakroborty, professor at Kirori Mal College said, "The Oversight Committee is guilty of not only undermining the laid down academic processes of



What's best for the future? Students at the Delhi University campus. *FILE PHOTO: SUSIIL KUMAR VERMA

the university, they have also abdicated their responsibility towards the students by delaying the notification of the syllabus in every semester. It is unbecoming of a university having stature like DU to notify the syllabus five weeks after the commencement of the semester. The fact that students/teachers don't know which texts to study/teach speak volumes about the academic apathy and the irresponsibility of the Oversight Committee towards the teaching-learning process. Coupled with this is the overreach of the arbitrary addition/deletion of texts without the consent of the Committee of Courses —

the only statutory body to frame the syllabus."

Senior DU professors closely associated with the matter said that the two texts by the Dalit writers were a part of the draft revised syllabus which came into effect in 2019.

Mahasweta Devi's work

"The current batch of third-year students would have been the first to be taught these two texts. However, in the recommendations sent by the OC, these two texts were dropped and it was eventually passed in Tuesday's AC meeting. Dropping of Mahasweta Devi's "Draupadi" was an afterthought,"

The Oversight Committee had members who did not have any expertise on the English syllabi. The English Dept. Head was a special invitee which meant that there were no rights to vote or dissent

MITHURAJ DHUSIYA
Academic Council member

said a senior DU professor.

M.K. Pandit, the Chairperson of the Oversight Committee, however said that "Draupadi" was dropped as a "large majority had a different view".

"The OC is an empowered committee and comprises senior academics and deans. What "overreach" is there? I am an academic and I do not know if someone is a Dalit or a non-Dalit writer and such aspects were not kept in mind. I am only aware of Mahasweta Devi's text which was dropped as many felt that there were details in the text which was not conducive to cater to all sections of society who come to DU. Students come from different backgrounds and their sensi-

bilities might not be the same," said Mr. Pandit.

The statement issued by the varsity also added, "The university subscribes to the idea that the literary content forming part of the text in a language course of study should contain materials which do not hurt the sentiments of any individual and is inclusive in nature to portray a true picture of our society, both past and present."

The dissent note moved by 15 of the AC members read, "It is unfortunate that the Oversight Committee has always shown prejudice against the representation of Dalits, tribals, women and sexual minorities as evident in its concerted efforts to remove all such voices from the syllabus. This is particularly evident in the committee's insistence to forcefully excise the authors like Mahasweta Devi, Bama and Sukirtharini who represent Dalit, tribal and other marginal voices."

Political pressure

Three AC members who had marked their dissent termed the university's statement as "false and misleading".

"The claim of the press re-

lease is utterly false and misleading: the Oversight Committee was conspicuous by its undemocratic decision-making of issuing fiats to the English department without giving any academic rationale. In fact, the Oversight Committee has undermined the collective efforts and the democratic processes undertaken by the Department of English in framing the syllabus through its subject committees mandated by the department GBM which then got ratified by the committee of courses. However the Oversight Committee, instead of examining the rationale of the texts included in the syllabus, merely pandered to the political pressures and vested interests," the statement read.

Further it added that, "...to use hurt sentiments as an excuse to delete texts is a blatant attempt to impose thought control of the dominant and privileged social groups. By suggesting that the syllabus should merely uphold the status quo and not critique or question the same, the DU press release has actually undermined the very ethos of a university."

(More reports on Page 10)

3 arrested for terrorising people for extortion

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three persons have been arrested for allegedly terrorising people on the streets to invoke fear for extortion, the police said on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) S.K. Meena said that the accused have been identified as Bilal alias Aslam (22), Mustafa (22) and Dhiraaj (29).

The police said that on August 16, three persons entered a house and fired shots after a quarrel in Dabri. Similar incidents were reported on July 12, June 18, June 17, and February 2, the police said. "It had been ascertained that all these incidents were carried out to intimidate persons, especially those involved in the sale of illicit liquor, to cough up money to the criminals," Mr Meena said.

The police received an information that the accused would come to Palam Dabri Road, after which a trap was laid and they were apprehended.

COVID: plea against reserving hotels for govt. officials rejected

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday rejected a petition challenging Delhi government's notifications reserving rooms in four hotels linked to two hospitals for treatment of officials of various public authorities and

their families.

A Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh refused to accept the submission of the petitioner's counsel that resources of the State remained unutilised due to the exclusive reservation of facilities for COVID-19 treatment of

government officials and their families.

The HC passed the order on a plea by Delhi-based doctor Kaushal Kant Mishra who argued that creating a classification in favour of a certain category of persons was "arbitrary" and "unimaginable" when the common man was

running from pillar to post in search of oxygen beds.

As per the Delhi government's April 27 notice, 70 rooms at Hotel Ginger at Vivek Vihar; 50 rooms at Hotel Park Plaza in Shahdara, and 50 rooms at Hotel Leela Ambience at CBD Ground in Kardooma, linked to Rajiv

Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital; and all the rooms in Hotel Golden Tulip at Hari Nagar, linked to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, are reserved for the treatment of officers/officials of Delhi government, autonomous bodies, corporations, local bodies and their families.

Drunk man fires at another in suspected road rage case

Accused fails to recall sequence of events; victim stable

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a suspected case of road rage, a man who was with his friends in a vehicle was shot at by another man driving a car in Delhi Cantonment area, the police said on Thursday. The accused has been arrested.

The police said that the victim has been identified as Sandeep Bhati. He is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Noida and is stated to be out of danger. The accused has been identified as Nitin, a resident of Kalkaji, whose mother is posted in Delhi Police's south district. He was heavily drunk at the time of the incident. "He was so drunk that he didn't remember that he had shot at someone," a police officer said.

A PCR call was received at 5 a.m. on Wednesday from Mr. Bhati's friend who in-

vestigation, CCTV cameras installed from Delhi-Gurgaon border to Kalkaji were checked which helped in the identification of the offending car. Based on technical surveillance, the accused Nitin was arrested," the officer said.

vestigation, CCTV cameras installed from Delhi-Gurgaon border to Kalkaji were checked which helped in the identification of the offending car. Based on technical surveillance, the accused Nitin was arrested," the officer said.

Another accident

It was revealed that the accused was drunk at the time of the incident and could not recall the sequence of events. However, the police suspect that he fired in a fit of rage when he got annoyed because he could not overtake the victim's vehicle despite honking.

The police said that the accused also committed an accident at Kalkaji in which his car got damaged. The police then managed to find the offending vehicle from a workshop in Okhla. The vehicle has been seized.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
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E-NIT S. NO 3rd attempt: 68/PHA of 2021-22
1st attempt under NIT No. 52/PHA of 2021-22 (No Response)
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2	1) Providing water supply facilities for Bhat Mohalla & Nath Mohalla Padgampora (Phase 1st). 2) Development of Pipe Line, Spring to Jamia Masjid with Motor & Gen Set at Dangeroora Under PRI District CAPEX Budget 2021-22 (under PHE Sub Division Awantipora).	9.800	600	30 days	CEE DEE

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		DD	MM	YY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	23	08	2021	01.00 PM
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3	Bid submission start date	23	08	2021	01.00 PM
4	Bid submission end date	31	08	2021	4:00 PM
5	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	31	08	2021	04:05 PM

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".
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Farmers' outfit condemns changes to Land Act 2013

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

The Haryana State committee of All-India Kisan Sabha has strongly condemned the "regressive" amendments to the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, made by the State Legislative Assembly. The AIKS demanded withdrawal of the amendments and threatened to launch an agitation in case its demand was not met.

Inderjit Singh, vice-president, AIKS, Haryana, said that some important pro-farmer provisions were made as a result of prolonged struggle of farmers in the Land Acquisition

Act, 2013. He said the anti-farmer, anti-people and pro-corporate provisions have now been added to the legislation by the Haryana Assembly through backdoor, adding that "this was a treachery by the BJP-JJP alliance government with the farmers".

"As a result of these amendments, now acquisition of land has been made easy as the willingness of minimum 70% of the farmers has been removed. Even the construction of houses on the farms can be demolished with an executive order at the time of land acquisition," said Mr. Singh.

OFFICE OF THE SPL. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (COMMN)
ASSAM ULUBARI, GUWAHATI - 781007

No. Re/127(FRN)/2020-21/19 Dated Guwahati, the 25th August 2021

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Tenders will be received upto 27.09.2021 at 1430 hrs in the office of the undersigned. The tender will be opened on the same date at 1530 hrs. If the office remains closed, the tender will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The envelope containing the tender should be Superscripted in red ink with "Furniture items for APPO".

Details of item with general Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours upto 1400 hrs on 27/09/2021 by submitting a requisition along with Bank Draft payable in favour of the Director of Police (Commn), Assam of Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five hundred) only. In that case the tenderer will have to deposit the cost of tender documents through Bank Draft at the time of submission of tender.

Supdt. of Police (Commn) Assam,
Ulubari, Guwahati-7

Janasanyog /C/4931/ 21

Woman found dead on JNU campus; no note found

A 26-year-old woman living on Jawaharlal Nehru University's campus was found dead under mysterious circumstances on Thursday morning, the police said.

Lived with husband
The police said that the deceased hailed from Buxar in Bihar and was living in Brahmaputra hostel with her husband who is pursuing PhD from JNU.

The police suspect that the woman took her own life by jumping from the second floor.

However, post-mortem report is awaited. No note has been found, the police said.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday (10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

HC raps North body for delay in salary payment

Corporation warned of asset attachment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday took North Delhi Municipal Corporation to task for delay in payment of salaries and pensions to staffers and warned it of ordering attachment of its assets and sale of properties.

The court also noted that the issue of whether the hospitals of North body have to be handed over for management to the Centre or the Delhi government, as it is facing financial issues, has still not been considered by the civic body.

A Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh said the corporation is not showing any sense of urgency which the issue demands and added that from now, it will not tolerate any delay in payment of salaries and pensions to the employees and retired staffers.

Six hospitals

The High Court had earlier directed the North body to take a decision on the issue whether its six hospitals should be handed over to the Central or Delhi government.

Later, it was informed by Advocate Divya Prakash Pande, appearing for the civic body that the commis-

Will not tolerate any delay in payment of salaries and pensions to the employees and retired staffers

HC BENCH

sioner of the corporation took steps and the issue was pending before the corporators.

Ms. Pande said the proposal was earlier rejected by the House.

'Can't have both ways'

To this, the Bench said the corporation can't have both ways that it will keep on insisting to retain the hospitals which could not generate any revenue but are source of expenditure for it and it will then say that it is running short of funds to pay salaries and pensions.

"Henceforth, whenever you say you don't have funds, we know what we have to do. From next time, we are going to attach your properties and will start with attaching your commissioner's office," the Bench said.

The court was informed by the North body counsel that pensions have been paid till June and salaries have been paid till July.

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9th Extension Notice
Tender extension notice for NIT No. 303/PR/JBVNL/20-21 the date extension for above NIT is available on the site www.jharkhandtender.gov.in
A revised Date and Time for Bid Submission and Technical Bid Opening is as follows:

Sl. No.	Items	Date & Time
1	Name of Work	Supply, Installation, Operations and FMS of AMI System for consumers having load above 10 KW in JBVN.L. Estimated cost Rs. 20Crores(Rs Twenty Crores)
2	Last Date and Time for receipt of Bids	09.09.2021 at 04:00 PM
3	Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bids	09.09.2021 at 06:00 PM

स्वीकृत एवं प्रारूपित में कर्जा बचतों। कृपया अपनी सिकारों को टेली फी नं. 1800 346 6570 पर दर्ज करवाय।
PR NO. 247662
PR.NO.252101 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(21-22):D
General Manager (IT)

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
"CORRIGENDUM"
Office Phone No.0194-2530355,Fax No. 0194-262704
Mail ID:ee-bajhp@psic.in

The tender called by this office letter No. PWD/BD/NIT-/2021-2022-4461-4515 dated, 26.07.2021 published in GIRIRAJ weekly on dated, 04.08.2021 to be release through e-procurement on 12.08.2021 and deadline for submission of bids is 28.08.2021 which is now extended upto 09.09.2021 The following amendments are hereby made in Sr. No. 1 as under:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost Rs.	Earnest Money	Now Name of Work be read as under	Now Estimated Cost be read as under	Now Earnest Money be read as under
1.	Construction of Harer to Kamathu via Taras Shilla Nallah road Km. 0/0 to 6/255 (SH: Improvement road Passing Places ,R/Wall Missing CD works GSB, WBM-II, WBM-III, Tarring work BM CC pavement side Drain and Parapets Under NABARD / RIDF-XXVI)	Rs. 5,21,52,979/-	Rs. 10,44,000/-	Construction of Harer to Kamathu via Taras Shilla Nallah road Km. 0/0 to 6/255 (SH: Improvement road Passing Places ,R/Wall Missing CD works GSB, WBM-II, WBM-III, Tarring work BM CC pavement side Drain and Parapets Under NABARD / RIDF-XXVI)	Rs. 5,22,71,591/-	Rs. 10,45,000

All other terms and conditions of the N.I.T. will remain un-changed.
Executive Engineer
Bainnath Division, HP, PWD., Bainnath.
HP / 3626/21-22

Increase in viral infection cases in city

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Hospitals across the national capital are registering a rise in the number of viral infection cases owing to change in weather, doctors said.

The doctors have also cautioned against self-medication and advised consulting a medical practitioner in time if one experiences symptoms of seasonal flu.

Vikramjit Singh, senior consultant, internal medicine of the Akash Healthcare Super Speciality Hospital in Dwarka said their facility has been receiving eight viral infection cases every day.

Manoj Sharma, senior consultant, internal medicine, Fortis Hospital at Vasant Kunj said every second patient coming to them has viral infection. "They present with cold, cough, fever and in some cases, nausea, vomiting and loose motions. The fever is high grade touching 102-103 degrees Celsius. Keeping oneself hydrated helps in controlling the fever," Dr. Sharma said.

Delhi tops list of world cities in terms of CCTVs per sq. mile: CM

State government says all kinds of obstacles were put to stall the initiative

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said the Delhi government had delivered on yet another significant promise as the Capital is now on top of a list of cities across the world on the number of CCTVs installed per square mile.

Top 3 Indian cities

Delhi has 1,826 CCTVs installed per square mile, which is three times higher than Chennai, 11 times higher than Mumbai and has surpassed cities like London, Shanghai, New York and Singapore to rank number one across the globe in this respect, Mr. Kejriwal said.

"I feel proud to say that Delhi beat cities like Shanghai, New York and London with most CCTV cameras per square mile across the world. At first, Delhi has 1,826 cameras, while at second, London has 1,138 cameras per square



A man checks CCTV cameras installed at a traffic signal crossing near the Red Fort in Old Delhi. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

mile" Mr. Kejriwal tweeted. "My compliments to the Delhi government's officers and engineers who worked on the project as a mission and achieved the feat in such a short time," he added.

The Public Works Department (PWD) took up the process of acquiring and installing 2.75 lakh CCTVs in phase one of the project and 1.4 lakh more CCTVs are in the process of installation at present, the government stated.

"All kinds of obstacles", the government alleged, were

put in its way to stall this initiative; one such development was the Lieutenant Governor, citing concerns against CCTVs in Delhi, "arbitrarily" forming a committee on the matter that would in effect bypass the elected government.

"It is due to the persistence and penance by the CM who constantly protested outside L-G House against his arbitrary orders that the way for the execution of the CCTV project could be paved," the government stated.

All CCTV feeds are highly secure with hardware monitored by the community, feeds accessible only to authorised users and the system itself capable of automatic health checkups to detect disturbances and intrusions of the connections, the government said.

It added that only 3 Indian cities feature in the top 20 - Delhi at rank 1, Chennai at rank 3 and Mumbai at rank 18.

Under the entire scheme, each RWA/Market Association has 30 to 40 cameras to cover their respective areas and 2.75 lakh CCTVs provided were installed in phase one with a further 1.4 lakh CCTVs in the process of installation.

Camera monitored areas are clearly marked with signage. A panic button will be provided in the area and also be clearly marked, which will trigger SMS alerts to RWA, Police and the PWD Command Centre, the government added.

No deaths due to COVID in city

45 fresh cases reported; test positivity rate stands at 0.06%

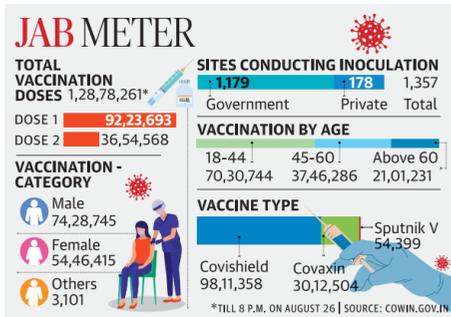
STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Capital reported no new COVID-19 deaths in the past 24 hours and the total number of deaths stood at 25,080, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government. Also, 45 new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14,37,595.

This is the sixteenth time since the starting of the second wave of the pandemic that zero fatality has been reported in a day.

A total of 72,153 tests were done in a day and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.06%. Of the total cases, 14,12,102 people have recovered and there are only 413 active cases.

On Wednesday, the city had registered 35 cases and one death, while the positiv-



ity rate stood at 0.05%

Vaccine shortage

The COVID-19 vaccine stock of the city on Thursday morning would last for three days, as per another bulletin. Delhi had a balance stock of 6,53,940 vaccines,

of which 5,29,140 jobs are Covishield and 1,24,800 are Covaxin, according to government data. A total of 98,548 vaccinations were administered on Wednesday and till now, 1,46,20,342 doses of vaccines have been administered.

'New wards at LNJP to get over 100 oxygen beds'

It will be ready by October 15, says Jain

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday said the new Mother and Child COVID wards at the Lok Nayak (LNJP) Hospital will be equipped with more than 100 "oxygen beds".

He added that it will be completed by October 15, 2021.

Mr. Jain, who visited the under-construction ward, said, "These wards at the Lok Nayak Hospital will be equipped with all necessary COVID-19-related medical facilities like oxygen beds, ventilators, and ICUs. The Kejriwal government is ramping up the capacity of all its hospitals to ensure an enhanced effective response



Satyendar Jain

is built against the virus."

The Minister said the bed capacity of hospitals is being strengthened on a rapid scale and the focus is on high-quality treatment that is easily accessible to all.

"Reduction in response time is the matter that the Delhi Health Department is taking on a priority basis," he said.

'Bed preparation by govt. 25% less than requirement during 2nd wave'

NITI Aayog member says third wave 'possible' by Sept., Oct.

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Dr. V.K. Paul, Member of NITI Aayog, has informed the Delhi government that the number of beds the government is preparing for a possible third wave is around 25% less than the requirement during the second wave, according to a document seen by *The Hindu*.

"Referring to the capacity of 37,000 beds with 12,000 ICU beds, Dr. Paul said this capacity would be able to take only 850 cases per million per day whereas last time Delhi had above 1,100 cases per million per day and as such it is about 25% below that level. He suggested fine-tuning of it," read the document about a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) earlier this month.

Also, Professor Balram Bhargava, DG, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said during the meeting that a high-level committee should be set up to "improve health infrastructure in district hospitals" and it should reach the level of private sector hospitals.

The Commissioner of Police said at the meeting that guards should be deployed at wine shops as "customers do not follow COVID appropriate behaviour". "On public transport, CP said that DMRC should be directed to open more gates as passengers waiting in lines spill over to the roads. Frequencies of metro and DTC should also be increased. Sarojini Nagar, Sadh Nagar and Gandhi Dham markets need to be regulated," the document

said. Officials also praised the Delhi government's various efforts to prepare for a possible third wave. Experts were not of the same opinion on when a possible third wave could hit the city. "Guleria, Director, AIIMS said he could only hazard a guess as a third wave could arrive any time between August and December. He suggested that planning for the same be made from September-October but again stated that it remained a difficult guess," the document said.

But Dr. Paul said the third wave is "possible" by September and October and advised a focused vaccination drive for 45+ population. "He stated that in any possi-



A view of the COVID treatment centre at Burari in Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

He [Dr. Paul] stated that in any possible third wave, mortality rate will be low unless the virus changes. The rogue virus can come up and we have to prepare for it.

DOCUMENT

Senior officials at the meeting were of the view that schools can't remain shut and recommended a serological survey among children.

"Sujit Kumar Singh agreed with Dr. Paul and observed that students could not be kept away from the schools. Health advisory such as temperature screening etc. may also be issued and Sero-survey among children may also be conducted to know their exposure. He advised forming of an expert group in this regard," the document said.

Chief Secretary Vijay Dev said that by the next DDMA meeting all SOPs would be readied and by September 1, the reopening of schools could be considered.

ble third wave, mortality rate will be low unless the virus changes. The rogue virus can come up and we have to prepare for it. He also referred to the need for a high-quality serosurvey," it read.

Schools reopening

Senior officials at the meeting were of the view that schools can't remain shut and recommended a serological survey among children.

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1.51 crore beneficiaries vaccinated in Haryana

Vij says over 35L got both doses in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij on Thursday said COVID vaccination drive was progressing at a good pace in the State and around 1.51 crore beneficiaries have been administered the jab so far.

Of these, 36.85 lakh had received both doses of the vaccine.

Mr. Vij informed that 4.67 lakh healthcare workers were given the COVID vaccine so far, of which 2,51,029 had received only single-dose and 2,16,738 had received both doses.

Similarly, 4,51,586 frontline workers were vaccinated so far, of which 2,50,935 were administered the first dose and 2,00,651 both doses.

The Health Minister said 32,86,446 people aged 60 years and above were vaccinated in the State, including 21,25,084 having received only a single dose. As many as 11,61,362 elderly people had received both doses.

In the 45-60 age group, 38.58 lakh people were vaccinated with 26,48,843 receiving only a single dose and 12,09,898 receiving both doses.

The vaccination coverage has been the maximum in the 18-44 age group with 70.89 people vaccinated.

Of these, 61.92 lakh have been given the first dose and 8.96 lakh both doses.

Gurugram tops the table among the districts with 22.48 lakh beneficiaries having been vaccinated so far.

Food for thought



A woman distributes mid-day meal ration kit at a government school at Dhaka Village in Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Online applications for learner's licences more than double this week

Transport Department records state that 15,798 applications were received till 10 a.m. on August 25

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

The number of citizens applying for learner's licence from home went up almost twice this week with more than 1,400 applications being made every day between August 18 and August 25.

The number of daily applications is up from almost 850 per day, which were recorded since the launch of the Transport Department's 'Faceless Services' initiative by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on August 11 till August 18.

In all, according to Transport Department records, 15,798 applications for learner's

The Delhi govt.'s Faceless Services programme includes 33 major transport-related services

licences, among the most significant services offered by the department to citizens, were received till 10 a.m. on August 25 compared to 5,948 recorded towards the conclusion of the first week of the programme.

According to departmental records, 11,370 of the total applicants have been successful so far while 1,109 failed their tests and as ma-

ny as 4,428 did not appear for it. The department also recorded 142 unsuccessful applicants due to colour blindness.

As reported by *The Hindu* on August 25, as many as 10,000 learners' licences had been issued to citizens since August 11.

Last week, of the 5,948 applicants for learners' licences as many as 5,341 applicants were successful while 607 did not make the cut.

Currently, the Delhi government's Faceless Services programme includes 33 major transport-related services, which account for

95% of the total services which citizens can avail: driving licence and related services, vehicle registration and related services and permit-related services.

The remaining smaller services will soon be added to the faceless basket in the coming months, according to the government. Physical interaction will be limited to the driving skill test conducted at 13 fully Automated Driving Test Tracks and fitness tests of vehicles.

Pre-pandemic, the government stated, approximately 30 lakh services were being provided to citizens online annually and the 13

Motor Licencing Offices (MLOs) in the Capital are in the process of seeking and resolving pending complaints before finally being converted into facilitation centres for those who cannot avail of the department's services online due to one reason or another.

As of August this year, according to the government, Delhi was the first State in the country to go faceless replete with e-sign and Aadhar-based authentication.

Also, it was the first State to provide e-Learners' licence tests through AI-based facial recognition or feature mapping.

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IMMEDIATE JOINING

LEGAL NOTICE

In the Court of the HON'BLE CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALURU [Commercial Court - CCH-88] Com. O.S. No.5413/2019

Between M/s. Mayuri Office Needs O/at no. 2325, 2nd, A cross, 16th B main, HAL 2nd stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560008, Represented by its Proprietor, Sri. Ravaraja Lalji Premji... PLAINTIFF AND 2. Sri. Naveen Bhadravaj S/o Sri. MRGD Bhadravaj, Aged about 46 years, Flat No. 1101, Tower-3, Flat no. 204, Unworld Gardens, Sohna Road, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122002, Director, M/s. TBI Breweries India Pvt. Ltd.,... DEFENDANT No. 2

NOTICE Whereas M/S.MAYURI OFFICE NEEDS, the plaintiff in the above matter, have instituted the above suit against you for seeking to pay Rs 4,26,829/- (Rupees four lakhs twenty six thousand & eight hundred & twenty nine only) on the file of the Hon'ble LXXVIII Addl. City civil & sessions Judge, at Bangalore, (CCH-88). You are hereby warned to appear before the Hon'ble LXXVIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, at Bangalore, (CCH-88) in person or by a pleader duly instructed on 20-09-2021 at 11:00 clock forenoon to show cause against the plaintiff, failing wherein the matter will be heard & determined Ex-Parte Given Under my hand & the seal of the court, this 24th day of Aug 2021.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT ASST. REGISTER CITY CIVIL COURT ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF Law Wings, Advocates & legal Consultants O/at Building No. 32, Office Chamber No. 30, Mayura Nivasa, 2nd flr, 4th main, 3rd cross, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru-560018

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Sh. Anil Sharma S/o Sh. S. P. Sharma R/o G-101, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi and (Flat 308, G/52 Mansarovar) with his wife Smt. Rita Sharma, disown their son Rishabh Sharma from all their all movable and immovable properties and assets. They will not be responsible if any person deals with Rishabh Sharma. Any person dealing with Rishabh Sharma shall do so at their own risk and responsibility.

Anil Sharma and Rita Sharma Sunil Kumar Mittal (Advocate) Chamber No. X-24, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

Timings DELHI

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
SUNDAY, AUG. 29	RISE 05:58	SET 18:46
	RISE 22:58	SET 12:03

Delhi Weather

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

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

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Winds are likely to change, warm and humid day. Thunderclouds development or light rain at some places possible.

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THE HINDU
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Punjab govt. to give incentives to industries for using stubble

Move to check air pollution from straw burning during post-harvest season

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

In an effort to check stubble burning menace during the paddy season, the Punjab government has decided to permit certain categories of industries to install paddy-straw-fired boilers to claim fiscal incentives.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday. The Cabinet also decided to provide cumulative fiscal incentives of ₹25 crore to the first 50 existing industries on 'first come first serve' basis for using paddy straw as fuel in boilers, said an official statement. The industries that can get this benefit include sugar mills, pulp and paper mills among others.

The Cabinet also approved non-fiscal incentives to industries in terms of availability of 'Panchayat'



A farmer burns stubble near Amritsar. • FILE PHOTO: AFP

land for storage of paddy straw with lease agreement upto 33 years. Apart from this, balers would be made available on priority in areas where paddy straw is used as fuel in boilers, said the statement, adding that the move would help in tackling the menace of stubble burning during harvesting of Kharif

crops, thus also conserving the fertility of soil and saving the beneficial micro-organisms.

'Significant decision'

The statement said the decision assumes significance in view of the challenge of managing crop residue.

"Post harvesting, while

the wheat straw is used as fodder for the livestock, paddy straw in the fields is set on fire by the farmers to quickly clear their fields for next crop. Due to field fire incidents during the month of October-November, the problem of air pollution is widely prevalent in and around the rural area, causing major health effects," it said.

"Due to the climatic conditions, the air quality in the national capital region also deteriorates, with contribution from various local sources such as domestic, vehicular, industrial and municipal solid waste dump fires. However, farm fires in the neighbouring States is also blamed for air pollution in the NCR. Paddy is cultivated in 31.49 lakh hectare area (2020) in Punjab, resulting in the generation of about 20 million tons of paddy straw," the statement added.

Fresh probe against Odisha Law Minister

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

A local court has ordered a fresh probe against Odisha Law Minister Pratap Kumar Jena in the case of murder of a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader in Cuttack district.

Kulamani Baral, former chairperson of Mahanga block of Cuttack and a BJP leader was hacked to death in January this year.

Ramakant Baral, son of deceased Kulamani Baral, had filed case in Mahanga Police Station against 13 persons including the Minister alleging their involvement in the murder.

After investigation, police had filed charge-sheet against 14 accused, but dropped the name of the Minister.

Mr. Baral moved the local court alleging, "investigation made by investigating officer is perfunctory as he has completely overlooked the allegation against Minister."

College girl's murder reaches Assam Cabinet

State govt. asks top police officer to fast-track probe for exemplary punishment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

An unusual issue topped the weekly Assam Cabinet meeting on Thursday - the murder of a college girl by her estranged boyfriend.

A few decisions such as tackling the impact of climate change, removing the bottlenecks in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission and reopening higher secondary to postgraduate classes from September 1 were taken at the meeting headed by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

But the hacking of Nandita Saikia, a student of a three-year degree course at



CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

the Mordihal College in northeastern Assam's Dhemaji by a non-teaching employee of the college a few days ago took much of the meeting space.

Expressing deep condolence, the Cabinet directed

Special Director General of Police G.P. Singh to fast-track the probe to ensure the culprit is given exemplary punishment.

Rintu Sarma, the non-teaching employee, attacked Ms. Saikia with a machete on August 21.

Two others were also injured in the attack.

Ms. Saikia was admitted to a private hospital in Dibrugarh and she died of her injuries on the head on Wednesday night. The accused was arrested on the day of the incident.

Demands for capital punishment for the accused have since increased in in-

tensity.

"Anguished to learn about the demise of Nandita Saikia who was undergoing treatment after a heinous attack on her. In this hour of grief, I stand in solidarity with her family members," Agriculture Minister Atul Bora said.

'Anguished by the act'

Rajya Sabha member Ajit Kumar Bhuyan wrote, "I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family of Nandita Saikia... Anguished by the act of the perpetrator; urge the administration to take necessary steps to provide exemplary punishment to the accused."

Sambhar Lake needs faster restoration, says expert study

It is shrinking with degradation of soil and water quality

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR

The world famous Sambhar Salt Lake in Rajasthan, which is constantly shrinking with the degradation of soil and water quality and a decline in the population of migratory birds, needs a faster restoration for conservation of its wetland and salt brine worth \$300 million, an expert study on the lake's ecology has said.

The lake, situated 80 km south-west of Jaipur, is the country's largest inland saline water body which attracts thousands of migratory birds every year. The death of more than 20,000 birds belonging to about 10 species which migrate annually to the lake had made international headlines in 2019.

The birds foraging in the

Sambhar marshlands had died due to avian botulism. The study, undertaken by a research team of the Central University of Rajasthan's School of Earth Sciences, has recommended an urgent action to restore the lake's ecosystem for protecting the birds and biodiversity as well as the salt production.

'Mining menace'

Laxmi Kant Sharma, associate professor in the Department of Environmental Science, who led the research, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that 30% of the Sambhar Lake's area had been lost to mining and other activities, including the illegal salt pan encroachments. It has also threatened the livelihoods of local people who

have always lived in harmony with the lake and its ecology.

The study team conducted geospatial modelling for 96 years, from 1963 to 2059, at a decadal scale with the integration of ground data on birds, soil and water. The satellite images were classified to cover Aravalli hills, barren land, saline soil, salt crust, salt pans, wetland, settlement and vegetation.

Dr. Sharma said while the past trends showed a reduction of wetland from 30.7% to 3.4% at a constant rate with its conversion into saline soil, which increased by 9.3%, the future predictions had depicted a loss of 40% of wetland and 120% of saline soil and net increase of 30% vegetation, 40% settlement, 10% salt pan and 5% barren land.

Hooch case: 9 policemen suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AGRA (U.P.)

Nine policemen have been suspended following the death of 10 people due to the consumption of suspected spurious liquor in this district of Uttar Pradesh, police officers said on Thursday.

Police have confirmed that four people died after consuming spurious liquor and said investigation is on to ascertain the reason behind the death of six others.

"Nine police personnel, including three SHO's and six constables, have been suspended over the incident. We have also sent a recommendation for action against the guilty excise officers and the policemen to the government," Additional Director General of Police, Agra, Rajeev Krishna said.

Couple showers savings on 'life-changing' school

They set up water conservation unit, library on school boundary wall for passers-by

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

An Assam couple has shored their savings on a school that changed their lives.

S.M. Firoj Laskar had studied at the State-run 1017 Dakshin Mohanpur L.P. School in southern Assam's Cachar district. He is now a cluster resource centre coordinator under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

His wife Lalki Laskar is not a past pupil of the school in a remote part of the district. But she happens to be its headmistress.

The connection had given a message to Mr. Laskar - that he should give back to the school that moulded him into what he is today. It helped that his wife was at-



The water harvesting system set up in an Assam school by a past pupil and his wife. • SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

tached to the school that has helped augment the family income.

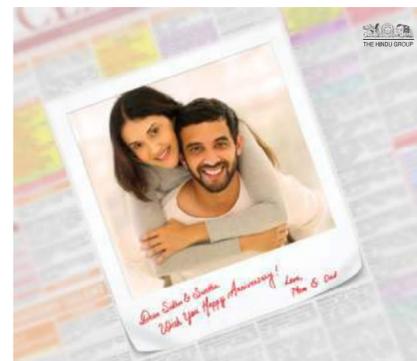
The couple started by giving the school kitchen a new, hygienic look, followed by a rainwater harvesting and water conservation system around a hand-pump on the premises.

More than a week ago, they set up a street library on the boundary wall of the school designed to cater to the children as well as any passer-by interested in reading. They donated some of their books and bought a few that children would find attractive enough to read.

Meeting with DC

Mr. Laskar got in touch with her in April to know about the Jal Suraksha Prokolpo (water conservation project) she had initiated as the Deputy Commissioner of the adjoining Hailakandi district earlier, she noted.

Mr. Laskar stated that he hoped the street library would inculcate the habit of giving back after using a public amenity.



A GREETING TO REMEMBER

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified female **Namely** : Unknown, **W/o** : Unknown, **R/o** : Unknown, **Age** : about 40 years, **Height** : 5'2", **Complexion** : Wheatish, **Face** : Round, **Built** : Strong, **Wearing** : Multi colour printed suit-salwar has been found dead at Munak

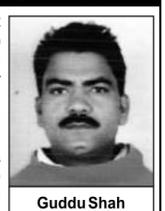
Canal, in the area of PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi on 21.08.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No 4A dated 21.08.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.

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

SHO : P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi Outer North Distt., Delhi DP/1228/ON/2021 Tel. No. 011-27854757, 21710052

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely **Guddu Shah S/o** Maeendin Shah **R/o** Mama Rikshaw Gairaj, Near Novelty Cinema, SP Mukherji Marg, Delhi **Aged**- 45 Years has been reported missing since 03.08.2021 at 01:30 PM from above address vide **DD No. 84-A Dated 04.08.2021** registered at Police Station Lahori Gate, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-



Guddu Shah

Complexion: Shallow, **Height**: 5'5", **Face**: Round, **Built**: Strong, **Wearing**: White coloured t-shirt, blue coloured pant and black coloured sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Lahori Gate, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-23014046 (Direct), **SHO, Lahori Gate, Delhi DP/1399/N/2021 Ph.: 011-23953776 Mob.: 8750870122**

IN BRIEF



Minister proposes PPP model for Nandi Hills

BENGALURU
New Tourism Minister of Karnataka has proposed that the Nandi Hills in Chickballapur district be developed on a public-private partnership model. At a meeting, Minister B.S. Anand Singh said Nandi Hills is a beautiful spot and the PPP model will be implemented to develop it.

Red sanders case: forest employee on remand dies

CHITTOOR
The death of a forest department driver, who was remanded in judicial custody in a red sanders smuggling case, created a flutter here. However, the police on Thursday clarified that the accused, Jayappa, 52, was a diabetic with multiple health issues. He died in a hospital on Wednesday after complaining of chest pain.

Gang from M.P. held for burglary in A.P.

KADAPA
The Kadapa police arrested a gang hailing from Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. The gang was allegedly involved in a number of criminal activities in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh before landing in Andhra Pradesh. The police recovered two cars and seven mobile phones from the accused.

A.P. says it is looking to set up SHRC in Kurnool

VIJAYAWADA
In yet another clear indication of its determination to develop Kurnool as the 'judicial capital', the Andhra Pradesh government on Thursday informed the High Court that it was looking for a suitable place there to set up the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) as per a decision taken by the Cabinet.

'Breakthrough infections not alarming'

Karnataka Health Commissioner says only 0.03% of the people re-infected

AFSHAN YASMEEN BENGALURU
Karnataka has recorded 14,421 breakthrough COVID-19 infections and 126 of the patients have died of the disease ever since the start of vaccination.

Breakthrough infections are those that occur among people who have contracted COVID-19 despite being vaccinated. According to data from the State Health and Family Welfare Department, while 11,881 infections and 109 deaths were reported among those who have taken the first dose, 2,540 infections and 17 deaths were reported among the fully vaccinated.

State Health Commission-

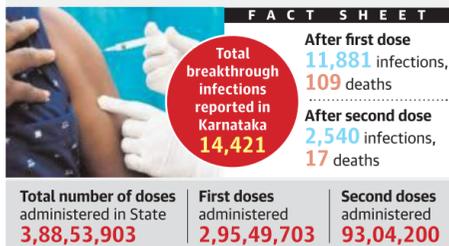
er K.V. Trilok Chandra said the numbers are not alarming as only 0.03% of the 93,04,200 fully-vaccinated people have been infected again.

Asserting the effectiveness of the vaccine, the Commissioner said: "Not more than 150 of them required hospitalisation. It is very important that people should continue to follow COVID-19 precautions even after getting vaccinated."

While 3,88,53,903 crore people have taken at least one dose as of Thursday, over 93 lakh people have been fully vaccinated.

According to a recent study published by the Indian Council of Medical Research

Viral fight | Breakthrough infections occur when vaccinated people test positive for the virus



(ICMR), breakthrough infections were predominantly caused by the Delta variant of the virus during the second wave in India.

V. Ravi, member of the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and nodal officer for genomic confirmation of SARS-CoV-2, said almost all the

breakthrough infections were due to the Delta variant.

"Evidence from genome sequencing shows that Delta is the culprit. There are concerns that newer variants could also emerge through breakthrough infections," he said.

U.S. Vishal Rao, Dean of

Centre of Academic Research at the HCG Cancer Centre and member of the State Genomic Surveillance Committee, said a majority of the 126 deaths have occurred in Hassan and Mysuru.

While sources said this could be due to serious adverse effects that patients in these districts would have developed following immunisation, Dr. Rao said: "This would most likely signify the possibility of vaccine escape mutations acquiring in some specific strains that were seen in Hassan and Mysuru."

C.N. Manjunath, nodal officer for labs and testing, said the same process of risk assessment and triaging should be done for those who contract the disease even after being fully vaccinated.

Kerala's case graph may spiral, merge into third wave: experts

Studies warn of waning vaccine protection

C. MAYA THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
A steep rise in Kerala's COVID-19 graph in the post-Onam period was a given as, buoyed by the feeling of safety afforded by vaccination, social interactions and multi-family gatherings were bound to happen, heightening chances of disease transmission. The second wave in Kerala had never reached the baseline.

The case graph, which had been maintained at a high plateau of 20-22,000 new cases daily, could spiral up and possibly merge into a third wave, many public health experts feel.

However, even as the go-

vernment hopes that vaccination will see it through the third wave, there have been reports of waning vaccine efficiency from Centres for Disease Control (CDC) of the U.S., as well as the Oxford study. Last week, CDC re-

leased data from three studies, which said that while vaccines helped to reduce the severity of the disease and deaths, the protection it afforded the individual against infection was progressively waning.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
COVID-19 disease transmission within homes has been rising in Kerala, accounting for 35% of the total cases, according to a statement issued by Health Minister Veena George on Thursday.

Ms. George said that improper home quarantine

has been resulting in entire families getting infected as soon as one member is diagnosed with the disease. People who test positive for COVID-19 should opt for home quarantine only if they have proper facilities for total isolation, or else, they should move to domiciliary care centres, said Ms. George.

84-day gap is for better efficacy, Centre tells HC

'It is not due to vaccine shortage'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

The Centre on Thursday informed the Kerala High Court that the 84-day gap between the two doses of Covishield had been prescribed for an improved vaccine efficacy and not due to its non-availability.

The Central government counsel submitted that the decision on the dose intervals had been taken on the recommendations of the Empowered Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 and inputs from the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

Justice P.B. Suresh Kumar had last time asked the Centre to clarify on what basis the 84 days gap had been prescribed.

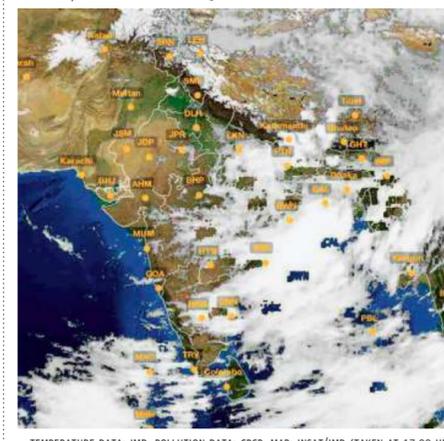


The HC had earlier sought clarification from the Centre on the gap between two doses of Covishield.

The court had made the observations while hearing the writ petition by Kitey Garments Ltd., Kochi, seeking a directive to the State government to allow it to administer the second dose of the vaccine to its employees before completion of the 84-day period.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, Bihar, Odisha, south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Telangana, Karaikal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	20	32.6	24.6	Kozhikode	1	30.7	25.4
Ahmedabad	35.6	25.7		Kurnool	34.1	26.1	
Aizawl	28.2	20.0		Lucknow	33.1	28.2	
Allahabad	31.4	27.0		Madurai	3	37.4	23.7
Bengaluru	30.4	21.0		Mangaluru	4.1	30.0	23.6
Bhopal	3.3	30.2	22.1	Mumbai	31.3	25.2	
Bhubaneswar	7.8	33.2	24.9	Mysuru	30.2	21.6	
Chandigarh	35.9	28.1		New Delhi	35.2	26.6	
Chennai	35.3	26.7		Patna	9	29.1	26.0
Coimbatore	33.5	23.4		Port Blair	46	26.5	23.0
Dehradun	90	30.4	24.3	Puducherry	34.9	23.7	
Gangtok	7.6	19.7	18.3	Pune	29.6	20.8	
Goa	31.0	25.3		Raipur	33.5	26.2	
Guwahati	14	32.0	25.6	Ranchi	1	31.2	24.2
Hubbali	29.0	22.0		Shillong	43	25.6	17.4
Hyderabad	13	31.6	21.8	Shimla	19	24.1	15.6
Imphal	30.7	22.0		Srinagar	32	26.5	19.2
Jaipur	34.0	25.2		Thiruvananthapuram	32	29.7	24.0
Kochi	5	30.6	24.2	Tiruchi	37.5	26.0	
Kohima	2	25.8	18.4	Vijayawada	25	33.8	23.6
Kolkata	1	34.2	27.4	Visakhapatnam	42	35.6	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing						Yesterday
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	45	31	53	62	92	■
Bengaluru	10	18	101	46	92	■
Chennai	4	29	65	29	56	■
Delhi	9	49	46	73	248	■
Hyderabad	6	68	32	29	49	■
Kolkata	22	29	25	84	96	■
Lucknow	8	18	57	69	123	■
Mumbai	13	10	7	78	103	■
Pune	90	135	110	64	56	■
Visakhapatnam	18	59	51	86	76	■

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.

MVA govt. launches scheme for COVID widows

Mission Vatsalya will bring 18 services under one roof: Minister Yashomati Thakur

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

To extend help to women who lost their husbands to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maharashtra government's Women and Child Development Department has launched Mission Vatsalya, aimed to serve around 18 benefits, schemes, and services to them under one roof.

"COVID widows, especially from rural areas, underprivileged backgrounds, and deprived sections were a neglected facet of the crisis. Due to the death of the breadwinner, their hardship aggravated. Considering these aspects, Mission Vats-



Devastating: Since the outbreak of the pandemic, 15,095 women have lost their husbands to COVID-19 in the State. ■ FILE PHOTO

lya is launched," said Women and Child Development Minister Yashomati Thakur.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, 15,095 women have lost their husbands to COVID-19. Of them, 14,661 women were listed by the District Task Force. Ms. Thakur said efforts are being made by the department to

provide 18 services to help them and also to get the certificates they need, including a number of schemes like Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Gharkul Yojana.

Under this programme, a total of 8,661 women have applied for the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Anudan Yojana, 405 for the Shravanbal Seva

State Pension Scheme and 71 for the Indra Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme. Applications have been received from 1,209 women for the Indra Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme.

The department has also received three applications for the Indra Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme. So far, 10349 applications have been received from the women contacted by the department.

Door-to-door visits
Officials from the department, office of the Child Development Project Officer, the Local Unit Officer and Anganwadi Sevikas will be going to the homes of these women and to check and provide them these services.

As of now, the department has reached out to more than 10,000 women in the State who will get the benefits soon, the Minister said.

Now, jobs for kin of more govt. officials

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

The State Cabinet on Thursday cleared the proposal to offer jobs to the kin of A and B class government staff on compassionate grounds. The rule was so far applicable only to C and D class staff.

The demand was raised after the death of several A and B class officers during the pandemic. As per the decision, an eligible kin of deceased officials from A and B class would be appointed as officials of C and D class respectively.

Vashi police arrest godman

RAINA ASSAINAR NAVI MUMBAI

The Vashi police have arrested a former autorickshaw driver who duped people for the past five years by claiming to be a godman. Rajaram Shinde (54) was arrested based on the complaint of a 36-year-old woman who was cheated of ₹70,000.

The police have invoked the provisions of the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013.

The accused has been remanded in police custody till Friday. "Till now, four people have complained of being cheated of ₹3.57 lakh," senior police inspector Ramesh Chavan said.

Face recognition cameras to be installed at railway stations in Maharashtra, Gujarat

Analytics will help in crime detection, tracking missing persons

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

As many as 470 video cameras with real-time face recognition technology have been commissioned at railway stations across Maharashtra and Gujarat, including those on the Mumbai suburban line of the Western Railway.

"As part of our Integrated Security System, we are installing 2,729 cameras on stations between Churchgate and Virar. They have multiple features such as intrusion detection and will help us monitor railway stations in a better manner," said Sumit Thakur, chief PRO, Western Railway. He said the cameras can be used for crime detection and security measures.

Andrey Telenkov, CEO, NtechLab, which has developed the system, said, "The system will be used on the busiest section of the network and ensure simultaneous recognition of up to 50 people in a single frame. It was a challenge but we were able to address it efficiently and on schedule."

The video analytics system will be used to shape strategy, for instance, by counting passenger traffic at any given time on the network. It will also be used to identify criminals and track missing persons. "Our video analytics technology employs high-precision, real-time face recognition mode, in the video stream. Images are compared with a data-

base of wanted individuals. If there is a match, it notifies law enforcement. The entire process, from the appearance of the person in front of a camera to law enforcement receiving a signal, takes less than three seconds. This enables a fast response to situations as they develop," he added.

The project was completed jointly with Technosys Security Systems. NtechLab was certified by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation. Liana Meliksetyan, chief commercial officer, NtechLab, said, "Before the year-end, we plan to complete three more video analytics projects in the fields of retail, education and entertainment."

Counselling for kids who lost parent to COVID

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Maharashtra government's Women and Child Development Department in association with NGO Arpan is planning to provide counselling services to over 2,600 children who have lost a parent to COVID-19.

The 'grief counselling' services will be extended to three districts - Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban and Thane - to reach over 330, 940 and 1,340 children respectively.

These counselling sessions will take place through voice calls, video calls or in-person, based on feasibility and the child's comfort. The surviving parent or primary caregiver of the child will be apprised of the progress.

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Letter No. 694/C-9/21 Dated: 26/08/2021

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING e-tender Notice (Short term)

The Superintending Engineer 9th Circle, Public Works Department, Dehradun on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites item rate tender in two bid system for the following work. Information regarding tender shall be available on <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> from date 02.09.2021

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Validity of Tender (In days)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (In Month)	Contractor Category of Registration
1	Under respected CM announcement no. 54/2020, Road Widening form Telpur Chowk to Harbhajwala in Mehuwala Ward No. 88, Dharampur Constituency, Dist. Dehradun. (C.D.Dun)	4.87	60	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	12	Registered in 'A' & above category in Road works in Central Govt./State Govt./any Govt. Undertaking
2	Under respected CM announcement no. 40/2020, Reformation of Road and Drain Formation in I.S.B.T - Turner road, Turner road Ward no. 78, Dharampur Constituency Area, Dist. Dehradun after encroachment and demolition as per or orders of Honble high court. (C.D.Dun)	4.60	60	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	12	Registered in 'A' & above category in Road works in Central Govt./State Govt./any Govt. Undertaking
3	Under respected CM announcement no. 206/2020, Internal road and Drain Formation in Village Selauqui, Sahaspur Constituency, Dist. Dehradun. (C.D.Dun)	5.50	60	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	12	Registered in 'A' & above category in Road works in Central Govt./State Govt./any Govt. Undertaking
4	Internal road and Drain Formation in Babugarh Nawabgarh Jivangarh and Dakpathar in Vikasnagar Constituency, Dist. Dehradun. Under State Sector. (C.D.Dun)	4.60	60	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	12	Registered in 'A' & above category in Road works in Central Govt./State Govt./any Govt. Undertaking

Note: Submission of following documents in original is essential in office of undersigned upto/before the last date and schedule time of uploading tender by the bidders.

- Cost of tender document Rs. 5000.00+ 18.00%G.S.T. as applicable only in the form of demand draft in the name of Executive Engineer, Construction Division Public Work Department, Dehradun. Bank Draft for Rs 5000.00 & GST Rs 900.00 to be submitted separately.(Bank draft will be valid only from Nationalized banks: Punjab National Bank, UCO Bank and State Bank Of India..)
- Rs 100.00 Non Judicial stamp affixed with duly signed Rs. 1.00 Revenue stamp for the validity of the Tender including certificate for validity up to 60 days.
- Earnest Money to be pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, Construction Division Public Work Department, Dehradun.
- Attach Copy of Uttaranchal PWD Registration (According to Uttaranchal Finance Deptt. G.O. No. 47/XXVII(7)/32/2017 Dt. 02 April 2018)

Superintending Engineer
9th Circle, PWD, Dehradun.



Learning safely

As schools prepare to reopen, the focus has to be on vaccination and safe behaviour

The Centre's move to allocate two crore coronavirus vaccine doses for universal coverage of all teaching and non-teaching staff in schools by Teachers' Day (September 5) adds a measure of confidence that resumption of face-to-face classes from September is not fraught with high risk. Several States are preparing to reopen schools, mostly for Class 9 and higher, next month. Some, including Haryana, Telangana and Gujarat, have announced that they will allow of-line classes even for younger children. Amidst fears of a third wave of the pandemic, epidemiologists, academicians and policymakers have been wrestling with the question of a low-risk trade-off, balancing protection from the virus with some bridging of the learning deficit caused by prolonged school closures that are crippling future prospects of millions of children. It is encouraging that half of the 97 lakh teachers in the country have already been immunised, by official estimates, making it feasible to reach the rest by September 5. The risk of infection to children in schools remains, however, and must be addressed with utmost seriousness, particularly with fast-transmitting virus variants present in all States. This calls for a coherent response that incorporates the best learnings from epidemiology and centralises decision-making to the districts based on local circumstances. It is, of course, a step forward that a vaccine, the three-dose ZyCoV-D, has been approved for the 12-18 age group, but this is to be administered only from October. The reversion to physical classes will, therefore, have to be carefully calibrated.

Vaccination of children over 12 years of age has been allowed in some countries, but the pandemic's course has remained unpredictable. In Israel, one of the most vaccinated countries with an estimated 78% coverage of the over-12 population, the Delta variant swiftly caused a spike in infections as distancing norms, the mask mandate and travel bans were eliminated. In one instance, an entire class of students was infected by one unvaccinated child who had been on vacation. This cautionary tale serves to emphasise the importance of priority vaccination of children, starting with those who may have other health conditions, maintaining safety protocols, and adopting low-cost non-pharmaceutical interventions such as good classroom ventilation and open-air instruction wherever feasible. Credentialed studies in the U.S. indicate that these are effective measures, along with vaccination. It is vitally important for the Centre to share information on the school reopening experience with all States and issue alerts in real time to enable decision-making. An empirical approach will also enable organisations such as the National Institute of Disaster Management collate useful insights. Parents must be convinced by transparent official measures that the health and education prospects of their children are in safe hands.

Risks and rewards

The asset monetisation push needs careful calibration to evade future hazards

Following through on the Budget's plan to monetise public assets in order to fund fresh capital expenditure on infrastructure, the Government has released an exhaustive list of projects and facilities to be offered to private investors over the next four years. What distinguishes it from the new public sector disinvestment policy is that a change of ownership is not envisaged. The Government estimates these assets – airports, coal mines, highway stretches, even urban tracts, stadia and hotels – to fetch around ₹5.96-lakh crore through structured leasing and securitisation transactions. This, in turn, could help fund the National Infrastructure Pipeline with new projects worth ₹100-lakh crore, although the Government has said fiscal constraints are not the trigger for this plan. As Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has emphasised, these assets or the land therein will not be sold but private players will be asked to pay for operation and management rights and expected to modernise assets that are either languishing or are simply under-utilised. An infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) structure has already been used this year by the PowerGrid Corporation to raise funds against its transmission lines network and could be used for highways, gas pipelines and railway tracks, including the Dedicated Freight Corridor. For ports, mining, railway stations, concession agreements laying out the contours for a PPP are proposed.

About ₹88,000 crore is expected from the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) in this year itself, in addition to the ₹1.75-lakh crore already estimated in the Budget from the sale of public firms such as Air India and BPCL. While this Government is yet to complete a single PSU sale, the risks of adverse audit paras about valuations and processes hang over monetisation deals too. However, post-transaction troubles in outright sales can be of a limited nature. With proposed concession periods running up to 60 years for some assets, NMP deals, by contrast, could pose a long-term headache if they are not structured with end-user interests in mind, balancing the profit and utility motives. The sharing of risk and rewards between the public and private partners needs to be weighed carefully for each sector. Checks and balances are needed for actual infrastructure usage versus projections at the time of bidding. If the Government had implemented its 2014 Budget promise to set up an apex body to devise new PPP models, learning from past mistakes, India's institutional capacity for the NMP would have been more mature by now. Just like disinvestment deals during a downturn could crowd out new investments and risk the tag of 'fire sales', revenue projections for PPP assets could be deflated now leading to lower bids followed by super-normal gains for the operator in the future. Getting the nitty-gritty right is critical for this grand plan.

Finding India's voice on Afghanistan

In a world of hard geopolitical realities, New Delhi must leverage its unique strengths in remaining engaged with Kabul



SUHASINI HAIDAR

In the chaos that has followed the Taliban takeover of Kabul on August 15, noisy recriminations in the international community and the desperate appeals of Afghans who want to leave the country, India has been relatively silent. On the ground, the Narendra Modi government chose to speak with its feet, ordering the full evacuation of the Indian embassy and all Indian personnel within hours of Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani's departure from the 'Arg' Presidential Palace. At the UN Security Council (UNSC) in New York and UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, India has expressed its worries about terrorism, human rights and refugees, but has not mentioned the Taliban itself even once by name. And in India, the Government appears to be equally mute, as thousands of Afghans clamour for visas, and get no reply, focusing instead on the task of bringing a few hundred Indian nationals back home.

When India led

The silence is in sharp contrast to the past, particularly the last 20 years, where India had been at the forefront of discussions in Afghanistan and on Afghanistan. India's role strengthened over the tenure of three different governments in Delhi in three areas: in terms of infrastructure building and development assistance, encompassing all 34 provinces of the country; in terms of building democracy, helping script the Constitution and hold elections; and in terms of educational investment, allowing thousands of young Afghans to study, be trained as professionals and soldiers, and become skilled in India.

India was the first country that

Afghanistan signed a strategic partnership with, the only country that undertook perilous but ambitious projects such as Parliament, the Zaranj-Delaram Highway, and the Chabahar port project in Iran for transit trade, and by far the one country that polled consistently highly among countries that Afghan people trusted. It seems inconceivable that the Government can choose to simply walk away from such capital, regardless of the developments in Afghanistan, domestic political considerations in India and geopolitical sensitivities. The Government must consider all its options in remaining engaged with Afghanistan for its future.

A marginalisation

To begin with, it is necessary to acknowledge the hard truth that no other power from the west to the east has considered India's interests while charting its course on Afghanistan. India has found itself cut out of several quadrilateral arrangements: the main negotiations held by the "Troika plus" of the United States-Russia-China-Pakistan that pushed for a more "inclusive government" including the Taliban; the alternative grouping of Russia-Iran-China-Pakistan that formed a "regional arc" that has today seen them retain their embassies in Kabul; and the connectivity quadrilaterals formed by the U.S. and China, respectively, with Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan, that depend heavily on Taliban protection and Pakistani port access.

Neither India's traditional strategic and defence partner, Russia, nor its fastest growing global strategic partner, the United States, thought it important to include India or insist that their envoys Zalmir Kabulov (Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy to Afghanistan) and Zalmay Khalilzad (U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation) briefed their counterparts in New Delhi about the details of their negotiations with the Taliban leader-



AP

ship. If New Delhi was unable to feel its staff would be secure from Taliban militia and their Pakistani benefactors in order to keep diplomats in Kabul, nor to negotiate a diplomatic outpost at Kabul airport that would allow it to place a core team with the U.S., the United Kingdom and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries, it is time to accept that India is in need of a new diplomatic strategy. While the Narendra Modi government found it inconvenient to vocally protest the talks with the Taliban and the extended line to Pakistan to facilitate the talks with these "friendly" global leaders thus far, it is necessary for it to publicly decry an outcome that has clearly worked against India's interests now.

Action under the UN umbrella

In order to do so, India needs to begin by rallying the United Nations, to exert its considerable influence in its own interest, and that of the Afghan "republic", which is an idea that cannot be just abandoned. At the UNSC, India must be more vocal about its abhorrence of a Taliban-run Afghanistan that seeks to reverse the gains of the past two decades. A considerably diluted statement that India drafted as UNSC president on August 16, that did not even mention opposition to an "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" was a disappointment in this regard.

Next, India must take a leading role in the debate over who will be nominated to the Afghan seat at the UN, and whether the Republic's appointed current Ambassador will remain, or the seat declared "vacant" or even

"suspended" depending on the new regime in Afghanistan committing to international norms on human rights, women's rights, minority rights and others. As Chairman of the Taliban Sanctions Committee (or the 1988 Sanctions Committee), India must use its muscle to ensure terrorists such as Sirajuddin Haqqani and other members of the Haqqani group responsible for brutal suicide bombings on Indian embassies and consulates must not be given any exemptions: on travel, recourse to funds or arms.

Mr. Modi's speech at the UN General Assembly scheduled for September 25 will be an apposite occasion to express India's position on the future of Afghanistan and challenge the rest of the international community to refuse to legitimise the Taliban regime unless it is willing to negotiate on all these issues. As the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, has said, the Taliban's desire for international recognition this time around "is the Security Council's only leverage to press for inclusive government and respect for rights, particularly for women, in Afghanistan".

Dealing with the regime

Next, the Narendra Modi government must determine the nature of its engagement with the new regime in Afghanistan. While a tactical engagement, dealing with the safety of Indians and Indian interests, overflight rights and other coordination seems inevitable, the question of whether India should convert its furtive back-channel talks with the Taliban and with Pakistan in the past few months into something more substantive remains to be debated. This becomes more important as India now faces a "threat umbrella" to its north, including Pakistan's cross-border terrorism, Afghanistan's new regime and China's aggression at the Line of Actual Control. The Government's *modus operandi* over the last few years, of running foreign policy by stealth

and surprise, would be counterproductive here. A more broad-based and consultative process of engaging all political parties would be required instead. While not directly dealing with the Taliban, India must ensure stronger communication with those who are dealing directly, including leaders such as former Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and former High Council for National Reconciliation chief Abdullah Abdullah, who have lived in India and retain close links, to ensure its interests. As a part of its engagement, New Delhi must consider whether to revive its assistance to the resistance, which at present includes Ahmad Shah Massoud Jr., Amrullah Saleh, Abdul Rashid Dostum and Atta Mohammad Noor, all well known to India and aligned to a great extent with India's objectives in Afghanistan.

People outreach

Finally, the Government must embrace its greatest strength in Afghanistan – its relations with the Afghan people – and open its doors to those who wish to come here, just as previous Indian governments have done in the past. The Government's efforts, thus far, have been woefully inadequate, with only a few hundred Afghans evacuated or allowed to enter; the Ministry of Home Affairs decision to cancel all pre-issued visas, due to security concerns, is a step in the wrong direction. In particular, India must continue to facilitate medical visas for Afghan patients and extend the education visas for students who are already admitted to Indian colleges.

In a world of hard geopolitical realities, it is India's soft power, strategic autonomy or non-alignment principles and selfless assistance to those in need, particularly in its neighbourhood, that has been the strongest chords to its unique voice in the world. The moment to make that voice heard on Afghanistan is now.

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Covering the gaps in the game of data

The 'statistical vacuum' in India can be bridged with decentralisation and if States build their own quality databases



KRIPA ANANTH PUR

The new show in town is the game of data. Running for a while now, it is keeping the audience on edge with its volatile and shifting rules. If one season negated a whole body of data leaving the audience nonplussed, the next brought joy to certain quarters with its data reinterpretation. The latest season has shocked the audience as an entire body of data has gone missing. The article in *The Hindu* (Editorial page, August 19, 2021), "The significance of the 'there is no data' answer", which is an incisive review of the latest season of missing data, is enlightening.

On data politics

Data politics is not new. The interconnectedness of power and knowledge and its use by States to control populations has long been expounded by Foucault, Bourdieu and others. Rapid technological innovations in information and communication technologies have further complicated the issue where, through Internet connectivity, both subjects and objects of data are now inextricably intertwined. The spur towards evidence-based policy making or evidence-based budgeting by governments points to the amass-

ing of large, granular level data about citizens by States.

Data-based policymaking or budgeting is meant to facilitate the use of evidence to inform programmatic funding decisions. The goal is to further invest in what works to improve outcomes for citizens. Data-based decisions can redress inter and intra-district inequalities through targeted resource allocations. However, data-based governance pre-supposes the existence of reliable, rigorous and validated data with or without demonstrated impact or outcomes. If governance decisions are to be data centric, there is a need to ensure a good, robust and reliable database.

Data-based policy making

States collect enormous amounts of administrative data. However, these administrative data are often not validated. For example, it is well known that the flow of funds below the block level is often opaque and the data that is submitted by local bodies are generally not validated. The task of trying to match funds with functions at the panchayat level is rather challenging. While there is a critical need to link the databases of various departments, it is not easy as territorial jurisdictions and household-level identifiers are likely to vary from department to department. There is a need to bring some mechanism to homogenise these various data sets with a single identifier; but more importantly, there is a need to validate these data sets through urban local bo-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

dies and rural local bodies.

Accurate collection, measurement and interpretation of data are critical for data-based decision making to be successful. However, this is fraught with challenges for as much as data is used, it also gets misused, abused or even manipulated. For instance, absence of data in certain domains does not necessarily indicate better governance. During the novel coronavirus pandemic, some States were not testing enough. Consequently, the data on COVID-19 positive cases were interpreted to seem that some States, especially in South India, were unable to control COVID-19 cases compared to their North Indian counterparts; some with much poorer health indicators as well as infrastructure. In such cases, making resource allocations and decision-making based on data are likely to have adverse impacts.

Similarly, a 2012 academic study on assessing the quality of governance across States had an indicator under a 'Law and Order' variable that aimed to measure

police behaviour, and the indicator was "Complaints against Police behaviour". How should such an indicator be measured? What would be an ideal score – low or high? The answer is not simple: it is complex and context-specific and, therefore, should not be interpreted in isolation.

A low score in a poor, backward State does not necessarily indicate that police behaviour is exemplary; it could indicate that people are scared to complain against police behaviour for fear of reprisals. A high score in a State with high literacy and human development index (HDI) can mean that people have enough confidence in the judiciary and the State to complain against police behaviour, thus becoming an indicator of a better quality of governance. Similarly, an issue such as mental health, that comes with enormous social stigma in India, needs careful measurement as higher incidences of mental health (from institutional sources) can indicate better access to institutional care as well as a social context that is less beset with stigma.

Tamil Nadu's education data

In the same vein, the recent data on education released by the Union government that shows Tamil Nadu having around 27 educationally backward districts, is baffling. Despite these figures, elsewhere, the same report ranks Tamil Nadu fourth in educational attainment. The literacy rate in Tamil Nadu in Census 2011 was higher at 80.1% compared to the national figure of

73%. While there were inter-district variations in literacy, Dharmapuri district, with a literacy rate lower than the national average, still had 68.5% literacy in 2011. It is problematic to imagine that there has been such a downward slide in the last 10 years as some recent State-level studies have shown further improvements in literacy across districts compared to 2011. Clearly, in this case, the measurement of district-level educational backwardness needs close scrutiny. Such interpretations also highlight the need to supplement the quantitative data with smaller qualitative studies to capture processes, subjectivity, and contextual factors.

As the game of data shows, we are in a data-driven world. While on the one hand, there is a move towards data-based governance and decision-making, on the other, concerned about the 'statistical vacuum' due to a number of national statistical bases getting eroded either through delays or data suppression, scholars like Jean Drèze and others have been calling for decentralised systems of data collection processes, with States building their own databases. This requires States to invest heavily in both human and technical infrastructure with built-in quality control measures to ensure an interesting twist to the game of data that is now ongoing.

Kripa Ananth Pur is an associate professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai. The views expressed are personal

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.

Vaccine drive
With studies showing waning protection within six months from the AstraZeneca vaccine, it is important to vaccinate school staff and non-teaching staff as fast as possible. The recent warning by experts to increase the pace of vaccination assumes greater significance as a large proportion of the population is still vulnerable to a potential third wave. The availability of the ZyCoV-D vaccine for secondary school students will also help enhance

protection for children who have been learning remotely and through online classes thus far.
Dr. THOMAS PALOCAREN,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Political conduct
The recent and reprehensible conduct of two key politicians in India should not come as a surprise. Those who lead the nation sitting in Delhi have a responsibility to personally set the right example before the public including the party rank and file. But, if they themselves start indulging

in name-calling and roguish behaviour, this culture is bound to spread throughout the system and become par for the course. Since 2014, many statements emanating from our leaders have plumed new lows. Today, even senior Ministers at the Centre forget that they are expected to be role models for their countrymen. The social media cells of the offending parties do not lag behind either, spreading the abusive culture. Political parties may come and go, but those who lead them need to be mindful of

the kind of legacy they are going to leave behind.
G.G. MENON,
Tirupunithura, Kerala

Gail Omvedt
Gail Omvedt's literal work drew focus to some key discriminatory practices in India, while supporting the cause of Dalits, women's rights, deprived sections and the rights movement. She gave a voice to the unheard/less privileged.
KIRTI WADHWAN,
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

■ Gail Omvedt was a rare public intellectual who

moved effortlessly between the library and the field, activism and academics, each feeding the other. She will continue to inspire generations of researchers and activists.
S.S. PAUL,
Chakkdaha, Nadia, West Bengal

■ The country has lost one of its prominent public intellectuals. The uniqueness of her writings lies in the exploration of intersections of class, caste and gender to produce fresh insights and new perspectives.
M. JEYARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

When Salem led

It is interesting that even as early as August 1921, Salem district of the Madras Presidency was anti-drink and refused to bid when toddy shops were put up for sale, disappointing the Deputy Collector of the Raj (OpEd page, 'From the Archives', August 24). It is no wonder that Salem was in the vanguard of prohibition and the first district chosen by Rajaji for its official implementation in 1937.
N. RAMA RAO,
Chennai

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Has the first-past-the-post system polarised Indian politics?

PARLEY

Politicising social divides and failings of the parliamentary system have led to this situation

India's parliamentary democracy is going through a phase of intense confrontation between the dominant ruling party and a weakened but belligerent Opposition. Is this situation a consequence of the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system, where a party with the the highest votes gets the seat even if it doesn't win a majority? Suhas Palshikar and E. Sridharan address this question in a discussion moderated by Srinivasan Ramani. Edited excerpts:

Prof. Palshikar, you had written recently about the emergence of a second dominant party system with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) becoming the central pole of Indian politics ever since it came to power at the Centre in 2014. Even if the BJP has now lost ground, with its vote share reducing in various State elections, it did retain its highest average cumulative vote share for election cycles. That said, what similarities and dissimilarities do you see with the hegemonic period of the Congress of the 1950s and '60s?

Suhas Palshikar: The similarity is in the vote share numbers garnered by the dominant party and in its capacity to fragment the Opposition. In terms of numbers, a dominant party gets a disproportionately larger share in seats in legislatures compared to its vote share. The other similarity is in its ability to remain dominant by fragmenting the Opposition and so we see the recent discussions on Opposition unity.

The dissimilarities are evident in the roots of the dominance and the journeys towards it. The Congress emerged as a dominant party as a result of its contribution to the freedom struggle; the roles that Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and others played then. It converted that legitimacy into electoral dominance. The BJP emerged in 2014 as electorally dominant and has since been trying to establish its hegemony. That is why I have argued that its hegemony is still in the making while it has become dominant electorally.

Dr. Sridharan, the hegemony

enjoyed by the Congress in the 1950s and '60s gave way to trends in Indian politics such as federalisation and regionalisation. So, even if we had the FPTP system, there was a certain degree of diversification that allowed for newer forces to emerge organically. Since 2019, the fact that the BJP has garnered a disproportionate seat share relative to its vote share has revived the critique of the FPTP. Your view?

E. Sridharan: The BJP's dominance in both 2014 and 2019 was based on a plurality of votes (31% and 37%) converting into a majority of seats and is similar to the Congress's dominance from 1952 to 1984 which was also based on vote share pluralities converting to seat majorities (sometimes two-thirds to three-fourths majority). The FPTP system tends to magnify the seat share of the party with the largest vote share, while parties receiving a lower vote share tend to get a much lower seat share. There are exceptions such as the Karnataka Assembly elections of 2008 and the Madhya Pradesh elections of 2018 where the party which got a slightly higher vote share got a lower seat share.

The BJP is today not as hegemonic as the Congress of the past. Forty-two of the 303 seats that it won in 2019 were in three States – Maharashtra, Punjab and Bihar – and were at least partially due to vote transfer from allies; seat shares have not reached two-thirds majority; and the party's spread across States is less than the Congress's in its heyday.

As for the FPTP system, I would like to introduce Duverger's law to your readers. [Maurice] Duverger, a French political scientist, argued that the FPTP system tends to bring about a two-party system at the constituency level. In countries like India, this translated into the establishment of a two-party system at the State level which happened between 1967 and 1989. Post-1990, this produced three kinds of bipolarity: Congress versus BJP in a number of States, Congress versus the Left in three States, and Congress versus



regional parties in other States. This was an outcome of Duverger's law operating at the State level.

At the national level, 2014 marked the end of a 25-year period of a coalition/minority government. And post-2014, there was the emergence of a second dominant party system. I don't think that FPTP necessarily produces polarisation. If you look at the proportional representation (PR) system in Europe and elsewhere, where seats are allocated roughly in accordance with the vote share, that also produces distinct polarisations. Look at the 1978 Sri Lankan Constitution which instituted the PR system. Since then, there has been ethnic polarisation despite the small parties getting seat shares higher than what they would have received in a FPTP system. Similarly in Israel, which also enjoys a thoroughgoing PR system, there is severe polarisation in ethnic, religious and political terms.

The FPTP system can't be blamed for polarisation. Polarisation is linked to the politicisation of certain social cleavages. These cleavages are sometimes dormant in society and can become active or can be activated through mobilisations. When certain social cleavages are activated, that is when they get magnified by the electoral system.

Prof. Palshikar, today there is little dialogue between the ruling party and the Opposition. What explains this stasis?

SP: I agree with Dr. Sridharan that it is not FPTP that is creating polarisation. One of the general reasons for the adversarial relations between the ruling party and the Opposition is the failure in institutionalising the parliamentary system, which pre-

hegemonic force as the Congress in the sense that it had in its manifesto issues such as the Citizenship Amendment Bill and the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. In a way, the BJP has an agenda that is beyond the constitutional consensus that guides the policies of most political parties in India. Is this a reason for the current state of affairs too?

SP: Just to supplement what Prof. Sridharan said, we witness today a new phase that is marked by a confrontation that is not merely one of political contestation in the ordinary sense of the term. Here is a party that wants to change the entire system fundamentally and other parties are still not sure how to respond to that. They instinctively oppose it but at the same time they understand that the difference is in the approach of the dominant party, that they have to adapt/adjust to that stance so that they garner enough votes in the next election. This confusion among the non-BJP parties produces not just distrust but lack of clarity on what ideological positions they must take during the ideological onslaught or the offensive of the BJP. The BJP has now changed the terms of how the political contestation will be held ideologically, and the inability of the non-BJP parties to appreciate and respond to this and to produce an alternative narrative has led to a frustration that is reflected in their various responses to the BJP.

ES: There is a perception that the ruling party is pushing against the constitutional consensus, which is fairly strong in our system. There are about three and a half layers of protection to the basic structure of our Constitution. The government needs a two-thirds majority in both Houses subject to the presence of at least 50% of the House in attendance. The government has a clear but not a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha. It doesn't have a majority in the Rajya Sabha. In order to make constitutional amendments, it must get the support of smaller parties, which it has been able to get so far.

Then, it has to go through judicial review – the courts have so far not pronounced on some of the contro-

versial issues that have come up in the last few years.

Finally, for some articles on Centre-State relations, it has to pass them through half the State Assemblies.

There are ideological shifts going on and new social cleavages that have been activated that have changed the political landscape.

Can it be said that federal issues are emerging as the area of contestation with the BJP on the one side and regional parties on the other?

SP: In principle, the flashpoint in the next five years or so could be the federal relations between the Centre and the States on fiscal or other administrative and political matters. The various State parties are still not sufficiently aware of this possibility and therefore they are busy buying peace with the ruling party at the Centre, rather than confronting it. I don't see any direct flashpoint emerging politically between the State parties and the BJP immediately, though.

Also, the ability of the BJP or any Central government in the last three decades to directly transfer resources to local bodies in the States by-passing the State government besides controlling the administrations of the States has weakened the State parties' ability to take on the Central government. Objectively, they are not in a position to do so and subjectively, they are not sure how to pitch the fight. Therefore, we have a fascinating period where there is all the making of a federal flashpoint, but at the same time, the actual flashpoints may be somewhere else in reality.

Do you see a mixture of postures – negotiation, confrontation and adjustment by various regional parties vis-à-vis the Centre? The Biju Janata Dal (BJD), YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) using one ploy, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) using another, and so on?

SP: I would use the word 'acquiescence' to describe how the BJD, YSRCP and the TRS's relations are with the Centre.



Suhas Palshikar taught political science at Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, and is chief editor of 'Studies in Indian Politics'



E. Sridharan is Academic Director and Chief Executive at the University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India, and Editor-in-Chief of 'India Review'



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The clean-up crew we need

Vultures not only keep our environment free of carcasses but also help control disease outbreak

ADARSH KULKARNI

The valour of Jatayu (a demi-god in the form of a vulture) in confronting Ravana is well-described in the Ramayana. The epic also mentions Sampati, Jatayu's brother, who played an instrumental role in guiding Lord Rama towards Lanka. While we read and marvel at these helpful creatures in our epics, we haven't granted them the same importance in reality, however. Vultures are very important scavengers in our ecosystem, yet India lost more than 95% of its vulture population through the 1990s and by the mid-2000s. Today, the country requires urgent conservation efforts to save vultures from becoming extinct.

Myths and facts

Vultures are often misunderstood as a source of diseases. Although they feast on carrion almost exclusively, they are sometimes capable of preying on extremely sick, wounded, or infirm creatures if there is no food around. As a result, they are demonised. Some consider vultures ugly, unlovable and even a bad omen. Given the lack of understanding and knowledge about them, let's first understand what vultures do and why they are important.

Vultures belong to the Accipitridae family whose members include eagles, hawks and kites. They are relatively social birds with an average lifespan of 10-30 years in the wild. Being bulky, they nest on tall trees or rocky cliffs. Vultures are slow breeders and so the survival of every individual is very crucial. With their excellent eyesight and strong sense of smell, vultures can detect the presence of dead animals from great distances. Vultures don't have a voice box and so they cannot sing. They communicate via grunts and hisses. Generally, vultures rely on other carnivores to open carcasses. Their powerful bills and long slender necks are designed to help them tear off the meat chunks from inside the carcass. Unlike other raptors, vultures have weak legs and claws (talons). They do not carry food; instead, they regurgitate food and feed their young ones. Vultures have a highly acidic stomach that helps them digest rotting carcass

and kill disease-causing bacteria.

India has nine species of vultures. Many are critically endangered. The main reason for the decline in the vulture population is the use of the drug, diclofenac. Diclofenac, which relieves cattle of pain, is toxic to vultures even in small doses and causes kidney failure and death. Myths about the medicinal healing powers of vultures' body parts has led to the hunting of vultures. Quarrying and blasting of stones where vultures nest have also caused their decline. Interestingly, studies show that while the vulture population has declined, the feral dog population has increased. The health hazards associated with feral dogs are well known.

Removing vultures from the ecosystem leads to inefficient clearing of carcasses and contaminates water systems. If dead animals are left to rot for long durations, it may give rise to disease-causing pathogens. The animals that consume such flesh become further carriers of disease. Very few animals/birds can ingest rotting carcasses. Thanks to their acidic stomach, vultures can. Thus, they play a crucial role in maintaining the health of the ecosystem.

Steps to increase numbers

To tackle this problem, India banned diclofenac for veterinary use in 2006. Five States are to get vulture breeding centres under the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation for 2020-2025, approved in October 2020. There are no rescue centres for treating vultures as of now, so this too has been mooted under the Plan. Vulture 'restaurants', which exist in some countries, are also a way of preserving the population. In these 'restaurants', diclofenac-free carcasses of cattle are dumped in designated areas where vultures gather to feed. These measures have slowly started making a positive impact, but there is still a long way to go. Awareness and action must go hand in hand. With International Vulture Awareness Day coming up on September 4, it is important for us to spread awareness about the importance of vultures in our ecosystem.

Adarsh Kulkarni is a Project Biologist (GIS Component) at the Wildlife Institute of India

DATA POINT

Roadblocks in India's infra push

As many as 480 out of 1,779 Central sector infrastructure projects, each worth ₹150 crore or more, had exceeded their original cost of implementation at the end of the April-June quarter of FY22, according to MOSPI's latest quarterly report. A total of 559 such projects were running behind schedule. While the share of projects with time overruns is declining, the share of projects with cost overruns remains relatively high. Projects approved in the Water Resources, Telecommunications, and Railways sectors have overshot their original costs by the maximum share, while all the projects in five sectors, including Telecommunications, Defence, and Atomic Energy, are running behind schedule. **By The Hindu Data Team**

The total cost overrun of all projects stood at **₹4.46 lakh crore**

Water Resources had the highest cost overrun of **170%**

The Bankura-Damodar Valley Railway Line is expected to be delayed by 27 years. It was supposed to be completed in 2003 but is likely to be completed by 2030

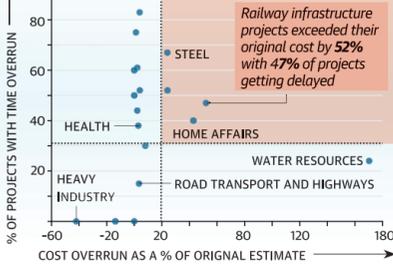
1. TIME AND COST OVERRUNS

Nearly one-third of infrastructure projects were delayed and the overall original cost estimation of those projects had been overrun by 19%



2. SECTOR-WISE SPLIT

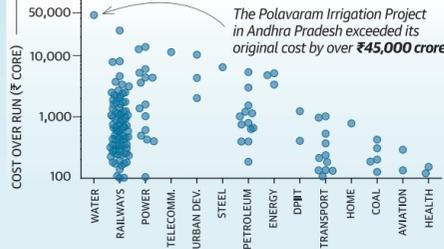
The chart plots the sector-wise cost overruns as a % of original estimates against the % of projects with time overruns at the end of Q1FY22



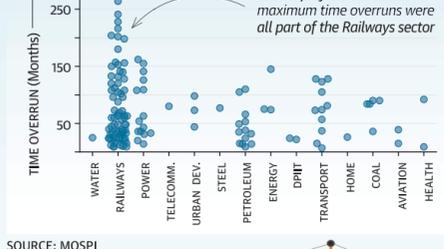
While the original cost of all projects was ₹22.87 lakh crore, the anticipated cost stood at ₹27.33 lakh crore which is a cost overrun of 19.5%. Of the 1,779 projects, 31% (559) were delayed. The sectors in the shaded region saw both higher-than-average cost overruns and time overruns as of Q1 FY22

3. PROJECT-WISE COMPARISON

The charts plot the 150 projects with cost overruns of more than ₹100 crore and which were delayed by at least six months. Among the 10 projects with the highest cost overruns, the Railways and Power sectors accounted for three each



TIME OVERRUN



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 27, 1971

Rumours following PM's note to China

New Delhi, August 26: The Prime Minister's Secretariat and the External Affairs Ministry have become so tight-lipped about the purpose of Mrs. Indira Gandhi's communication to Mr. Chou En-lai that they have unnecessarily set in motion a spate of wild speculation over it. The top officials in the External Affairs Ministry, who would normally be kept in the picture when such moves are made by the Prime Minister, are feigning ignorance to an extent that many have been left wondering whether they were really unaware this time until they read about it in the newspapers. Even otherwise the Prime Minister's present style of functioning is creating within the Government a new kind of compartmentalisation by cutting across the normal divisions of Ministry-wise responsibility and establishing an apex system with her Secretariat serving as the focal point. When Mrs. Gandhi takes a new step or makes a new move, it does not always percolate down to the Ministry concerned at any rate below a certain level, with the result that the senior officialdom in general is often ignorant of the broad policy moves being made by her in various spheres. But in the field of foreign affairs, it is creating more difficulties since the External Affairs Ministry is not always able to interpret Indian initiatives to the diplomatic representatives here without turning to the Prime Minister's Secretariat at every stage for policy guidance.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 27, 1921

The cost of dyarchy

(From an Editorial)

People are but slowly proceeding to realise the immense cost that the country is being made to pay for the changes in the Indian Constitution heralding the advent of a system of spurious responsible Government. One effect of the reforms which the unsophisticated man in the street clearly sees is the striking growth in the civil expenditure in the country brought about it part by the need to bribe the services into silence by way of granting increases in pay, prospects and pensions. The other effect that we witness, is a sort of non-chalant readiness on the part of Governments, central as well as local, to shirk their responsibility in all matters in which they could conveniently do so: the inauguration of responsible government, that is to say, threatens to diffuse and smother responsibility all around.

FROM PAGE ONE

Taliban stop 140 Hindu and Sikh Afghans

They had reached the airport earlier than the Afghan nationals.

The Taliban has been urging Afghan nationals not to leave the country and to work with the Islamic Emirate that it aims to set up.

On Thursday morning, the Taliban announced near the airport that the evacuations were over and that people should return home which further dimmed the chances of airlifting the Afghan Sikhs and Hindus im-

mediately. The bomb blasts and the firefight outside the airport during later in the evening did not harm the group of Afghan Hindus and Sikhs.

Sources said that India has evacuated a total of 565 stranded individuals from Afghanistan since evacuation flights began. This has included 175 personnel of the Indian embassy, 263 other Indian nationals and 112 Afghan nationals, including Hindus and Sikhs.

Congress calls Baghel to New Delhi again

On Tuesday, Mr. Baghel and Mr. Deo met former Congress president Rahul Gandhi to resolve the issue. Mr. Deo has invoked the assurance made by Mr. Gandhi when he was leading the party in 2018 that he (Mr. Deo) will be handed over the reins of the State half-way through the government tenure.

Following the meeting, the party's State in charge

P.L. Punia had told reporters that the leadership change issue was not discussed, indicating Mr. Baghel will continue. The Congress has 68 MLAs in the 90-member Assembly and its central leadership is said to be assessing the risk of effecting a leadership change.

Sources close to Mr. Deo said he was told to remain in the Capital for further meetings.

UIDAI system leaves Aadhaar users in lurch

When contacted, a senior officer at the NIC, the Government of India's IT arm, said they were not aware of any such issue.

Pune resident Indraniel Bhattacharya told *The Hindu* that he has been trying to update his address on Aadhaar for at least a week.

No information
After multiple failed attempts to put in a request to change my address online, I

was asked by the UIDAI customer care executive to visit the physical centre," he said. "I went to a post office in Pune, and then a private bank... but at both places, I was told the Aadhaar systems are down nationally and they have no information on what the issue is or when the systems will be back online."

Some users also took to social media to post their complaints.

Can PM-Cares help COVID orphans, asks SC

Justice Rao, at this point, highlighted that information about these children had been uploaded by the States on the website of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

"With this information available on the NCPCR, you

can see that the benefits of PM-Cares Fund can be given to the children," Justice Rao added.

The court urged the States to take care of the children, saying they were vulnerable and should not fall into "undesirable hands".

Boeing 737 Max planes to fly again in India

In April, the order was relaxed to the extent that foreign-registered Boeing 737 Max aircraft, which were grounded in India due to the ban, were permitted to fly out of the country. Also, overflying foreign registered Boeing 737 Max aircraft were allowed to fly over Indian airspace. However, commercial operations in the country remained prohibited.

The decision now to allow the operation of the aircraft was taken after the Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration issued an Airworthiness Directive on November 18, 2020, mandating actions for the aircraft to return to service. The European Aviation Safety Agency issued the Airworthiness Directive on February 17, 2021. The move followed certain design changes by Boeing.

"World-wide 17 regulators have permitted operation of Boeing 737 Max airplanes. A sizeable number of airlines (34) with B737 airplane (345) are operating currently... with no untoward reporting," the DGCA said.

Mysuru rape: Minister backtracks after CM's rap

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after the heinous gang rape of a college student and attack on her friend near Chamundi foothills, Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra caused outrage with a series of insensitive statements on the incident. He was later compelled to retract his remarks after a reprimand from Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Mr. Jnanendra, speaking to the press on Thursday morning had questioned the timing of the victims' vi-

sit to the popular tourist site. "They [victims] went to a desolate spot, at 7.30 p.m. They should not have gone there at that time..." he said.

Later, politicising the incident, Mr. Jnanendra said in Bengaluru: "Rape has occurred there [Mysuru]. But Congress is trying to rape the Home Minister here." When asked to explain his statement, he said he meant it as a "joke".

Mr. Bommai stated categorically that he did not endorse the Home Minister's statements.

Drone rules aim to help start-ups, SMEs

Centre removes requirement of security clearance for registration or issuance of licences

DEVESH K. PANDEY
YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The Civil Aviation Ministry has notified the Drone Rules, 2021, under which the weight of a fully loaded unmanned aircraft system has been increased from 300 kg to 500 kg to include heavy payload-carrying craft for use in the logistics and transportation sectors. The rules will also cover drone taxis.

The key features of these rules include the development of drone corridors for cargo deliveries. An unmanned aircraft systems promotion council will be set up to facilitate a business-friendly regulatory regime.

PM hails rules

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the rules would usher in a landmark moment for the sector. He tweeted, "The new Drone Rules will tremendously help start-ups and our youth working in this sector. It will open up new possibilities for innovation & business. It will help leverage India's strengths in innovation, technology & engineering to make India a drone hub."

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said the



Up in the air: Drones are now being increasingly used for security and in sectors such as e-commerce. ■ AFP

rules were aimed at simplifying the procedures and reducing compliance burden for drone operation.

The IT sector body, NASSCOM, welcomed the move, stating that it would enable start-ups and small and medium enterprises to create innovative-use cases and applications in various sectors such as e-commerce, agriculture, mining, healthcare, emergency response and logistics.

No security clearance
Under the new rules, no security clearance will be required before any registration or licence issuance for drones. The number of

forms or permissions has been reduced from 25 to just five. No pilot licence will be required for operating nano drones and micro drones for non-commercial use.

The Director General or an entity authorised by it, on the recommendation of the Quality Council of India or an authorised testing entity, will issue a type certificate for drones. No type certificate, unique identification number, prior permission and remote pilot licence will be needed for research and development entities.

The import of drones will be regulated by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. There will be no res-

triction on foreign ownership in Indian drone companies.

A remote pilot licence holder enlisted on the Digital Sky Platform will only be allowed to operate a drone covered under the Rules. The training and examination will be conducted by an authorised drone school. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation will prescribe the training requirements, oversee the schools and provide pilot licences online.

Carriage of arms, ammunition, explosives and military stores and so on on drones has been prohibited.

"No person shall carry dangerous goods on unmanned aircraft unless such operation is in compliance with the Aircraft (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Rules, 2003," said the notification.

Any accident involving drones should be reported within 48 hours. The maximum penalty for violations had been reduced to ₹1 lakh.

Vipul Singh, Co-founder and CEO at drone firm Aarav Unmanned Systems, told *The Hindu* that the new rules were a major breakthrough for the Indian drone industry, and would make India an over \$5 billion drone market in the next three years.

(With input from Mini Tejaswi, Bengaluru)

Police file charges against 8 in fake vaccine racket

Accused gave duplicate jabs to 800

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Nearly two months after a fake vaccination racket rocked Kolkata and its suburbs, the city police on Thursday filed a chargesheet against eight accused, including Debanjan Deb who posed as an IAS officer.

The police had charged them with 14 Sections, including Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 51(b) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

The seven other accused named in the chargesheet include Mr. Deb's employees and associates. The chargesheet, which runs over 1,000 pages and refers to 130 witnesses, was filed be-

fore the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate of the Alipore court on Thursday.

The accused have also been charged with other Sections of the IPC, including 120(B) (criminal conspiracy), 420 (cheating) and 170 (personating as public servant) and 274 (adulteration of drugs). The chargesheet has been filed with a prayer under sub-Section(8) of Section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Mr. Deb, 28, who posed as a fake IAS officer and at times as the Joint Commissioner of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, had administered fake vaccines to more than 800 persons at different camps in Kasba and other areas in Kolkata.

On the draw



JeM planning attacks, say reports

They say many of its cadres from Afghanistan jails have rejoined the outfit

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

Nearly 100 members of the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) have rejoined the banned terror outfit after being released from Afghan prisons by the Taliban, according to information gathered by security agencies. The outfit is planning to carry out fresh attacks in India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.

The agencies have come across JeM-linked social media posts about the outfit chief, Masood Azhar, exhorting the cadres to prepare for attacks in Jammu and Kashmir following the Afghanistan victory. "At the institutions controlled by the terror outfit, sermons given to the



Security forces have eliminated several JeM cadres in J&K this year.

followers last week revolved around the same theme," said a security agency official.

"Senior functionaries of the JeM and the Taliban have already held meetings. The

JeM has been assured of all the support in carrying out its activities targeting India. The developments in Afghanistan will also embolden Pakistani forces, which facilitate infiltration of terrorists," the official stated.

Several eliminated

The alert security forces have eliminated several JeM cadres in J&K this year so far. "Two key Pakistani commanders of the outfit, Mohammed Ismail and Abdul Rashid Ghazi, were killed in an encounter in the Hangal forest of the Tral area in Pulwama on July 31. They were the masterminds behind the Pulwama terror attack on February 14, 2019, and wanted by the National

Investigation Agency," the official said.

Ismail and Ghazi were said to be involved in a series of attacks and had recruited several local youth to the JeM fold in the Kashmir Valley. "Their killing by the security forces was a setback for the JeM operations in J&K. However, the recent developments in Afghanistan have again emboldened the outfit," the official noted.

JeM was proscribed by the United Nations Security Council on October 17, 2001, for its deep links with Al-Qaeda and Taliban, in terms of financing, supplying weapons, planning and facilitating terror attacks by them. Masood Azhar is also a U.N. designated terrorist.

Probe report on Unitech promoters: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the Delhi Police Commissioner to personally conduct an inquiry against Tihar Central Jail officials on the basis of an Enforcement Directorate (ED) report that Unitech promoters, brothers Sanjay and Ajay Chandra, used the prison premises to transfer proceeds of crime, influence witnesses and tried to derail the probe against them on money laundering charges.

"We are committed to stop the love jihad in the State. This amended Act is not a political tool for us. It is

Gujarat govt. to approach SC on anti-conversion law

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government on Thursday said it would approach the Supreme Court challenging the stay granted by the High Court on certain Sections of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021, which seeks to stop religious conversion through interfaith marriages using force or allurement or fraudulent means.

"We are committed to stop the love jihad in the State. This amended Act is not a political tool for us. It is

meant to ensure that women are not cheated or lured into marriages by changing names or surnames or symbols of Hindu religion," Minister of State for Home Pradipsinh Jadeja said on Thursday. He said the anti-conversion law of 2003 was amended by the legislature to add Sections to stop instances of religious conversion through marriages using allurement, fraudulent means or force. "We will approach the Supreme Court in appeal against the stay," Mr. Jadeja said.

In its interim order delivered on August 19, the High Court Division Bench stayed Sections 3, 4, 4(A) to 4(C), 5, 6 and 6(A) of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021, pending further hearing, adding they "shall not operate merely because a marriage is solemnised by a person of one religion with a person of another religion without force or by allurement or by fraudulent means and such marriages cannot be termed as marriages for the purposes of unlawful conversion".

HC seeks ED's stand on bail for journalist

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to give its stand on the bail plea of Delhi-based freelance journalist Rajeev Sharma, arrested in connection with a money laundering case linked to alleged leaking of sensitive information to Chinese intelligence.

Justice Mukta Gupta asked the agency to clarify in its reply how the journalist was connected with the allegedly illegal financial transactions.

"Please tell your [ED] officers to justify the connection with the petitioner. If he is in receipt of money from shell companies, it is an illegal offence. But there has to be admissible evidence to connect him," the court remarked.

Counsel for the Enforcement Directorate argued that Mr. Sharma received cash from a shell company run by the Chinese and further investigation was on.

The agency had arrested the journalist under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on July 1.

Cerebration 2021 finale to be held on August 28

Six contestants to compete in quiz

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

One of India's premier corporate quiz championships, BusinessLine Cerebration 2021, is back with its 18th edition in a virtual format. The grand finale will be held on August 28 from 11 a.m. onwards.

The title sponsor for the quiz is Union Bank of India and the event is powered by CFA Institute in association with ManageEngine and BSE IIF. Participants, including corporate executives, business professionals, B-school students and MBA aspirants from across the country, took part enthusiastically and there was an overwhelming response to the online test conducted as a part of the quiz.

Over 6,000 participants stood a chance to win the title and take home prize money up to ₹1.5 lakh.

Following the regional semi-finals, one top participant each from Chennai, Kochi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru,



Delhi and Mumbai have now reached the grand finale. Yogesha Metla from Bengaluru, Shantanu Sharma from Mumbai, Ayush Awathi from Delhi, Kapinjal Chowdhury from Hyderabad, K.B. Jameer from Kochi and R. Jayakanthan from Chennai will participate in the finale.

To register to watch the live streaming of the grand finale from 11 a.m. onwards, visit <https://bit.ly/BLQUIZ2021> or scan the QR Code



APPEAL
Name of Patient: Baby Ranit Rajak, 1 year.
Hospital Name: Columbia Asia Hospital.
Diagnosis: Congenital Heart Disease - Long Segment Pulmonary Atresia with Mc Goon 2. He requires to undergo Rastelli operation to prevent irreversible damage to the vital organs of his body. The estimated cost of the surgery Rs. 5,00,000/-.

We request Kind Hearted Philanthropists to save him. Kindly send donation by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring Save Poor Lives and on the back of Cheque write A/C India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, and IFSC Code: SBIN001587. You can donate Google Pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@okxsi which is exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.

Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (ADMIN DIVISION) Flat No.A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No.76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai - 600 028. Ph: 044-42044165, Mobile: 9884607377, E-mail: savepoorlives@gmail.com Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

Kovind signs appointment of 9 SC judges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday signed the warrants of the appointment of nine judges, including three women, to the Supreme Court. The nine new judges will be sworn in on August 31 at 10.30 a.m. at the Supreme Court annexe auditorium. The occasion will be covered by Doordarshan.

Mr. Kovind was said to have signed the warrants before leaving for a four-day tour of Uttar Pradesh. Later, the formal notification was issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The new judges include Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who will be in line to be the first woman Chief Justice of India in September 2027.

With the appointments, the working strength of the Supreme Court goes up to 33, against the sanctioned strength of 34.

The other women judges who have been elevated are Justices Bela M. Trivedi and Hema Kohli. The other appointees are Justices C.T. Ravikumar, M.M. Sundresh, Abhay Shreenivas Oka, Vikram Nath and Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari, and former Additional Solicitor-General P.S. Narasimha.

India on wait and watch on Afghanistan: Centre

Priority at this point is the evacuation of Indian nationals and Afghan partners, Jaishankar tells all-party meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar on Thursday described the situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover as critical, adding that India, like the rest of the world, was following a "wait and watch" policy.

At an all-party meeting on the situation in Afghanistan held at Parliament House, Mr. Jaishankar said the priority of the Government of India at this point was the evacuation of Indian nationals and Afghan partners from the war-torn country.

"It is an evolving situation and I request everybody to be patient so that once the situation normalises, we can tell you what India's stand is," the Minister said, addressing presspersons after the meeting.

37 leaders attend

The meeting went on for three-and-a-half hours, and was attended by 37 leaders from 31 political parties, including Congress leaders Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Mallikarjun Kharge and Anand Sharma; Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar; Trinamool Congress leaders Saugata Roy and Sukhendu Sekhar Roy; former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda; Dravida Mun-

netra Kazhagam (DMK) MPs Tiruchi Siva and T.R. Baalu; Telangana Rashtra Samithi's (TRS) Nama Nageswara Rao; Telegu Desam Party's (TDP) Jayadev Galla; and CPI MP Binoy Viswam. Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla and India's Ambassador to Afghanistan Rudrendra Tandon were also present at the briefing, as was Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal.

Mr. Jaishankar briefed the MPs on the evacuation of Indian Embassy staff and the closing down of India's consulates in various cities, and added that a team has been deployed at the Kabul airport after the closure of the Embassy to facilitate evacuation. Mr. Jaishankar said the government had evacuated 175 Embassy personnel, 263 other Indian nationals, 112 Afghan nationals and 15 third country nationals, with the total figure at 565 in six evacuation flights so far.

His presentation to the MPs clarified the tough conditions under which the evacuations were taking place, including a lack of a central command and control, the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban earlier than expected and the bringing forward of the date of U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. The presentation also went



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar interacting with presspersons in New Delhi on Thursday. •PTI

into details of the various talks held on the Afghan issue and what went on in parallel in terms of the developments on the ground.

Opposition MPs present at the meeting said the government interlocutors also conveyed that the Kabul airport could also be attacked by suspected Islamic State (IS) terrorists, a fear even the Taliban had.

Speaking after the briefing, Mr. Jaishankar said, "On this [Afghanistan] matter, all political parties have similar views. We approached the issue with a spirit of national unity."

Opposition leaders, while appreciating the briefing, had tough questions for Mr.

Jaishankar over the deportation from India a few weeks ago of a woman Member of Parliament from Afghanistan.

Mr. Jaishankar expressed regret at the incident, calling it a decision taken by "over-cautious" immigration officials at the Delhi airport. According to sources, this issue was raised by Mr. Kharge, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. In reply, Mr. Jaishankar, while expressing regret, said it was an isolated incident and that India had rescued many other Afghan parliamentarians.

Fielding many questions from the Opposition on India's future engagement with

the Taliban in Afghanistan, Mr. Jaishankar said India, like rest of the world, was following a "wait and watch" policy.

Mr. Kharge also raised a series of questions on the government's contingency plan to evacuate Indians if they were stranded beyond the August 31 deadline, and the exact number of Indians yet to be evacuated. Sources claimed that the government did not share the exact number yet to be evacuated.

The Congress delegation also asked about the government's counterterrorism measures, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, in the wake of the rise of the Taliban. While raising the issue of the Taliban's impact on security in the region, Mr. Kharge stressed that the political process should be restarted by restoring Statehood for Jammu and Kashmir.

PM's absence

Questions were also raised about the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the meeting, adding that it was a courtesy that his predecessor, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, always extended to the Opposition. Mr. Kharge, according to the sources, said Mr. Modi should have been present at such a meeting.

CBI registers nine cases on W.B. violence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has so far registered nine cases pertaining to the post poll violence in West Bengal, following a Calcutta High Court directive earlier this month.

"The four teams constituted for probing the cases are in West Bengal. The victims' statements are being recorded. Based on the information provided by the State police, more cases are expected to be registered in due course," said a CBI official.

During the day, a CBI team visited the residence of BJP worker Abhijit Sarkar, who was allegedly killed in the post poll violence. The officials spent considerable time at his house in Kakurgachi, Kolkata. They spoke to Biswajit Sarkar, his brother. Another CBI team went to Bhatpara in North 24 Parganas and visited the residence of BJP worker Jay Prakash Yadav, who was also killed.

The CBI had written to the Director-General of Police, seeking details of cases of alleged murder and sexual abuse after the Assembly election.

Cong's Parivartan Yatra from Sept. 3

Amid infighting, party hopes to cash in on COVID mismanagement in Uttarakhand

SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELHI

The Congress is set to start its campaign for the Uttarakhand Assembly election on September 3 with a Parivartan Yatra, beginning from Khatima, the constituency of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. As a show of unity, the entire senior leadership in the State will travel together in a bus for the yatra.

Mr. Dhami is the fourth Chief Minister that the State has seen in the last four years. The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for the hospitality industry, a mainstay for the majority of the population in Uttarakhand. The State has also reported the highest rate of unemployment in the country. These factors could provide a fertile ground for the Congress to return to power. However, its own house is not in order, with infighting between Harish Rawat, the campaign committee chief for the State, and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Pritam Singh. The two leaders have disagreed publicly more than once.

Recently, Mr. Rawat announced a subsidy of ₹200 on gas cylinders if the Congress came to power. Mr. Singh, however, publicly rejected the idea, saying that it



Creating a stir: Congress workers protesting the hike in the fuel price in Dehradun in July. •PTI

was up to the manifesto committee of the party to frame poll promises.

The party also distanced itself from Mr. Rawat's declaration that it would fight the polls with the war cry "Jai Ganesh".

"In 2016, Mr. Rawat, as the Chief Minister, had allowed a two-hour break for government staff to offer namaz on Fridays. He continues to be haunted by the right wing for that decision and is now making such pronouncements only to neutralise this attack," a senior party leader said.

The central leadership

had made an effort to rein in the factions by reshuffling party functionaries after the death of senior Congress leader Indira Hridayesh. Mr. Rawat had his way when Mr. Singh, a Rahul Gandhi nominee, was removed as the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president and was replaced with his own man, Ganesh Godiyal. Mr. Singh was appointed the Leader of the Opposition. However, the precarious balance that the party leadership sought to craft is already tottering.

But Mr. Rawat's sharpest critics are not taking him lightly. "He is the most astute

politician in the State. And if the Congress is to win the elections this time, he wouldn't want to be overlooked since he believes it is the last chance that he has," a senior Congress leader from Kumaon said.

State in-charge Devendra Yadav said there may be a difference of opinions, but it would not come in the way of the unity of the party. The Congress was also clear that it would not project a chief ministerial face just yet, though Mr. Rawat, being the campaign committee chief, de facto becomes the face of the campaign.

Hybrid SC hearings likely from Sept.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court may try a mixed mode of physical and virtual court hearings from the first week of September.

Discussions are on with the court to continue with the virtual mode of hearings, which began with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, on Mondays and Fridays for hearing miscellaneous cases.

In regular matters, which may require detailed arguments and perusal of documents, the court may consider physical sessions. The regular cases usually come up on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

However, no final decision has yet been taken. The court is keeping in mind reports about the third wave of the pandemic. It does not want to launch the "mixed mode" and then abort it midway in case of a prospective rise in COVID-19 cases.

Thursday saw the court experiment with a new virtual hearing app, Cisco, to beam the proceedings in Justice A.M. Khanwilkar's court in the post-lunch session.

'Will hear plea for life ban on convicted MPs, MLAs at length'

It raises a vexed question with far-reaching ramifications: SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has decided to hear "at length" a plea that convicted parliamentarians and State legislators, former and sitting, should be disqualified and banned for life from contesting elections to Parliament or Assemblies.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana said the plea raised a "vexed question" with "far-reaching ramifications and consequences".

"We deem it necessary to hear the matter at length on an appropriate date, after giving opportunity to all the stakeholders," the top court observed in a 12-page order published on Thursday.

As of now, convicted politicians are banned from polls for six years. The plea for a lifetime ban



witnesses and decongestion of existing special/CBI courts".

The court directed the Centre and the States to provide High Courts infrastructure facilities to set up new CBI courts.

The order was based on the alarming pendency rate of CBI cases as per a status report submitted by the premier agency in a sealed cover in the Supreme Court on August 10.

The report showed that 121 cases against sitting and former MPs were pending trial in various CBI courts across the country. Trial in another 112 CBI cases against MLAs, present and former, was also pending. In fact, 37 CBI cases against MPs and MLAs were still at the investigation stage. The oldest of the 37 date back to October 2013.

CJI mentions plight of police officers

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Thursday mentioned the plight of police officers caught between rival political parties who come to power one after the other.

A Bench, led by the CJI, highlighted how police officers become targets of political vendetta.

"When a political party is in power, police officers side with a particular party. Then when a new party comes into power, the government initiates action against those officials," the CJI said orally.

The oral remarks came during the hearing of a petition by suspended Additional Director-General of Police Gurjinder Pal Singh for protection in a seditious case registered on the basis of a complaint filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Notice Inviting Expression of Interest
SE(NPP&R)/PPP-6/EOI-27/2021&SE(NPP&R)/PPP-7/EOI-28/2021
Sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited for empanelment of firms of Chartered Accountant for the Concessionaires of following Transmission Line Project in Rajasthan developed on DBFO basis:-
1. M/s Adani Transmission Bikaner SIKAR Pvt. Ltd (400KV D/C Bikaner-SIKAR T/L Project)
2. M/s Adani Transmission (Rajasthan) Ltd (400KV D/C Suratgarh-Bikaner T/L Project)
The detailed specifications are available for viewing/downloading on the website www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpl. Any extension or amendment, if any, will be floated on website only.
RVPN/TR-5216/2021
Raj.Samwd/C21/5258
Superintending Engineer (NPP&R)

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P.B. No.8066, Sadashivnagar PO, Bengaluru-560 080
Telephone No: 080-2207 2271,
E-mail: purchase@cpri.in Website: <http://www.cpri.res.in>

NOTICE INVITING TENDER - CPRI/BLR21NIT10
Date : 27-08-2021
Online e-tenders are invited from eligible manufacturers/suppliers/service providers for the following in conformation to National / International standards wherever applicable: -
(1) Short Circuit Generator Master Circuit Breakers and Make Switches for augmentation of short circuit test facilities at High power laboratory, CPRI Bengaluru. (2) Annual Rate Contract for supply, laying, fixing of Network components & Implementation of LAN for One year at CPRI Bengaluru. (3) Supply of Coupling Decoupling Networks (CDNs) compatible to the existing Compact Immunity Test System (Type/Model No. CIT-10/W, Make Frankonia).
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 27-08-2021 onwards.**
CPRI/ADVT/ 24/2021 Purchase Authority-CPRI

'Haryana govt. not paying heed to peoples' welfare'

Govt. attacking farmers' rights: Hooda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Leader of the Opposition in the Haryana Assembly Bhopinder Singh Hooda on Thursday hit out at the ruling BJP-Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) government in the State for not paying heed to the welfare of the people, especially the farmers.

"The coalition wants to run the government only through event management and advertising. Every section is oppressed by the policies of the present government as this government is constantly engaged in attacking the rights of the farmers. The government delivered a blow to the rights of the farmers during the recently concluded monsoon session of the Assembly," Mr. Hooda said here at a press conference.

"The Land Acquisition Bill was introduced in the monsoon session. Under this, the government has systemically abolished all



Bhopinder Singh Hooda

provisions passed during the Congress government that protected the interests of the farmers. The purpose of the new law is to hand over farmers' land to capitalists without their consent. The government has now abolished all the rules like getting the consent of 70% farmers, giving residential plots with compensation in lieu of land, etc. This is not in the interest of farmers," he said.

Mr. Hooda said the ruling BJP-JJP government had an indifferent attitude towards the interests of the State.

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
Nanthancode, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003
Phone: 0471-2314288, E-Mail: dcetdtd@gmail.com
Website: www.travancoredevaswombd.org

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD INVITES RE E-TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF:
Jaggery Powder, Sugar Candy, Cardamom, Butter Paper Bag, Pure Ghee, BOP Tape, Easy Open Lids in connection with the festival period 1197 ME (2021-2022) of Sree Dharmasastha Temple, Sabarimala.
E-Tender Closing Date : 04-09-2021 - 05.00 PM
E-Tender Opening Date : 07-09-2021 - 11.00 AM
Venue : Sumangali Kalyana Mandapam, Travancore Devaswom Board Compound, Nanthancode, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003
Detailed e-tender notifications and special instructions to the bidders are available on www.travancoredevaswombd.org
For the submission of tender visit the website : www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
ROC NO : 4/21/Sab. Sd/- DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER
Dated : 24-08-2021 (For and behalf of Travancore Devaswom Board)

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
Nanthancode, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003
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ROC NO : 4/21/Sab. Sd/- DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER
Dated : 24-08-2021 (For and behalf of Travancore Devaswom Board)

Biden briefed on Kabul airport attack: White House

Britain will continue to evacuate its citizens and Afghans despite the 'barbaric' bomb attack, says Boris Johnson

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON/LONDON/KABUL

President Joe Biden is being briefed on the bloody attack against Kabul's airport, the White House said on Thursday, delaying a planned meeting with Israel's visiting Prime Minister.

"The President has been briefed and he is in the Situation Room," an official said on condition of anonymity.

Two explosions struck near the main gate of the airport, causing multiple casualties in what the U.S. military labelled a "complex attack".

Britain will continue the operation to evacuate nationals and Afghans from Kabul despite Thursday's "barbaric" bomb attack, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said.

"We've been ready for it," he said of the attack. "We're going to continue with that operation, we're now coming towards the very end of it



Dire situation: Smoke rising from a deadly explosion outside the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday. ■ AP

in any event.

"We're going to work flat out... getting people through as fast as they can still, and we're going to keep going until the last moment," said the Prime Minister, shortly after chairing a meeting of the emergency COBR committee.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said on Thursday allied forces should continue to evacuate

as many vulnerable people as they can from Kabul despite what he branded a "horrific terrorist attack".

Evacuations on priority

"Our priority remains to evacuate as many people to safety as quickly as possible," he tweeted after two deadly explosions hit crowds on the perimeter of the airport in Afghanistan's capital.

The President of the Euro-

pean Commission, Charles Michel, echoed Stoltenberg's call for evacuations to continue. "Securing safe passage to the airport remains vital," he tweeted.

Germany has pulled out all its soldiers from Afghanistan with its last evacuation flight from Kabul, Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer said on Thursday.

The attacks hit ahead of an August 31 deadline for U.S. troops to leave the airport on the outskirts of the Afghan capital, and as allies wind down their rescue operations.

Belgium and the Netherlands have already halted their airlift from the airport and other allied countries are to follow suit in the coming hours and days, despite fears that at-risk people will be left behind.

Graphic footage shared on social media showed men and women in a tangled

mess in the shin-deep water of a drainage canal.

Stunned survivors pulled themselves to their feet, while others desperately shouted for help in searching the carnage for loved ones.

'Total panic' after blasts

One man held a semi-conscious victim by the elbow, trying to stop his head from slipping beneath the surface of the murky water. "Bodies, flesh and people were thrown into a canal nearby," Milad, who was at the scene of the first blast, said.

"It was a huge explosion among the crowd of people who were waiting at the gate. A lot of people are killed or wounded," he added.

He had applied for a visa to the United States, but in the confusion dropped the documents he hoped would help him board a flight with his wife and three children.

"I will never, ever want to go (to the airport) again.

Death to America, its evacuation and visas."

A second witness said that "total panic" erupted when the first explosion was heard. "The Taliban then started firing in the air to disperse the crowd at the gate," he said. "I saw a man rushing with an injured baby in his hands."

A former Royal Marine who runs an animal shelter in Afghanistan said he and his staff were caught up in the aftermath of the explosion near the Kabul airport.

Paul "Pen" Farthing said the group was outside the airport when the blast occurred on Thursday.

"We're fine but everything is chaos here at the moment," he told Britain's Press Association news agency. "All of a sudden we heard gunshots and our vehicle was targeted, had our driver not turned around he would have been shot in the head by a man with an AK-47.

Bennett to discuss Iran in meeting with Biden

He opposes nuclear talks with Tehran

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett are set to hold their first face-to-face meeting on Friday, the White House said, as Mr. Biden cleared his agenda to deal with the Kabul bombing. Israel's new leader intends to press Mr. Biden to give up pursuit of reviving the Iran nuclear deal.



Naftali Bennett

Before arriving in Washington, Mr. Bennett made clear the top priority of the visit to the White House was to persuade Mr. Biden not to return to the nuclear accord, arguing Iran has already advanced in its uranium enrichment, and that sanctions relief would give Iran more resources to back Israel's enemies in the region.

The Israeli leader met separately on Wednesday with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to discuss Iran and other issues. The visit was his first to the U.S. as Prime Minister.

Mr. Bennett told his Cabinet ahead of the trip that he would tell the American President "that now is the time to halt the Iranians, to stop this thing" and not to re-enter "a nuclear deal that has already expired and is not relevant, even to those who thought it was once relevant."

Sanctions continue

Mr. Biden has made clear his desire find a path to salvage the 2015 landmark pact cultivated by Barack Obama's administration but scuttled in 2018 by Donald Trump's. But U.S. indirect talks with Iran have stalled and Washington continues to maintain crippling sanctions on the country as regional hostilities simmer.

The country now enriches a small amount of uranium up to 63%, a short step from weapons-grade levels, compared with 3.67% under the deal. It also spins far more advanced centrifuges and more of them than were allowed under the accord, worrying nuclear non-proliferation experts even though Tehran insists its programme is peaceful.

The Biden-Bennett sit-down comes weeks after Ebrahim Raisi was sworn in as Iran's new president.

Mr. Raisi, 60, a conservative cleric with close ties to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has suggested he'll engage with the U.S. But he also has struck a hard-line stance, ruling out negotiations aimed at limiting missile development and support for regional militias — something the Biden administration wants to address in a new accord.

Administration officials acknowledged that Iran's potential "breakout" — the time needed to amass enough fissile material for a single nuclear weapon — is now down to a matter of months or less. But a senior administration official said the administration sees the maximum pressure campaign employed by the Trump administration as having emboldened Iran to push ahead with its nuclear programme.

'Ensure Taliban do not destabilise Pak.'

In letter to Biden, 68 lawmakers raise the issue of safety of nuclear weapons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

A group of U.S. lawmakers has urged President Joe Biden to ensure that the Taliban, which is now the de facto ruler of Afghanistan, do not destabilise Pakistan and acquire nuclear weapons.

The lawmakers demanded that Mr. Biden should answer critical questions on what happened in Afghanistan and what are his plans to move forward.

"Are you prepared to support regional allies militarily in the event that the Taliban militarise the Afghanistan border? What is your plan to

help to ensure that the Taliban do not destabilise its nuclear neighbour Pakistan?" the group of 68 lawmakers from the Senate and the House of Representatives asked in a letter addressed to Mr. Biden on Wednesday.

"Do you have a plan to ensure that Afghanistan, under Taliban occupation, will never acquire a nuclear weapon?" they asked.

The lawmakers said over the past weeks, the world watched with utter shock as the Taliban took over Afghanistan with astonishing speed, "the result of unforced errors made by with-

drawing completely the small remaining footprint of our main military force from Afghanistan, and by unnecessarily delaying the evacuation of U.S. personnel and its Afghan partners".

China-Taliban ties

The situation in Afghanistan has rapidly "metastasized" into Taliban rule with reinstated oppression of women and girls, the repression of civil society, the displacement of countless Afghans from their homes who the Taliban then use force to prevent from fleeing Afghanistan, and a power vacuum

that China seeks to fill by increasing its ties to the Taliban, they said.

Observing that the consequences of U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan are not isolated to that country, or even to the West Asia region, the lawmakers said the action carried geopolitical and strategic consequences that will reverberate for decades.

"Dealing with these consequences means that we must take action now to chart the course for American strategy, while we manage the immediate repercussions of this self-inflicted crisis in Afghanistan.

'Up to 1,500 Americans still need to be evacuated'

At least 4,500 left Afghanistan: Blinken

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

As many as 1,500 American citizens may still need to be evacuated from Afghanistan and the Taliban have pledged to allow some departures after U.S. troops leave on August 31, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday.

Blinken told reporters that at least 4,500 American citizens of the 6,000 Americans who wanted to leave Afghanistan had departed.

He said officials have been in "direct contact" with another 500 Ameri-

cans who want to leave and have provided them with "specific instructions on how to get to the airport safely."

Officials were "aggressively reaching out" to the remaining 1,000 Americans to "determine whether they still want to leave," he said.

"Some may no longer be in the country," Mr. Blinken said.

"Of the approximately 1,000, we believe the number of Americans actively seeking assistance to leave Afghanistan is significantly lower," he said.

ELSEWHERE



20 dead after torrential rains in Venezuela

MÉRIDA
The death toll from heavy rains that triggered mudslides and floods in western Venezuela has risen to 20, authorities said on Wednesday, with 17 others missing. Nine states are in an "emergency" situation and more than 54,000 people have been affected by the downpours, Interior Minister Remigio Ceballos said. ■ AFP

Hong Kong ousts independent lawmaker

He was deemed disloyal by a panel

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

A powerful new Hong Kong committee tasked with vetting politicians and officials for their loyalty disqualified an Opposition lawmaker for the first time on Thursday, as authorities purge its institutions of anyone deemed disloyal to Beijing.

Cheng Chung-tai, one of just two opposition figures left in the city's legislature, was deemed disloyal on the basis of his previous state-

ments and behaviour, chief secretary John Lee, who heads the vetting committee, said. "To those who pretend to... bear allegiance to the government, I will not be deceived by their flowery speeches and their attempts to sugarcoat," Mr. Lee said, adding Mr. Cheng had "lost his seat with immediate effect."

Mr. Lee did not detail what specifically Mr. Cheng had said or done that had led to his disqualification.

UN bans British stamps in Chagos island

Mauritius hails the move, calls it a victory in its dispute with U.K. over the territory

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PORT LOUIS

Mauritius has welcomed the UN postal agency's decision to ban British stamps from being used on the Chagos archipelago, calling it a victory for the island nation in its dispute with London.

The vote by the Universal Postal Union (UPU), a United Nations agency focusing on the mail sector, follows a longstanding spat between Mauritius and Britain over the Chagos Islands, where London and Washington operate a joint military base.

"This is another big step in favour of the recognition of the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos," Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said.

Although Mauritius became independent in 1968, the Chagos archipelago remained under British control, sparking protests by Chagossians, who accuse London of carrying out an "illegal occupation" and barring them from their homeland.

Following Tuesday's vote, "the UPU will stop register-

ing, distributing and transmitting stamps" bearing the words British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), the name given by Britain to the archipelago, Mr. Jugnauth said.

In 2019, the International Court of Justice ruled that Britain should give up control of the islands.

Later that year, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution recognising that "the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius" and urged UN agencies "to support the decolonisation of

Mauritius".

The British Foreign Office said it was "disappointed" by Tuesday's vote.

"The U.K. has no doubt as to our sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory, which has been under continuous British sovereignty since 1814," a spokesman for the Foreign Office said.

Britain insists the archipelago belongs to London and has renewed a lease agreement with the U.S. to use Diego Garcia, the largest of the islands, until 2036.

210 killed in attacks in Ethiopia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ADDIS ABABA

More than 210 people were killed over several days of ethnic violence in Ethiopia's tense Oromia region last week, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said on Thursday.

The Commission said witnesses described gunmen affiliated with the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), a rebel group, arriving in the area on August 18. They "killed more than 150 people," the EHRC said.

Harris ends Asia tour with fresh jab at China

'Freedom of navigation is a vital issue'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HANOI

Vice-President Kamala Harris launched a new broadside against China as she ended her Southeast Asian tour in Hanoi Thursday, warning the U.S. would continue to push back against Beijing's claims in disputed Asian waters.

The comments came on the final day of a regional trip in which Washington has sought to reset relations in Asia after the turbulent Donald Trump years and stress its commitment to Southeast Asian allies.

During the trip, Ms. Harris had already accused Beijing twice of bullying its neighbours in the resource-rich South China Sea — and on Thursday she again took aim at the Asian giant.

"We're going to speak up when there are actions that Beijing takes that threaten the rules-based international order... such as activity in the South China Sea," Ms. Harris said.

"Freedom of navigation... is a vital issue for this region."

Ms. Harris' Vietnam visit had been slammed by critics as tone-deaf given the parallels between this week's chaotic scenes in Kabul and the 1975 evacuation of Saigon.

Washington had also faced



Kamala Harris

questions over its reliability following the U.S. withdrawal and Taliban takeover in Afghanistan.

But Ms. Harris has tried to steer clear of the historical parallels, instead emphasising American commitment to the region by opening a Southeast Asia branch of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Hanoi and donating a million COVID-19 vaccines to Vietnam.

"In the years ahead we will be back time and time again," she told journalists on Thursday.

Vietnam is facing its most serious wave of the pandemic so far and the gift was widely praised on social media.

Ms. Harris insisted on Thursday that the U.S. did "not seek conflict" with Beijing, but it would "do what we can to make sure that we stay committed to our partners" on issues such as the South China Sea.

ANNA UNIVERSITY

CHENNAI - 600 025

TENDER NOTICE - TENDER Ref. No. 162/CPO/PSSM/CDE/2021

On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for Supply and Installation of following item for the Director, Centre for Distance Education, Anna University, Chennai - 600 025.

Sl. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Name of the equipment	Qty.	Approx. cost
1.	162/CPO/PSSM/CDE/2021	Printing and supply of Study Materials for MBA, MCA and MSC (CS) programmes offered through Distance Mode by Centre for Distance Education, Anna University	1	₹1,75,00,000/-

The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://ntenders.gov.in> from 11.00 am on 27.08.2021. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website upto 03.30 pm on 14.09.2021 and will be opened at 03.30 pm on 15.09.2021. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://ntenders.gov.in>).

REGISTRAR /c
DIPR/2535/Tender/2021

செய்தகன கூட்டு கட்டுப்பாட்டு அமைச்சு, தஞ்சைப் புதிற்று மண்டபம்.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE

Advertisement No. 04/2021(R-IV)

Last Date for submission of on-line Application : 11/09/2021
Government strives to have a workforce that reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply
BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE (BARC) invites on-line applications for the following posts:

Post Code	Name of the Post	No. of post	7 th CPC Pay	Qualification and Experience
01	Medical/Scientific Officer / D (Hospital Administrator)	One (01) (UR)	₹ 67700 (Level-11) + NPA and allowances as admissible under Central Govt. Rules	MBBS with Post Graduate \ Diploma in Hospital Administration with minimum 3 years experience as Hospital Administration
02	Scientific Officer/C (Veterinary Surgeon)	One (01) (UR)	₹ 56100 (Level 10) + allowances as admissible under Central Govt. Rules	B.V.Sc & AH (5 ½ years programme) with minimum one year experience. Nature of work: Care breeding and management of laboratory animal facility. Experience desirable: Experience of working on laboratory animals

The facility of online application will be opened from 27/08/2021 to 11/09/2021. For further details please visit BARC website: <http://www.barc.gov.in> & <https://recruit.barc.gov.in>

Scan for Detail

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ

Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No.- 07 /21-22 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

i.	Name of Work	Construction of Raibania Distributory from RD 3720M to RD 6300M including all Structures with Cement concrete lining and Service road with additional and balance work.
ii.	Estimated Cost (Lakh)	Rs.619.09 Lakh
iii.	Period of Completion	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
iv.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	31.08.2021 at 10.00 AM
v.	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	15.09.2021 up to 5 PM.
vi.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi. cebmsbb2019@gmail.com

A-399: OIPR-32074/11/0008/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, RURAL WORKS: BHUBANESWAR

Unit-IV, Sachivalay Marg Bhubaneswar-751001 Fax: 0674-2394705 E-mail: cerw1_bbsr@yahoo.com

No.23508 Date: 25.08.2021
RR-BR-MISC-(Part-II)-03/2013

1st corrigendum to Bid Identification No- Online-02/2021-22 (Bridges) invited vide this office letter No-22167 Dt. 11.08.2021

Due to some unavoidable circumstances, partial modification in tender ID No-Online-02/2021-22 (Bridges) invited vide this office letter No-22167 dt-11.08.2021 has been made which may be read as follows.

(i) The BID Identification No- Online-02/2021-22 (Bridges) may be read as Bid Identification No-Online-03/2021-22 (Bridges)

(ii) The date of availability of tender, Seeking tender clarification, Opening of Technical bid has been modified as follows.

Sl. No.	Items	Time schedule as per original TCN	Time schedule as per Corrigendum notice
1.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	From 18.08.2021 at 11.00 AM To 07.09.2021 up to 5.00 PM	Extended From 27.08.2021 at 11.00AM To 16.09.2021 up to 5.00 PM
2.	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification if any	26.08.2021 at 2.00 PM	04.09.2021 at 2.00 PM
3.	Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid)	08.09.2021 at 11.00 AM	17.09.2021 at 11.00 AM
4.	Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid)	Will be intimated separately	Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Buildings & Bridges) Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
O-612: OPR-25123/11/0007/2122

MARKET WATCH

	26-08-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	55,949	0.01
US Dollar	74.22	0.03
Gold	46,149	-0.57
Brent oil	71.40	-0.08

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	721.70	0.95
Asian Paints	3039.65	1.60
Axis Bank	746.35	7.30
Bajaj Auto	3691.40	1.75
Bajaj Finserv	15958.80	54.40
Bajaj Finance	6931.95	-13.00
Bharti Airtel	586.90	-25.55
BPCIL	466.75	6.05
Britannia Ind	3930.90	88.10
Cipla	911.30	-1.30
Coal India	137.30	-1.55
Divis Lab	4846.70	-9.80
Dr Reddys Lab	4503.50	-45.45
Eicher Motors	2578.75	-0.75
Grasim Ind	1439.05	-8.65
HCL Tech	1167.45	13.10
HDFC	2700.35	1.10
HDFC Bank	1554.80	-2.60
HDFC Life	698.85	11.30
Hero MotoCorp	2647.55	-26.40
Hindalco	424.10	-6.60
Hind Unilever	2666.40	21.40
ICICI Bank	698.80	7.75
IndusInd Bank	1001.50	-4.05
Infosys	1727.70	-7.85
Indian Oil Corp	105.60	-0.50
ITC	204.60	-1.80
JSW Steel	672.00	-11.85
Kotak Bank	1697.50	0.30
L&T	1595.75	1.95
M&M	781.40	9.35
Maruti Suzuki	6608.60	-102.85
Nestle India Ltd.	20052.70	142.85
NTPC	112.75	-1.25
ONGC	115.55	-0.10
PowerGrid Corp	173.10	-2.40
Reliance Ind	2230.45	27.85
SBI Life	1151.80	-4.35
State Bank	410.75	-5.50
Shree Cement	26556.05	267.80
Sun Pharma	760.55	-8.50
Tata Consumer	853.30	17.30
Products Ltd.	284.30	-0.10
Tata Motors	1375.05	-15.15
Tata Steel	3671.85	12.85
TCS	1449.50	-13.60
Tech Mahindra	1815.35	-7.30
Titan	7307.10	-75.25
UltraTech Cement	719.65	-6.45
UPL	628.95	-2.70
Wipro		

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.02	74.34
Euro	87.14	87.52
British Pound	101.65	102.10
Japanese Yen (100)	67.27	67.57
Chinese Yuan	11.42	11.47
Swiss Franc	80.79	81.15
Singapore Dollar	54.72	54.97
Canadian Dollar	58.71	58.96
Malaysian Ringgit	17.64	17.72

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



FM discusses BRICS nations' recovery

NEW DELHI
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday discussed with her BRICS counterparts the key areas of cooperation that would be crucial in supporting recovery of the grouping's economies and maintaining macroeconomic stability, while protecting against future uncertainties posed by the pandemic. PTI

RBI elevates Ajay Kumar as Executive Director

MUMBAI
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Ajay Kumar as Executive Director (ED) with effect from August 20, 2021. He will look after the departments of currency management, foreign exchange and premises Department, the RBI said in a release. Prior to being promoted as ED, Mr. Kumar was heading the New Delhi Regional Office as Regional Director.

Afcons bags \$530-mn project in Maldives

MUMBAI
Afcons Infrastructure Ltd., a Shapoorji Pallonji Group firm, said it had bagged a \$530-million contract for the Male to Thilafushi link project, popularly known as the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP). This will be the largest-ever infrastructure project in the Maldives and would be funded by the Exim Bank of India under the Indian grant and Line of Credit scheme.

'Post COVID, customers opt to pay via EMIs'

NEW DELHI
Customers are increasingly preferring to pay via EMIs while buying high-value consumer items, as affordability has become a key factor in the post-pandemic scenario, payments solution provider Ezetap said on Thursday. Consumers are either avoiding a single big payment or entirely skipping to buy any new item, Ezetap said. PTI

Few takers seen for debt recast 2.0 as demand recovers: Crisil

'Hospitality, education, textiles firms form bulk of those opting to restructure'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

With the recovery in demand and growing confidence in economic growth, very few corporates have opted for or are looking for debt restructuring under the RBI's Resolution Framework 2.0, according to a report by Crisil Ratings.

Barely 1% of eligible companies in Crisil's rating portfolio had opted for or were contemplating restructuring under the Resolution Framework 2.0, the debt rating agency said in the report released on Thursday.

The findings came from an analysis of about 4,700 firms rated by the agency. "The quick recovery in de-



Less resilient: About 95% of firms keen on the scheme now were sub-investment grade, says Crisil. PTI

mand after moderation during the second COVID-19 wave, and sanguinity around economic growth have led corporates to give the restructuring option a miss," said chief ratings officer Subodh Rai. The more localised

and less stringent nature of restrictions during the second wave has meant relatively lower disruption in business activities compared to the first wave. So, the muted response is par for the course, he said.

'Strong buffers will help banks tackle asset risks'

ECLGS helped with liquidity: Moody's

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The second wave of COVID-19 infections will lead to new problems for loans in the retail and SME segments, but improved profitability, capital and strong buffers of banks will help them absorb anticipated loan losses and maintain credit strength, Moody's Investors Services said in a report on Indian banks.

"A severe deterioration of banks' asset quality is unlikely despite an expected rise in new loan impairments, particularly among individuals and small businesses that were hit the hardest by the virus outbreak," said Alka Anbarasu, a Moo-



dy's vice president and senior credit officer.

"This is because government initiatives like the emergency credit linked guarantee scheme (ECLGS) have been effective in providing immediate liquidity for businesses," she said.

In addition, accommodative interest rates and loan restructuring schemes would continue to mitigate asset risks, Moody's said.

Spend less on lifestyles of senior managers: Bhargava

'Auto parts firms must invest to build engineering capability'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki chairman R.C. Bhargava on Thursday asked the automobile components industry to focus on maximising internal resources for investments in research and development and to spend less on other purposes such as lifestyles of senior management personnel.

His comments come amid renewed debates over high salaries for senior management after shareholders of Eicher Motors, the maker of Royal Enfield motorcycles, voted against the re-appointment of Siddhartha Lal as managing director due to

As investments may not yield dividends in the short term, funds must come from internal resources

concerns around remuneration.

Speaking at the 61st annual session of the component manufacturers' association ACMA, Mr. Bhargava said, "I will strongly suggest to component manufacturers that they need to look at the entire management culture ... see how more funds remain within the company and less funds are used for other purposes, including

Barclays invests over ₹3,000 cr. in India unit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

U.K.'s Barclays Bank has invested more than ₹3,000 crore in its India operations to accelerate growth.

With this infusion, the bank's total invested capital in India will increase to more than ₹8,300 crore.

The expansion in Tier 1 capital reinforces Barclays' commitment to India, and would enable further growth of the bank's Corporate and Investment Banking and Private Clients businesses, the bank said in a statement.

"The capital infusion reflects the success and strong track record of our India franchise built over the last three decades," said Jaideep Khanna, head of Barclays, Asia Pacific and Country CEO, India.

ACMA seeks stable long-term roadmap for localisation

'Viability of component sector at stake'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) on Thursday stressed that a long-term stable and technology agnostic roadmap, which would allow for localisation of technologies, was critical to ensuring the survival and competitiveness of the industry amid declining vehicle sales.

ACMA President Deepak Jain highlighted that high domestic taxation, increasing fuel costs, and a steep rise in commodity prices among other factors was adversely impacting affordability of vehicles, and in turn the viability of the component sector.

Meanwhile, SIAM President Kenichi Ayukawa and CII President T. V. Narendran pitched for augmenting the country's semiconductor capabilities in the face of a global shortage.

Hyundai Motor India MD and CEO S.S. Kim also highlighted the need to develop an alternate and localised supply chain to mitigate the impact of disruption and push localisation in the domestic automotive sector.

"While the semiconductor shortage appears to be a challenge, it also brings in an opportunity," said Mr. Ayukawa, who is the CEO and MD of Maruti Suzuki.

"Of course, semiconductor manufacturing requires very huge investments. The Indian automobile industry alone cannot assure full viability of such an investment in semiconductor projects. Hence, there is a need for consolidation across sec-



tors," he added.

Mr. Narendran, MD of Tata Steel, noted that India needs to create capabilities in semiconductors since it is going to become more critical as electric mobility gains momentum in the country. "With the growing adoption of electric mobility, semiconductors are going to become more and more critical. It's important for us as an ecosystem, as a country, as an industry, collectively or individually, to invest in creating these capabilities in India," he said.

'End reliance on China'

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant reiterated that the Indian automobile and components industry must eliminate its import dependence on China for automotive parts and focus on localisation of such items.

"A wide array of disruptions, such as global supply chain rebalancing, government incentives to increase exports and technology disruptions are creating opportunities at all levels of the automotive value chain," said Mr. Kant. "These must be seen as opportunities. It is very important that industry participants see a clear highway and it is time for the industry to drive the machine at full throttle," the Niti Aayog official added.

'National priorities also key in CSR'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Businesses need not restrict their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure to local projects and must balance local area preferences specified in the law with 'national priorities', the Corporate Affairs Ministry said.

Paying for the overseas training of Indian sports personnel representing any State or Union Territory at a national or international level, is the only instance where activities undertaken by firms outside India will be permitted as a CSR project, the Ministry clarified on Thursday.

The first proviso to Section 135(5) of the Companies Act says a company shall give preference to local areas and areas around which it operates, in its mandatory CSR spending.

Lactalis India eyes revenue growth of 5-6%

'Acquisition to spur business in North'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Lactalis India, a part of France's Lactalis group, is aiming for 5-6% revenue growth in the current fiscal, said managing director Rahul Kumar.

"Last year, we registered revenue of about ₹4,000 crore and this year we will do about ₹4,200 crore, an increase of 5% to 6% in spite of a bad quarter," said.

Having acquired Thirumala milk dairy in 2014, followed by the Anik and Prabhat acquisitions in 2016 and 2018, respectively, Lactalis is now eyeing an acquisition to help growth in the North and East regions of the country.

"We are certainly looking at the northern region to increase our footprint and market share. Right now, we have presence in central In-



dia through Anik and Prabhat dairies and are selling ghee and buttermilk there. The new acquisition is meant to sell our milk and milk products," he said.

Asserting that the acquisition was delayed due to the pandemic and that it would be completed within two years, he said Lactalis was not in a hurry to enter East India. "It will not happen immediately."

CUMI to buy controlling stake in PLUSS for ₹115 cr.

Firms enter into definitive agreement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Carborundum Universal Ltd. (CUMI) has entered into a definitive agreement with PLUSS Advanced Technologies, a specialty materials research and manufacturing company, for acquiring a controlling stake at an investment of ₹115 crore.

The investment will be made to acquire equity shares from the existing shareholders, including promoters, and to subscribe to additional equity capital in PLUSS. CUMI will hold 72% of post enhanced capital of PLUSS, the company said in a regulatory filing.

PLUSS is involved in the fields of phase change materials (PCM) for thermal energy storage and specialty polymeric additives for

Acquisition of PLUSS fits in well with CUMI's long-term goal

N. ANANTHASESHAN, MD, CUMI

polymer recycling and enhancing mechanical properties. PCMs are substances that absorb or release energy during phase transition, from solid to liquid and vice versa. PLUSS plays a key role in the cold chain logistics of Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccines.

"Acquisition of PLUSS fits in well with CUMI's long-term goal of pursuing opportunities that leverage material science sustainably," said N. Ananthashan, MD, CUMI. "CUMI has six decades of experience in processing varied materials," he added.

Lenovo adds to India PC, phone capacity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lenovo on Thursday said it had significantly expanded manufacturing capacity in India to produce PCs, notebooks and smartphones, in order to meet local demand.

The firm did not disclose investment figures but said it was doubling capacity in Puducherry with a third manufacturing line for PCs, and Motorola - a Lenovo group company - would manufacture almost 100% its smartphones locally in partnership with Dixon Technologies. It also said that in Tirupati, it had begun manufacturing tablet computers with global partner Wingtech. More than 1,500 direct and indirect employees work across the three plants.

INDIA WENT TO TOKYO SEEKING GOLD. HE FOUND IT FOR THEM AT 87.58 METRES.

Neeraj Chopra won India its first gold medal in athletics with a majestic throw of his javelin that landed a little under 90 metres. When the Indian National Anthem played at Tokyo for the first time, his wasn't the only chest that swelled up in pride.

He wasn't alone. Across team and individual events, the Indian contingent accumulated 7 medals in total - our biggest tally in history. As we draw encouragement from the historic performance by our athletes, the future doesn't just look bright. It looks golden.

SPORTSTAR

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To catch all the live updates, visit www.sportstar.thehindu.com



Root, Malan pile on the misery for India at Headingley

Skipper's third century of the series takes the hosts to 423 for eight, a lead of 345; the left-hander plays a fluent knock on his comeback

INDIA IN ENG

REUTERS
LEEDS

England captain Joe Root's third hundred in as many Tests took his side closer to a series-levelling win against India at Headingley on Thursday.

Root's 121 was the centrepiece of England's 423 for eight at stumps on the second day of the third Test as it established a lead of 345 after dismissing India for just 78 on Wednesday.

His latest hundred saw Root join Denis Compton (1947) and Michael Vaughan (2002) as the only England batsmen to score six Test centuries in a calendar year. The all-time record of nine is held by Pakistan's Mohammed Yousuf (2006).

On a day when England mourned the death of former captain Ted Dexter, one of its most stylish batsmen, Root's 23rd Test century featured several copybook shots that would have met the approval of 'Lord Ted'.

With openers Rory Burns (61) and Haseeb Hameed (68), as well as recalled batsman Dawid Malan (70) making half-centuries, this was



In sublime form: Root, who has hardly put a foot wrong in this series, continued to torment the Indians. Right: Malan returned to whites in style. •GETTY IMAGES



SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS
78 in 40.4 overs

ENGLAND – 1ST INNINGS
Rory Burns b Shami 61 (153b, 6x4, 1x6), Haseeb Hameed b Jadeja 68 (195b, 12x4), Dawid Malan c Pant b Siraj 70 (128b, 71x4), Joe Root b Bumrah 121 (165b, 14x4), Jonny Bairstow c Kohli b Shami 29 (43b, 4x4, 1x6), Jos Buttler c Ishant b Shami 7 (12b, 1x4), Moeen Ali c sub (Axar) b Jadeja 8 (18b, 1x4), Sam Curran c sub (Mayank) b Siraj 15 (30b, 2x4), Craig Overton (batting) 0 (6b); Extras (b-8, lb-4, w-1, nb-7): 20; Total (for eight wkts. in 129 overs): 423.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-135 (Burns, 49.6 overs), 2-159 (Hameed, 62.6), 3-298 (Malan, 93.6), 4-350 (Bairstow, 107.3), 5-360 (Buttler, 111.3), 6-383 (Root, 117.2), 7-383 (Moeen, 118.4), 8-418 (Curran, 127.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Ishant 22-0-92-0, Bumrah 27-10-58-1, Shami 26-7-87-3, Siraj 23-3-86-2, Jadeja 31-7-88-2.

the first time England's top four had made fifties in the same innings after the 2013 Dunedin Test against New Zealand. Root walked in with

England well placed at 159 for two. He got going immediately, guiding Shami for two fours in three balls. After India took the new ball, the

England skipper went to fifty in style with a backfoot punch off Shami through point for four – his seventh boundary off 57 balls.

Malan reached his 50 off 99 balls with eight boundaries. The left-hander was, however, caught behind off Mohammed Siraj off the last ball

before tea to leave England at 298 for three. Root, in front of a crowd of 16,721 that included his parents, was in complete control as he com-

pleted a hundred in just 124 balls. He was dismissed for 121, bowled between bat and pad trying to drive Bumrah. England lost a few wickets late in the day but such was its lead, it hardly mattered.

Not much seam or swing movement, says Shami

ASHWIN ACHAL

Pacer Mohammed Shami had a rare off day on Thursday, and that there was a long way to go in the series.

"There have been occasions where we have won matches in two or three days. But every now and then, we can have an off day.

"There's no need for our morale to be down. There are still two more matches to go, and we're up 1-0," said Shami after England took control on the second day of the third Test.

On Joe Root's tremendous form, Shami said, "Every batsman has a peak and Root is at his peak now. However, sometimes even when a form batsman scores a hundred, his team can lose. You just have to let him bat and focus on your own job," Shami said.

"The pitch has slowed down, the bounce and carry is less. There isn't much seam or swing movement. It's tough to get the ball to reverse when the outfield is green," he said.

IN BRIEF



Overdijk first bowler to scalp seven in T20Is

CARTAGENA
Netherlands' Frederique Overdijk became the first bowler to scalp seven wickets in T20Is. In an ICC women's T20 World Cup Europe qualifier against France on Thursday, she took seven for three in her four overs. France was shot out for 33.

Mani steps down as PCB chairman

KARACHI
Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ehsan Mani on Thursday stepped down from the post after completing his three-year term on August 25. PTI

Former England captain Dexter passes away

REUTERS
LONDON

Former England Test captain Ted Dexter, one of the country's greatest players, has died aged 86 after a recent illness, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) said on Thursday.

Dexter, nicknamed 'Lord Ted', was an aggressive batsman and part-time seam bowler who played 62 Tests for England after making his debut in 1958 against New Zealand.

He captained England and Sussex in the early 1960s.

"After a recent illness, he passed away peacefully in the Compton Hospice in Wolverhampton at midday yesterday, surrounded by his family," MCC said in a statement.

"Ted was a cherished hus-

band, father and grandfather and one of England's greatest ever cricketers."

Dexter, who was England captain for 30 matches, "played the game with the same sense of adventure and fun that captures much of the story of his remarkable life," the MCC added.

Dexter scored 4,502 runs at an average of 47.89 during his Test career and took 66 wickets at an average of 34.93.

As a cricket administrator, Dexter was chairman of England selectors between 1989 and 1993. He was later appointed president of MCC and awarded a CBE in 2001.

Dexter also developed a system that was formally adopted and forms the basis of the International Cricket Council's current Test-player rankings.



Lord Ted! Ted Dexter played the game with a sense of adventure and fun. •THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Domestic panel in the dark over role

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

More than six weeks after being formally appointed, members of the BCCI's working group for domestic cricket are still in the dark about the nature of their role.

When the BCCI formed the seven-member working group on July 11, the members had assumed that they would be involved in devising a compensation package for the 2020-21 domestic season, which was curtailed because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

But the group has neither been involved in revising the domestic calendar for the forthcoming season nor consulted about the compensation package.

"Let alone being called for a meeting, none of us

even knows what our mandate actually is," a working group member told *The Hindu*, on condition of anonymity.

The appointment was in line with a press release issued by the BCCI on June 20 after the apex council meeting. "The Apex Council has decided to form a committee to look into the issue of compensation for Indian domestic cricketers for domestic season 2020-21.

"The Apex Council has mandated the Office Bearers of BCCI to form the committee and find a suitable compensatory mechanism for domestic cricketers, at the earliest possible," said the statement.

However, when the letter announcing the appointment of the group was circulated among the BCCI affi-

liates, there was no mention of the compensation package.

"We had hoped that we would be called for a meeting soon and the compensation bit, although not officially announced, would be discussed on the floor of the house.

Surprising

"In fact, it was kind of surprising for most of us when the BCCI revised the domestic calendar recently without keeping any of us in the loop," said another working group member.

The group includes Rohan Jaitley (North), Yudhvir Singh (Central), Jaydev Shah (West), Devajit Saikia (North-East), Avishek Dalmiya (East) and Santhosh Menon and Mohammad Azharuddin (South).

Southee replaces Cummins at KKR

IPL 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

New Zealand pacer Tim Southee has been roped in by Kolkata Knight Riders for the remainder of IPL 2021 scheduled to be held in the UAE from September 19.

Southee will replace Australia's Pat Cummins, who pulled out of the league due to "personal reasons".

The Kiwi will reunite with former captain Brendon McCullum, the head coach of KKR.

Rajasthan Royals and Punjab Kings have also announced replacements.

Royals, which brought in New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman Glenn Phillips as a replacement for England's



Southee. •FILE PHOTO

Jofra Archer, included South Africa's Tabraiz Shamsi for Andrew Tye.

Rashid for Richardson
PBKS, which signed Australian fast bowler Nathan Ellis for Riley Meredith, has also picked England leg-spinner Adil Rashid as a replacement for Jhye Richardson.

Don't use my name to rake up controversy: Neeraj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra on Thursday said he was pained by the controversy surrounding his comments on Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem using his javelin during the Tokyo Games, and called the entire furore "propaganda aimed at pushing a dirty agenda."

The 23-year-old said nobody should use his name to rake up any controversy.

"I would request everyone to please not use me and my comments as a medium to further your vested interest and propaganda," tweeted Neeraj.

"Sports teaches us to be



Can I have it? Neeraj gets a feel of his javelin after taking it back from Arshad before his first throw in the finals.

together and united. I'm extremely disappointed to see some of the reactions from the public on my recent comments.

"There was nothing wrong with Arshad Nadeem using my javelin to prepare, it is within the

and found Nadeem holding it.

"We keep our personal javelin (inside a holding rack) but it can be used by anybody. It is the rule and there is nothing wrong in that.

"He (Nadeem) was having the javelin and preparing for his throw. I asked him to give it to me for my throw," said Neeraj.

Back only in 2022

The Tokyo gold medalist also announced on Thursday that he had decided to cut short his 2021 season and take some time off.

He added that he will be back in 2022 to compete in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

Spirited Bhavina qualifies for the next stage

Overcomes Britain's Shackleton in an exciting clash; Sonalben loses

PARALYMPICS

AGENCIES
TOKYO

India's para table tennis player Bhavina Patel defeated Megan Shackleton of Great Britain 11-7, 9-11, 17-15, 13-11 in a thrilling Group A contest in women's singles - Class 4 on Thursday.

She saved a game point in the fourth game before taking the lead and clinching the issue. The win helped Bhavina qualify for the next round.

Sonalben Patel, however, lost to Lee Mi-gyu of South Korea in a women's singles Group D - Class 3 match. Lee beat Sonalben 10-12, 11-5, 11-3,



Yes! Bhavina saved a game point before winning. •COURTESY PCI

11-9. Sonalben won the closely fought opening game but was not able to sustain the momentum.

China's Guo Lingling won the women's 41kg powerlifting event, sending the world record tumbling and helping

clinging and swimming on Wednesday.

The Games' youngest Paralympian, 14-year-old Ugandan swimmer Husnah Kukundakwe, competed in the 100m breaststroke in the S8B category.

Touch the clouds

Kukundakwe, who was born without her right forearm and has an impairment to her left hand, did not make the final but said she felt she could "touch the clouds" after a personal best time.

She said she wants to change attitudes towards people with disabilities, and give "the kids a chance."

Berrettini and Zverev in Djokovic's half

US OPEN DRAW

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic could face a Wimbledon final rematch with Italy's Matteo Berrettini in the US Open quarterfinal and meet Olympic champion Alexander Zverev in the semifinals during his bid to complete a calendar Slam at New York.

In the draw released on Thursday by the USTA, the 34-year-old Serbian has a tricky fourth round match against Australia's Alex de Minaur. The other half of the draw had second seed Daniil Medvedev of Russia,

third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas and sixth seed Andrey Rublev of Russia Tsitsipas and Rublev could meet in the quarterfinals.

In the women's section, defending champion Naomi Osaka is likely to meet second seed Aryna Sabalenka in the semifinal. Osaka, seeded third, could meet sixth seed Elina Svitolina of Ukraine in the quarterfinal.

The other half of the draw features top seed Ashleigh Barty, coming off a second Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in July, facing a possible quarterfinal against Polish seventh seed Iga Swiatek.

PSG to face City in blockbuster draw

Sheriff first Moldovan club to reach the main draw

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GENEVA

Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City, two of the leading candidates to win the Champions League, will face each other in the group stage of this season's competition after coming out together in Thursday's draw.

City beat PSG in the semifinals last season. PSG responded to that disappointment by signing Lionel Messi and there is a chance that the Argentine come up against his great rival Cristiano Ronaldo, who is being strongly linked with a move to City from Juventus.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Tiraspol gave Moldova its first entry in the group stage with a 0-0 draw at Dinamo Zagreb on Wednesday after winning 3-0 in the home leg of its playoff last week.

The results: Shakhtar Donetsk 2 (Marlos 74, Aguilar 114-og) drew with Monaco 2 (Ben Yedder 18, 39) (after extra-time; Shakhtar wins 3-2 on aggregate); Brondby 1 (Maxso 62)

■ **Group A:** Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain, RB Leipzig, Club Brugge.

■ **Group B:** Atletico Madrid, Liverpool, Porto, AC Milan.

■ **Group C:** Sporting Lisbon, Borussia Dortmund, Ajax, Besiktas.

■ **Group D:** Inter Milan, Real Madrid, Shakhtar Donetsk, Sheriff Tiraspol.

■ **Group E:** Bayern Munich, Barcelona, Benfica, Dynamo Kiev.

■ **Group F:** Villarreal, Manchester United, Atalanta, Young Boys.

■ **Group G:** Lille, Sevilla, Salzburg, Wolfsburg.

■ **Group H:** Chelsea, Juventus, Zenit Saint Petersburg, Malmö.

■ (First group matches to be played on September 14-15)

lost to RB Salzburg 2 (Sesko 4, Aaronson 10) (Salzburg wins 4-2 on aggregate); Dinamo Zagreb 0 drew with Sheriff Tiraspol 0 (Sheriff wins 3-0 on aggregate).



On a high: Sheriff Tiraspol players are all agog with excitement after securing their passage. •UEFA.COM

TV PICKS

Tokyo 2020 Paralympics: Eurosport (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m. & 3.30 p.m.

England vs India: 3rd Test, day 3, Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

UP Govt to support Indian wrestling

NEW DELHI
In a massive boost for Indian wrestling, the Uttar Pradesh government has adopted the sport and is expected to pump in an investment of ₹170 crore in infrastructure and support to the wrestlers till the 2032 Olympics, Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brijbhushan Sharan Singh said. Brijbhushan said that WFI took inspiration from the Odisha government's support to hockey and it approached the UP government for a similar assistance. PTI

Tata Motors felicitates Olympians

**RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI**

In a commendable gesture, Tata Motors has kept its word to acknowledge the heart-winning performances of those Indian Olympians who narrowly missed a podium-finish in Tokyo.

As part of the gesture, the automobile major symbolically presented its hatchback 'Altroz' to 24 chosen performers – golfer Aditi Ashok, wrestler Deepak Punia, discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur, boxers Satish Kumar and Pooja Rani besides all 19 members of the women's hockey team.

Though Aditi was not present, most of the awards made it to the brief function. Each athlete will soon receive the promised vehicle in High Street Gold colour in his/her hometown.

Tanvi wins cliffhanger for maiden crown

Velavan cruises to the men's title beating Abhishek Pradhan

SQUASH

**K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI**

Sunayna Kuruvilla and Tanvi Khanna, two of India's best players after Joshua Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal, produced a top-class performance in the women's final that brought the curtains down on the HCL-SRFI Indian squash tour tournament, a PSA Challenger-10 event, at the ISA courts here on Thursday.

Second seed Tanvi saved three match-points to outlast top-seeded Sunayna 11-5, 9-11, 7-11, 11-7, 15-13 in the women's final. However, it was an anticlimax in the men's summit clash as fourth-seeded S. Velavan drubbed Abhishek Pradhan, seeded six, 11-7, 11-8, 11-5.

Tanvi and Sunayna played a tactical match that was engaging and entertaining. In the first game, Tanvi raked up

an 8-3 lead with some delectable drops and strong play from the backcourt and never looked back.

Sunayna hit back with strong defence and deft placements to pocket the next two games. Tanvi then made it two games each rather comfortably at 11-7 with some outstanding drops and consistent play.

Tanvi took a handy 5-2 lead in the decider before the top seed made it 5-5, and it was neck and neck with both players producing their best.

Holding her nerve

Sunayna had two match-points at 10-8 and one more at 12-11, but Tanvi held her nerve to bag her maiden PSA title.

In the men's final, Pradhan, generally a fighter and a consistent player, was totally outplayed.

Velavan, the left-handed 23-year-old from Chennai,

didn't give Pradhan any chance to attack with a strong defence.

"This is my second PSA title after the one in Madison (USA) in 2018. Today, I didn't allow him to prolong the rallies. My counterattack was good," said Velavan.

Finding it tough

Tanvi said she always found it tough against Sunayna.

"Last time, in the semifinals of the 2019 senior Nationals in Chennai, Sunayna had a match-point at 10-9 in the fifth and I went on to win," she said.

The winners took home \$1,140 each and 400 ranking points. HCL Technologies global sales director Arun Rajendran gave away the prizes.

The results (finals): Men: S. Velavan bt Abhishek Pradhan 11-7, 11-8, 11-5.

Women: Tanvi Khanna bt Sunayna Kuruvilla 11-5, 9-11, 7-11, 11-7, 15-13.



Champions: S. Velavan and Tanvi Khanna with their rewards. *M. VEDHAN

Rutuja Bhosale's campaign ends

TENNIS

**SPORTS BUREAU
VIGO (SPAIN)**

Rutuja Bhosale was beaten 6-3, 6-1 by top seed Conny Perrin of Switzerland in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament here.

In doubles, Rutuja, seeded second with Ya-Hsuan Lee of Chinese Taipei was beaten 11-9 in the super tie-break of the quarterfinals by Freya Christie and Yuriko Lily Miyazaki.

The results: \$25,000 ITF women, Vigo, Spain: Pre-quarterfinals: Conny Perrin (Sui) bt Rutuja Bhosale 6-3, 6-1.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Alicia Barnett (GBR) & Olivia Gadecki

(Aus) bt Sakura Hosogi (Jpn) & Sowjanya Bavisetti 6-2, 6-1; Freya Christie (GBR) & Yuriko Lily Miyazaki (Jpn) bt Ya-Hsuan Lee (Tpe) & Rutuja 6-3, 3-6, [11-9].

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Pre-quarterfinals: Noelia Zeballos Melgar (Bol) bt Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi 6-1, 4-0 (retd.); **First round:** Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi bt Alejandra Gutierrez (Col) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; Nana Kawagishi (Jpn) bt Humera Baharmus 6-2, 7-5.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sharmada Balu & Sravya Shivani bt Tara Malik (USA) & Danniela Glanzner (Aut) 3-6, 6-4, [10-6]; Nana Kawagishi (Jpn) & Humera Baharmus bt Marija Semenistaja (Lat) & Emma Van Poppel (Ned) 6-3, 6-3.

PGTI Tour all set to resume

Golconda Masters Telangana Open from Sept. 2

GOLF

**RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI**

With the grip of the pandemic loosening partially, domestic golf events are set to resume with a prize-fund of a whopping ₹6.60 crore spread over 10 events during the remainder of the year.

The announcement came at a PGTI press conference addressed by CEO Uttam Singh Mundy, and Board Member and former cricketer Kapil Dev here on Thursday.

"We held seven events on the Tour before the second wave of Covid forced us to stop. In June this year, our PGTI team got together and

reviewed the situation. I am so glad that we have two Tour partners on board – American Express and Amrutanjan Health Care Limited. We will resume the action in Hyderabad on September 2," said Mundy.

J&K Open is back

"We, at the PGTI, are extremely happy to have Srinagar back on our Tour map after seven years, with the J&K Open next month," he said.

Kapil Dev was particularly excited about Srinagar's picturesque Royal Springs Golf course and said, "It is such a beautiful course that I can play all day, not just 18 holes but over 40 holes from morning till evening."

The schedule: Sept. 2-5: ₹40 lakh Golconda Masters Telangana Open (Hyderabad).

Sept. 8-11: ₹50 lakh Tata Steel PGTI Players Championship (Panchkula).

Sept. 15-18: ₹40 lakh J&K Open (Delhi).

Oct. 5-8: ₹50 lakh Tata Steel PGTI Players Championship (Delhi).

Oct. 12-18: ₹50 lakh Jaipur Open (Jaipur).

Oct. 25-31: ₹60 lakh Indian Oil Servo Masters (Digboi).

Nov. 11-14: ₹1.50 crore Jeev Milkha Singh Invitational (Chandigarh).

Nov. 25-28: ₹40 lakh ICC-RCGC Open Golf Championship (Kolkata).

Dec. 1-4: ₹40 lakh Pune Open (Pune); **Dec. 16-19:** ₹1.50 crore Tata Steel Tour Championship (Jamshedpur).

Six Indians in finals

Simran and Sneha get walkovers

ASIAN JR. BOXING

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

Six Indians, two men and four women, advanced to the finals in their weight categories in the Asian junior boxing championships in Dubai on Wednesday.

In the women's draw, Simran Verma (52kg) and Sneha (66kg) received walkovers from Kazakh rivals Khava Bolkoyeva and Anar Turynbek respectively.

Joining them in the finals were Preeti (57kg) and Preeti Dahiya (60kg).

Other results (semifinals): Women: 57kg: Preeti bt Narika Rai (Npl) RSC, 60kg: Preeti Dahiya Rukhshona Uktamova (Uzb) 3-2.

Men: 64kg: Vanshaj bt Faridi Abolfazl (IRI) 5-0; **80kg:** Vishal bt Dauren Mamyr (Kaz) 5-0; **67kg:** Daksh lost to Solijonov Samandar (Uzb) 4-1; **92kg:** Abhimanyu lost to Tokhirov Nuratbek (Uzb) 5-0; **+92kg:** Aman Singh Bisht lost to Zokirov Jakhongir (Uzb).

National boxing for elite men set to return

**Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA**

The National boxing championships for elite men will return this year after being hit by the COVID-19 pandemic last year. The event will be held at the Inspire Institute of Sports in Vijayanagara, Karnataka, from September 15 to 21.

Following the introduction of some new weight classes by the International Boxing Association (AIBA), the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has decided to hold competitions in 13 weight categories – 48kg, 51, 54, 57, 60, 63.5, 67, 71, 75, 80, 86, 92 and +92kg – instead of 10.

Besides, the BFI will bring back headguards for elite men if a proposal regarding this gets approved at its executive committee meeting on September 3.

The BFI has made a 72-hour negative RT-PCR report mandatory for all boxers, team officials and technical officials willing to participate in the championships. The use of masks is also mandatory at all places, except in the boxing ring.

The last date for entry by number is September 1 and by name is September 8.

Entries can be sent to emnboxing2021@gmail.com with a copy marked to rebecca.dsilva@inspireinstituteof-sport.com.

India in pre-quarters

**SPORTS BUREAU
TEHRAN**

India lost to Poland 14-25, 15-25, 18-25 in the FIVB World under-19 volleyball championship here on Thursday.

It was India's second loss in Group 'A' after going down to Iran 22-25, 15-25, 22-25 on Wednes-

day. Its lone win was against Nigeria in the opener.

Despite the loss, World No. 49 India made it to the pre-quarterfinals as Guatemala – one of the teams in India's group – had pulled out because of Covid reasons.

Winning the Nationals an achievement: Akanksha

More so because she was laid low by COVID-19; is confident of her career ahead

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI**

Back home in Mumbai, Akanksha Nitture does not get to play on clay. When she decided to compete in the National junior championship on clay in Chennai, Akanksha was taken to Pune by her coaches to get used to the surface.

"Initially, we could not play for about three months owing to COVID. I had COVID. All of us in our family were affected. Coming out of that and winning this is an achievement," said the 18-year-old Akanksha, about her singles and doubles titles in the Nationals.

In a conversation with Olympian Vishnu Vardhan, a stakeholder in Tennishub



Akanksha. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

which sponsored the National junior championship, Akanksha recalled how the weather was quite challenging in Chennai. Owing to

rain, she had to play one of the matches on hard courts.

"It was tough to switch between two surfaces, but somehow we managed," said Akanksha.

Quite a bubbly personality, Akanksha said that she would dedicate the title to herself, for all the hard work she had endured, apart from her parents "for all their sacrifices" and the coaches at the ASA Academy in Navi Mumbai "for believing in me".

She was particularly happy with the coaches for playing with her to generate a high standard of training sessions.

Ranked 29th among the women in the country, Akanksha, quite a smart

player on court, said that she would continue to play more tournaments in the professional circuit to get better.

Akanksha said that her favourite was the Australian Open as it had a familiar playing surface. She said that her favourite women players kept changing almost every week or every month, as there were so many good ones. "I like Aryna Sabalenka, Ashleigh Barty, Naomi Osaka, Victoria Azarenka and all time favourite Serena Williams," said Akanksha.

Tennis may take her to many places and allow her to sample different cuisines, but Akanksha was clear that there was nothing to match "ghar ka khana" (home food).

US Open: spectators to be at full capacity

No masks or vaccination proof required for admission

**ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK**

Spectators will not be required to wear masks or show proof of vaccination status to attend matches at the US Open when the tennis tournament returns at full capacity next week, one year after all fans were banned because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The goal

"The goal, really, is to be certain that we don't have an outbreak of COVID that's going to be unusual or that we would regret," Dr. Brian Hainline, a US Tennis Association first vice-president and member of its medical advisory group, said on a conference call with reporters on Wednesday.

"We're still relying on the goodwill of people. The unvaccinated – although it's not going to be enforced – they really should be wearing masks."

"I expect many vaccinated individuals are going to be wearing masks, as well."

The year's last Grand Slam starts on Monday.

Fuelled by the highly contagious delta variant of the virus, new reported cases of COVID-19 in the US have



Awaiting the roars: The Arthur Ashe Stadium will once again reverberate with the sounds of a capacity crowd come Monday. *AFP

topped 150,000 a day, the highest level since late January.

The tournament's protocols are based on what has been laid out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New York City Department of Public Health.

"This is not a USTA deci-

sion or a US Open decision. This is a decision made with New York City," said Dr. Hainline, who is also the NCAA's chief medical officer.

To eat indoors there, anyone 12 and older will need to show proof they've had at least one dose of a vaccine.

All courts are considered outdoor venues – including, thanks to their air-filtration systems, Arthur Ashe Stadium, even if their retractable roofs are closed because of rain.

Spectators won't need to fill out health questionnaires

Karan beats Yugal to make the semifinals

GURUGRAM: Karan Singh defeated Yugal Bansal 6-3, 6-2 to set up a semifinal against top seed Dalwinder Singh in the ₹100,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the Pradhan Academy on Thursday.

The other semifinal will be between Ajay Malik and Lakshya Gupta.

At Jhajjar, Kundali Majgaine outplayed third seed Pooja Ingale 6-7(6), 6-1, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the ₹100,000 AITA women's ranking tennis tournament at the Joygaon Academy on Thursday.

In the semifinals, Kundali will face second seed Kashish Bhatia.

Himaanshika knocked out the fourth seed Veda Varshita Ranabothu 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 to set up a last-four clash against top seed Jagmeet Kaur.

The results (quarterfinals): At Gurugram (₹100,000 AITA men's): Dalwinder Singh bt Sushant Dabas 6-3, 6-2; Karan Singh bt Yugal Bansal 6-3, 6-2;

Ajay Malik bt Neeraj Yashpal 6-2, 6-0; Lakshya Gupta bt Anuj Malik 6-4, 7-6(2).

At Jhajjar (₹100,000 AITA women's): Jagmeet Kaur bt Bela Tamhankar 6-1, 6-4; Himaanshika bt Veda Varshita Ranabothu 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Kundali Majgaine bt Pooja Ingale 6-7(6), 6-1, 6-1; Kashish Bhatia bt Vanshika Choudhary 6-1, 6-3.

Vikas slams six, big win for Jai Bharat

HOCKEY

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Vikas Upadhyay scored six goals as Jai Bharat Academy crushed Mundka XI 22-2 in the Delhi State junior hockey championship at the National Stadium here on Thursday.

Vikas Upadhyay (6 goals), Rahul (4), Kuldeep (3), Afridi, Harsh, Rohit (2 each), Shahid, Naveen and Eklayya scored for the winning team, while Sanmeet Singh and Mannat Singh found the target for Mundka.

Two other matches saw

identical 7-0 margins. Jhilmil Centre struck through Charchit, Sidhant, Shivam (2 each) and Ibrahim Haroon to outplay Khalsa XI.

Union Academy found the target through Sahil Kumar (3), Govind Singh Bisht (2), Nand Kishore and Harsh Singh in its resounding triumph over OTHL Delhi.

Match drawn Earlier, Ashok Nagar Academy and Ghuman Hera Star drew 2-2.

Radhey Shyam scored for Ashok Nagar while Yuvraj

Singh and Tarun reciprocated for Ghuman Hera Star.

The results: Jai Bharat Academy 22 (Vikas Upadhyay 6; Rahul 4; Kuldeep 3; Afridi, Harsh, Rohit 2 each; Shahid, Naveen and Eklayya 1 each) bt Mundka XI 2 (Sanmeet Singh, Mannat Singh).

Jhilmil Centre 7 (Charchit, Sidhant, Shivam 2 each; Ibrahim Haroon) bt Khalsa XI 0.

Union Academy 7 (Sahil Kumar 3; Govind Singh Bisht 2; Nand Kishore, Harsh Singh) bt OTHL Delhi.

Ashok Nagar Academy 2 (Radhey Shyam 2) drew with Ghuman Hera Star 2 (Yuvraj Singh, Tarun).

Ronaldo included in Portugal squad

FOOTBALL

**ASSOCIATED PRESS
LISBON**

Portugal will play its upcoming World Cup Qualifiers with Cristiano Ronaldo, who will have another chance to break the all-time men's international scoring record.

Coach Fernando Santos on Thursday included Ronaldo in Portugal's squad, which will have many of the players who participated in European Championship.

Ronaldo scored his 109th goal with Portugal at Euro 2020 to tie former Iran striker



Cristiano Ronaldo. *FILE PHOTO

er Ali Daei as the all-time men's top scorer in international football.

Santos said Ronaldo left Juventus' practice session with an arm issue on Wednesday

but should be fit to join the national team. He dismissed the notion that the forward will be affected by the rumors about his club future. Portugal will face Ireland and Azerbaijan in September.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Anthony Lopes, Rui Patrício, Diogo Costa. **Defenders:** Joao Cancelo, Ricardo Pereira, Domingos Duarte, Gonçalo Inácio, Pepe, Ruben Dias, Nuno Mendes, Raphael Guerreiro. **Midfielders:** Danilo Pereira, Joao Palhinha, Ruben Neves, Bruno Fernandes, Joao Moutinho, Joao Mario, Otavio. **Forwards:** Pedro Gonçalves, Andre Silva, Bernardo Silva, Cristiano Ronaldo, Diogo Jota, Gonçalo Guedes, Rafa Silva.

Abhishek, Aakanksha in lead

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Abhishek Chavan of Maharashtra was remarkably consistent as he led the men's field with four points after the first round of the superleague in the Indian online carrom challenge. Abhishek had nine dropped chances in clearing the four boards and had a white slam in the second board which fetched him five bonus points that brought his score to four.

Mohd. Rehan of Uttar Pradesh had two white slams in the first and fourth boards, but had taken 15 chances to clear the four boards. He had

five net points that put him in the second spot ahead of Mohammed Sheikh (6), Abdu Rahman (9) and Gautam Prasad Bhol (15).

In women's section, Aakanksha Kadam of Maharashtra led with 24 points. She was followed by Neha Kumari (26), Kavya Shree, Farhin (27), Nidhi Gupta, Shruti Sonawane, Mantasha Iqbal and Mamta Kumari (28). The superleague will feature four rounds, and the top eight will make it to the champions league which will also have country's best players making a direct entry.