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DU to reopen in phased manner from next week

NEW DELH Delhi University is likely to reopen in a phased manner from next week. Dean of Social Welfare (DU) Rajeev Gupta, said: "We are currently working on the modalities. Hopefully from next week, we will be able to reopen the campus in a phased manner.' CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Can't register multiple FIRs for same crime: HC

NEW DELHI No multiple FIRs can be registered for the same crime, said the Delhi High Court while quashing four but one FIR in a case of loot and arson during the north-east Delhi riots last year

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

CBI files chargesheet in Bengal poll violence

The CBI on Thursday filed the first chargesheet in a case of post-poll violence in West Bengal. The case involves the murder of a person at Dubrajpur in Birbhum district. The two accused in the case are already in custody. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 9

CJI flags 'communal content' in media

There is a lack of accountability in social media platforms, Ramana points out

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Thursday said certain sections of the media communalised everything, and this would ultimately result in giving the country a bad name.

The remark came while a three-judge Bench headed by him was hearing petitions highlighting how some media outlets aired communal content linking the spread of the novel coronavirus to a Tablighi Jamaat meeting in Delhi. "The problem is everything in this country is shown with a communal angle by a section of media... The country is going to get a bad name ultimately," the CJI observed.

He upbraided social media platforms for a lack of accountability. They responded only to "powerful people", while complaints made by ordinary people, institutions and judges over content were



ignored. "These Web channels, Twitter, Facebook, You-Tube... They never respond. There is no accountability. About the institution they write badly and then they do not respond... This is the condition of institutions, forget individuals... They consider only people who are powerman, judges, they do not... This is the reality," he noted. The court asked the government whether there was any regulatory mechanism in place for the Web.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta drew the court's attention to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which provide a redressal mechanism and resolution of grievances of users of social media and over-the-top platforms.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Exports rose 45% to \$33 bn in August

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports in August touched \$33.14 billion, 45.17% higher than a year ago and 27.5% over the pre-pandemic level of August 2019, but the trade deficit widened to a four-month high, driven by a sharp uptick in gold imports, show preliminary estimates released on Thursday.

Merchandise imports during the month grew 51.47% year-on-year to \$47 billion, which is also 18% higher than the August 2019 figure. The trade deficit widened 69.15%

Surging higher

In August 2021, India's exports rose by 45% from the August 2020 figure and 27.5% from the August 2019 level. Imports too recorded similar increases

		thandise t ust (in \$ b		% gr	owth
	August 2021	August 2020	August 2019	Aug. '21 over Aug. '20	Aug. '21 over Aug. '19
Exports	33.14	22.83	25.99	45.17	27.5
Imports	47.01	31.03	39.85	51.47	17.95

year-on-year to touch \$13.87 billion but was just 0.07% higher than the pre-COVID le-

"With merchandise imports continuing to scale up, even as exports receded from their all-time high, the trade deficit came in higher than anticipated," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at rating agency ICRA, expressing concerns about rising gold imports.

ports stood at \$3.7 billion, implying an 82.22% jump in imports of the yellow metal last month. "Gold imports surged further to a five-month high of \$6.7 billion in August 2021 and were responsible for 88% of the rise in the merchandise trade deficit relative to July

Afghan-origin terror prime concern: India

Centre says it conveyed this to the Taliban at Qatar meeting

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

With most Indians now evacuated from Afghanistan, the Government of India on Thursday said its "primary and immediate" concern was to curb any terrorism threat to India emanating from Afghanistan under the Taliban led regime.

Responding to questions on the reasoning and nature of the meeting between the Indian Ambassador to Qatar and the chief of the Taliban political office in Doha, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) repeated that the meeting had been requested by the Taliban, and it would neither confirm nor deny whether India still considered the group a terrorist organisation.

"Let us just treat the Doha meeting for what it is... it's just a meeting. These are very early days," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said when asked if India could consider recognising the Taliban government, which, officials said, is likely to be announced soon. "We used the opportunity to convey our concerns, whether it was on



UNHCR office in New Delhi on Thursday.

getting people out [from Afghanistan], or on anti-Indian terror-related activities. We received a positive response," he said.

Mr. Bagchi, however, did not reply to a question about the Haqqani Network, which is among the UN-designated terror groups and a key Talioan constituent.

Haqqani issue

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Deputy leader of the Taliban Sirajuddin Haqqani is believed to be responsible for a number of attacks on the Indian Embassy and consulates in Afghanistan, even a suicide bombing in 2008 in which Indian diplomats were among 58 people killed, and the attack on Gurdwara Har Rai Saheb in Kabul in 2020, in which 25 people were killed. The Haqqani Network is believed to have collaborated with the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) in carrying out the attack on the gurdwara, according to the Afghan intelligence agency NDS at the time.

While Taliban interlocutor Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, who had sought the meeting with the Ambassador to Qatar, Deepak Mittal, on Tuesday, is slated to be the Foreign Minister of the new Afghan government, New Delhi will watch with concern the role played by the Haqqani leadership.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Court pulls up police for 'callous' probe

Failure to conduct proper investigation will torment sentinels of democracy: ASJ

STAFFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday expressed serious reservation over the failure of the city police in conducting a proper investigation into a north-east Delhi riots case, noting that it "will surely torment the sentinels of democracy"

The court's stern remarks came while discharging former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain's brother Shah Alam and two others in a case related to alleged loot and vandalism in a shop during the riots in the Chand Bagh area

It noted that there was no CCTV footage of the incident to confirm the presence of the accused at the scene of the crime, nor any independent eyewitness or evidence regarding the criminal



conspiracy.

"When history will look back at the worst communal riots since Partition in Delhi, the failure of the investigating agency to conduct a proper investigation by using latest scientific methods will surely torment the sentinels of democracy," Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yaday said.

"The casualty in the matter is the pain and agony suf-

RT-PCR tests must for flyers

from seven more nations

States must ensure strict compliance, says Centre

A file photo of Delhi police flag marching in the Chand Bagh area following the riots in north-east Delhi in February 2020. fered by complainant/victim

whose case has virtually remained unsolved; callous and indolent investigation; lack of supervision by the superior officers of the investigation and criminal wastage of the time and money of the tax payer." "The sort of investigation

conducted in the instant case and the lack of supervision thereof by the superior officers clearly depict that the investigating agency has merely tried to pull the wool over the court's eves and nothing else," the judge said.

About 750 riots cases were registered in the northeast district of Delhi. "This is the sole court dealing with all the matters of riots cases in north-east Delhi... There are a large number of accused persons who have been languishing in jail for the last one and a half years merely on account of the fact that the trial in their cases are not being initiated. The police seem to be busy in filing supplementary chargesheets," the court said.

"This court cannot permit such cases to meander mindlessly in the corridors of judicial system, sweeping away precious judicial time of this court when the same is open and shut case."

States seek transparency in GST data

VIKAS DHOOT

The Centre has attributed robust GST collections to a rapid economic recovery and better compliance, but deciphering underlying trends is impossible for economists and States as critical details are no longer in the public domain. Until December, the Fi-

nance Ministry's monthly release included the number of GSTR 3B returns filed by taxpayers as well as a State-wise break-up of revenues. Since then, the State trends were shared for only four months and GSTR 3B return numbers were last shared in January. This makes it difficult to gauge the economy's true health, opine economists.

FULL REPORT ▶ PAGE 12



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ing of new mutations in SARS-CoV-2 and the rising number of variants of concern and variants of interest, passengers coming from South Africa, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand and Zimbabwe will have to undergo RT-PCR tests on arrival in India. "Passengers from the U.K., Europe and the Middle East are already required to take this test. International passengers will have to undergo

pre-arrival RT-PCR testing at

least 72 hours before board-

ing and only asymptomatic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Union Health Secretary Ra-

jesh Bhushan on Thursday

said that with reports emerg-

NEW DELHI

board a flight to India. These latest revisions have been communicated to the States to ensure strict compliance so that the import of variants into India may be prevented," Mr. Bhushan said.

Preventive measure: Health workers collecting swabs of

international passengers at Chennai airport. • VELANKANNI RAJ B.

He added that in the case of symptomatic and/or posithe States must continue to implement stringent public health measures of contact propriate behaviour.

tive international travellers,

tracing, quarantine, testing, and ensuring COVID-19-ap-**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

In August 2020, gold im-

202," Ms. Nayar said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

IN BRIEF

'JNU okays controversial counter-terrorism course

The Executive Council of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Thursday approved a new counter-terrorism course, which had drawn criticism from a section of teachers and students over its content, sources said. The council also approved the observance of August 14 as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' every

Man held with firearms bought to kill wife

A 36-year-old man has been arrested along with weapons that he procured to kill his wife, the police said on Thursday. Kamal Sehgal from Uttam Nagar decided to kill his wife after she refused to divorce him, they said. He procured the weapons from Aligarh through one of his contacts to execute his plan. A team of Crime Branch officials arrested him from Vikaspuri on Wednesday.

Court seeks response from govt. on new excise policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi High Court Thursday sought response from Delhi government on a petition challenging a notice inviting bids for grant of 12 zonal retail licenses under the New Excise Policy 2021-22 on the ground of being manifestly arbitrary, discriminatory unworkable.

A Bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh issued notice on a petition by an individual who intends to undertake liquor retail business in the city.

Senior counsel Darpan Wadhwa, representing the petitioner, said that the new Excise Policy introduced home delivery of liquor which may impact the business of retail vendors. "Retail vends have the idea of proximity. When they start home delivery, nobody will ever buy from me and the business that I have. Everybody can sell from anywhere," the senior counsel argued.

DU to reopen in phased manner from next week

Third-year students to get first preference, says senior official

SHINJINI GHOSH

Delhi University will reopen in a phased manner from next week, senior officials said on Thursday.

Dean of Social Welfare (DU) Rajeev Gupta, said: "We are currently working on the modalities after holding a meeting with principals and heads of departments. Hopefully from next week, we will be able to reopen the campus in a phased manner. Third-year students will get first preference."

According to officials, the colleges will re-open for third-year students science streams and those that require laboratories for practicals.

Mr. Gupta explained: "First preference for offline classes will be given to thirdyear students. It will include students from science streams and other courses where practical work is involved and laboratories are required. It can include



DU V-C said they will not go completely offline. • FILE РНОТО

courses like psychology, mathematics, linguistics and so on. Preference will be given to courses which require hands-on experience."

While attending offline classes will be "voluntary," officials said outstation students are likely to be called from the second week of September.

"After the first phase is implemented, we will see how it goes. Once the exercise is successful, we will extend it to other batches and courses. Outstation students are

most likely to be called from the second week of September but attending offline classes is completely voluntary," said Mr. Gupta.

DU Vice-Chancellor P.C.

Joshi told The Hindu, "We also have to look at the capacities the different colleges have. We have to keep the guidelines in mind as certain colleges might have space constraints. We will definitely not go completely offline. Everything will be done in a phased and systematic

TOD highlighted in draft regional plan 2041

Policy proposes to have residential, commercial, civic, institutional units in proximity

STAFF REPORTER

As a part of urban regeneration, Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and planned housing along TOD corridors have been highlighted in the draft Regional Plan-2041 for the National Capital Region.

The TOD policy, which proposes to have residential, commercial, civic and institutional establishments in close proximity, also features prominently in the Master Plan for draft Delhi-2041.

Apart from enhanced walkability and last-mile connectivity through a higher dependence on public transport and multi-modal integration, the development of strategic transit nodes has also been proposed.

'Unique character'

The need for new towns to be planned and designed in tandem with technology to bring "convenience and nature closer to residents," and taking into consideration "unique character of local neighbourhoods" are a part of the draft plan.



An aerial view of the Delhi Metro's Blue Line near Anand Vihar interchange station. • FILE РНОТО

According to the TOD policy, the nodes will comprise sites such as vacant or underutilised government lands, government housing, commercial centres, industrial centres and so on. A strategic location, either economic or cultural hub for the city, will also be factored in.

"Joint ventures for station area development or development of multi-modal transit hubs may be considered between multiple transport agencies. Such projects shall be designed to ensure integration between various transport services and may be designed as part

of the same building or complex for seamless commuter movement," the MPD-2041 said.

Putting forth the proposal that all the transit corridors and transit nodes will be the "axes of urban densification," the draft Regional Plan - 2041 stated that the NCR region had a wide metro network with plans of having an increased regional rapid transit system.

The draft Regional Plan-2041 also emphasied on the need for planned housing projects in NCR along the TOD corridors.

The plan proposed that

states can identify the preferred locations for its population to reside and general public tendency and develop such areas on priority.

"Areas beyond Gurugram, Faridabad, Rewari, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Hapur, Rohtak, Panipat and ao on, and along transport corridors like Metro Rail, RRTS and expressways could be looked at for future housing projects so that housing and transportation are interlinked. TOD with incentives would go a long way in creating projects which are easily accessible and will get occupied quickly," the plan read.

'Many in posh areas using 10 times more water'

DJB official says these people own large houses, lawns, pets and multiple cars

NIKHIL M BABU

Many people living in affluent areas are using up to 10 times more water than the daily average per person in the city, according to the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) data accessed by The Hindu. Water is available 24x7 in these

Meanwhile, several other parts of Delhi face water shortage during summers and rely on water tankers for their daily needs. Currently, most parts of

the city receive water at a particular time every day.

Delhi govt. aim

However, the Delhi government is trying to achieve a 24x7 water supply for the entire city.

The average water consumption of a person in Delhi is 240 litres per day, which



A DJB pipeline leaks near the Patparganj Industrial Area. ■ FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

is also termed as 240 LPCD (litres per capita per day), as per the DJB.

But in Westend Colony in Vasant Kunj, which has 24x7 water supply for more than three years, as per the DJB, the consumption is as high as 2,219 LPCD to 2,721 LPCD – about 10 times the average

water used daily by a person in the rest of the city. The average usage of Westend Colony is 443 LPCD, state records. In another area in Vasant Kunj, Shanti Niketan, the consumption is as high as 1,600-2,041 LPCD - about 8.5 times the average usage. The average usage of the area is 277 LPCD, records show. The DJB is trying out 24x7 water supply on a trial

basis in this area. "During meetings with the residents, we have raised the

issue multiple times that their usage is really high. Many have large houses, lawns, multiple cars, and pets. They wash their cars using a hose and even the road outside their houses. They are ready to pay the bills. But just because you can pay doesn't mean that you can waste this much water," a DJB official

The official said the DJB officials inspected the area after employees who go to take readings reported about high bills from the area, raising suspicion of commercial activities.

"We have provision to fine people if their overhead water tank is overflowing, but it is again difficult to find out these things. But in these areas, people are educated and they should be saving water instead of wasting it," the official added.

Injury sustained by gangster points to custodial death: HC

Ankit Gujjar was found dead inside his cell in Tihar on Aug. 4

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday remarked that the nature of injury sustained by gangster Ankit Gujjar, who died inside Tihar jail last month, clearly shows that it was a case of custodial violence.

"It is writ large that it is a case of custodial violence and who has done it is also very clear," Justice Mukta Gupta said while reserving order on the petition by Gujjar's family members for transfer of investigation into his alleged murder to the

Extortion by officials

The 29-year-old gangster was found dead and two others were injured inside his cell in Tihar jail on August 4. The family has alleged that Gujjar was being harassed by jail officials as he was "unable to meet their regularly increasing demands for money" and was murdered "as part

34 kids who

went missing



Advocate Mehmood Pra-

cha, appearing for the family, alleged that the police did not conduct the investigation properly. Mr. Pracha said the DVR of the CCTV installed in the jail has yet to be recovered and the aspect of extortion of money by jail officials through online transactions was not being looked into.

"The status report filed before the Magistrate and the one filed here say that the injury is minor. The postmortem shows 12 grievous injuries," he said.

The counsel for the prose-

cution said the deceased, who was found to be in possession of a mobile phone amongst other things, had attacked the Deputy Superintendent (DS) earlier in the day. The counsel said action has since been initiated against certain officials.

"The issue is the moment a phone is recovered, your [jail] officer is asking for money...It is far more serious. What has happened to the deceased must have happened to others also," the High Court said.

"He may have committed an offence [but] this man [jail official] not only beats him up but also gets CCTV closed...A life has been lost. Twelve injuries show it is a case of custodial torture," the court remarked

The jail administration, in its report, said four officials. including the Deputy Superintendent, have been suspended and eight others have been shifted from Central Jail No.3.

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(Rs. Lacs) 03/CGM/Sr.M.(E/M) Maintenance of Traffic Signal at Various Sector 86.87

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 09.09.2021 upto 5.00 PM, shall be opened/ Chief General Manager

plea for appointment of doctors, HC tells govt.

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Delhi government to consider as representation a plea seeking appointment of sufficient number of doctors at

The petition filed by advocate Amit Sahni said that Jag Pravesh Hospital in north-east Delhi denied admission to pregnant women on account of shortage of staffers, specifically

counsel said that the authorities were interviewing persons to fill the vacancies and no patient was being returned from the hospital.

referred to a newspaper report to claim that the hospital witnessed a "chaotic situation" recently "due to shortage of anaesthetists so much so that police are handling the situation between the relatives of paand hospital tients staffers".

"From the past one week, emergency ward of Jag Pravesh Hospital is not being available from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. due to the shortage of anaesthetists in the hospital. Pregnant women, who are coming to the hospital for delivery and need an emergency C-section, are sent to other hospitals, which is putting both the mother and child's life in

from Dwarka traced: police STAFF REPORTER

The police on Thursday said 34 children – who were reported missing from Dwarka - have been traced in August during a special drive.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said the staff was briefed to trace missing children.

"A total of 34 children, including nine boys and 25 girls have been traced," he said. These children were found from different sources and staff made efforts to get clues about their parents/homes/relatives, the police said.

"Probe was started with local enquiry in and around the place of stay of the missing children. Friends and family members of the children were contacted. During the drive, photographs of the missing children/persons were shared on different Whatsapp groups and CO-VID volunteer groups and NGOs," Mr. Meena said.

their respective families.

Policemen posted in Dwarka have been asked to recorded 112.1 mm rainfall. complete documentation of all the children residing in shelter homes, bus stands, roads, religious recorded 126.8 mm. places and other such places to reunite them with



A scene during rain in the city on Thursday morning.

Delhiites wake up to yet another rainy day

Highest rainfall in 24-hr period for Sept. in 19 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Delhiites woke up to heavy showers on Thursday morning that soon subsided and led to a cloudy day with only traces of rainfall recorded after 9 a.m.

For the 24-hour period ending at 9 a.m. on Thursday, the city recorded 117.7 mm rainfall - the highest rainfall in a 24-hour period for September in 19 years. The previous highest was on the day before when the city

The Capital had last recorded such heavy rain in September 2002 - when it

The maximum temperature in the Capital settled at 32.3 degrees Celsius and the minimum at 23.7 both of which was two degrees below normal for the season. The Met department fore-

cast a generally cloudy sky for September 2 with light to moderate rain. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle between 32 and 25 degrees

Waterlogging was reported from across the city -Azad Market underpass, Ring Road near WHO building, ITO, near AIIMS flyover on Aurobindo Marg, Palam underpass, Safdarjung, near India Gate, Nangloi, and Rohtak Road among others - that lead to traffic congestion. "Traffic movement is

closed at Azad market underpass [both carriageway] due to waterlogging. Traffic is affected from Nangloi to Mundka [both carriageway] due to waterlogging," the traffic police tweeted.

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be

uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

П	S.N.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount		
1	B) Re-Tender work					
ı	downloaded on dated 17.09.2021 at 11.00 AM.					
Γ	The a	above tenders can be	uploaded by dated 16.09.2021 upto 5.00 PM. s	shall be opened/		
L			installed at Newly Constructed footpath), Noida			
ı		-III/2021-22	in Meghdutam Park Sector-50 & New light			
Г	1.	04/CGM/Sr.M.(E/M)	41.25			

-II/2021-22 ET in Noida. (Zone-I) downloaded on dated 10.09.2021 at 11.00 AM.

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	Kanjkoro – Barai and Adjoining Village Rural Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division Tenughat on turnkey basis." For the year 2021-22.				
2	प्राक्कलित राशि	3342.09 লাख			
3	अग्रधन की राशि	33.43 लाख			
4	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	10000.00			
5	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	27 माह + 3 माह (ट्रायल रन की अवधि)			
6	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	02.09.2021 समय 02.00 बजे अपराहन् तक			
7	प्री बीड मिटिंग की तिथि	06.09.2021 समय 12.30 बजे अपराहन् तक			
8	निविदा प्राप्ति (ऑन लाईन बिडींग) की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	13.09.2021 समय 05.00 बजे अपराहन् तक			
9	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट /अधीक्षण अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल धनबाद /क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग दुमका प्रक्षेत्र दुमका के कार्यालय में परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि की मूल प्रति जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	15.09.2021 समय 04.00 बजे अपराहन् तक			
10	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	16.09.2021 समय 04:00 बजे अपराहन्			
11	तकनीकी बिड खोलने का स्थान	अधीक्षण अभियता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वचछता अंचल, धनबाद।			
12	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम/पदनाम :- ईo राम प्र प्रमंडल, तेनुघाट।	वेश राम, कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वचछता			
13	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का टेलिफोन नं0	9430153040, 9430475767			
14	ई– प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट सेल का हेल्प लाईन सं0	0651-2480345			
नोट	– केवल ई निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे ।				

ऐसे सम्बेदक जिन्हें पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार का निबंधन प्राप्त नहीं है वे भी निविदा में भाग ले सकते है वशर्ते कि वैसे सम्बेदक को कार्य आवंटित की तिथि से दो माह के अन्दर पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार से निबंधन पत्र प्राप्त कर लेना अनिवार्य होगा। अधिक जानकारी के लिए वेवसाईट http://jharkhandtender.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपालक अभियंता

PR 252517 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22)#D

पेयजल एव स्वचछता प्रमडल, तेनुघाट

Treat as representation

STAFF REPORTER

Jag Pravesh Hospital here.

anaesthetists. The Delhi government

The petition, however, danger," the petition said.

Woman fatally knocked down by car during stroll

Another said to be critical; driver arrested

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 53-year-old woman was killed and another injured when they were hit by a vehicle during their evening walk in outer North Delhi's Nangloi, the police said on Thursday. The accused driver has been arrested. DCP (Outer North) Rajiv

Ranjan Singh said the de-

ceased has been identified

as Geeta, a resident of Arva

(22) from Rajdhani Park. The police said they received information at 7

p.m. regarding an accident

been identified as Deepak

near Rail Neer Plant. "On enquiry, it was found that Geeta was admitted at Shri Balaji Action Hospital and Shashi at Khera Hospital," the officer

said. Geeta was declared

brought dead on arrival.

A case under relevant Mohalla. Her neighbour sections of the IPC has Shashi Rohilla (46) is said to been registered, the police be critical. The accused has

SITES CONDUCTING INOCULATION

45-60

38,99,134

VACCINATION BY AGE

18-44

VACCINE TYPE

Covishield

Private Total

Above 60

Timings **DELHI**

	FR	IDAY, S			
		RISE	06:01	SET	18:41
		RISE	02:01	SET	16:28
SATURDAY, SEP. 04					

RISE 06:01 SET 18:39 RISE 02:59 SET 17:14 SUNDAY, SEP. 05

RISE 06:02 SET 18:38 RISE 04:00 SET 17:55

Delhi Weather Delhi City	max 32	min 24
Safdarjang	32	24
Palam	33	24

Delhi Palam Today 32°C One or two spell of rain and thunderstorm may occur and humid day likely with light

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 32°C Light rain and drizzle may occur at some areas. Warm and humid day likely with light winds

THE HINDU

IN BRIEF



Toppers of craftsman scheme felicitated

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday felicitated toppers of Craftsman Training Scheme of the city government's Industrial Training Institutes. Mr. Sisodia said that students coming out of training institutes like Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) will write a new story for the future as the country will become developed only when the youth of the country is

⁺ Hate speech: accused sent to judicial custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A Delhi court on Thursday remanded Pinky Chaudhary, president of Hindu Rakshak Dal, to 14-day judicial custody for allegedly raising communal slogans here last month.

Mr. Chaudhary was accused of raising communal slogans and inciting the youth to propagate against a particular religion at a rally at Jantar Mantar on August 8.

Metropolitan Magistrate Prayank Nayak sent Chaudhary to jail after Delhi Police produced him before the court on expiry of his one day custodial interrogation in the matter.

The police told the court that the accused was not required for further interrogation and requested to send him to jail.

The accused had surrendered before the police on August 31. "No mistreatment has been reported by the accused. Heard. Application perused. Considering the seriousness of the allegations, the application is allowed. Accused persons are remanded to JC for 14 days," the judge said.

The judge directed the jail authorities to produce the accused before the court concerned on September 16.

Mr. Chaudhary had surrendered after a recent Delhi High Court order refusing to grant him any in-

A trial court had earlier dismissed his anticipatory bail application, saying "we are not a Taliban

State". The court had said that in the past such incidents have flared communal tensions leading to riots and loss to life and property.

Cannot register multiple FIRs for same crime, reiterates HC

Court quashes four FIRs lodged for same incident during north-east Delhi riots

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

No multiple FIRs can be registered for the same crime, the Delhi High Court has reiterated while quashing four but one first information report in a case of looting and setting on fire a compound during the north-east Delhi riots in February last year.

"There can be no second FIR and no fresh investigation regarding the same cognisable offence or same occurrence giving rise to one or more cognisable offences," Justice Subromonium Prasad remarked.

The High Court's order came while hearing a petition filed by accused Atir, who was facing prosecution in five FIRs lodged by Delhi

One of the complainants, had stated that a mob entered the compound of his house in Maujpur area, ran-



Firefighters dousing a blaze during the north-east Delhi riots in February last year. ■ FILE РНОТО

sacked it and set it ablaze. A fire tender was called to douse the blaze.

The complainant states the articles in the house valued at ₹7-₹10 lakh was charred in the fire. The other complainants also made similar complaints.

One family unit

Atir's counsel argued that all the five FIRs are in respect of one unit and filed by different members of the same family.

The court noted, "All the above FIRs are identical in their content and more or less a facsimile of one another and pertain to the same occurrence. They all pertain to one house where fire was started mischievously and spread to immediate neighbouring premises as well as

floors of the same house". "All the FIRs state that

each of the complainants residing in parts of the buildings in the same compound and in the immediate neighbourhood as their belongings and other valuables had been burnt down," it added.

monetary loss was caused to

"There might be discrepancy regarding the width of the passage within the same compound or the exact place where the fire was set, but both sides agree that it is within one compound, the court said.

No separate incidents

"It, therefore, cannot be said that there are five separate incidents and, therefore, five separate FIRs cannot be registered for the very same incident as it is contrary to the laws laid down by the Supreme Court," Justice Prasad remarked while quashing four FIRs in the case.

Delhi reports zero virus death

39 fresh infections reported; test positivity rate at 0.06%

TOTAL VACCINATION DOSES 1,37,85,283*

VACCINATION -

Male 79,75,168

Female 58,06,655

JAB METER

STAFF REPORTER

The Capital reported no new COVID-19 death in 24 hours for the second consecutive day and the total number of deaths stood at 25,082, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Thursday.

Also, 39 new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14.37.839.

A total of 60,483 tests were done in a day and the test positivity rate (TPR) was

This is the 21st time since the second wave of the pandemic hit the national capital that zero fatality due to the viral disease was logged in a day.

Of the total cases, 14,12,413 people have recovered and there are only 344 active cases.

The COVID-19 vaccine stock

Vaccine stock

of the city on Thursday morning would last for three days, as per another bulle-

Others 3,460 1,05,42,796 31,85,235 *TILL 8 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 2 | SOURCE: COWIN.GOV A total of 1,13,044 vaccinations were administered in the city on Tuesday and a to-

The second wave of the pandemic swept through the city in April-May.

Govt. preparedness

Despite fall in the number of daily cases over the last several days, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had recently cautioned saying the chanc-

es of a third wave of the pandemic are quite real, while asserting that his government is preparing on a "war footing" to combat it.

tal of 1,36,31,644 doses have been given till now. **Medical infrastructure**

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain had last week said the city's medical infrastructure was being ramped up and 37,000 beds dedicated to COVID-19 patients were being set up to tackle the anticipated third wave of the pandemic.

North body planning to sell 'dangal maidan': AAP

'Will stop BJP from selling off civic assets'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday alleged that the BJP-governed North Delhi Municipal Corporation is planning to sell 1,100 square metres of "dangal maidan" behind Delite Cinema at a throwaway price and it has brought the proposal to the Standing Committee on Wednesday.

"Builders want to buy municipal land on freehold instead of leasehold because they know the AAP will come to power in the upcoming municipal corporation polls and investigate their dealings, which will cancel their leases. The BJP is convinced that they are going to lose in the next municipal elections, which has caused the BJP leaders to go on a spree of selling off the civic assets," said AAP

Cattle class

The BJP is

convinced that they are going to lose in the next municipal polls which has led the leaders to go on a spree of selling off the civic assets

SAURABH BHARDWAJ

chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj.

Mr. Bhardwaj alleged that the BJP-ruled North Corporation is prepared to sell 10 hospitals and one medical college and the proposal is on hold for the time being after constant pressure and protests by the AAP.

"The AAP will continue to fight for the people of Delhi. Will stop the BJP's mega sale to protect the municipalities from going penniless," the AAP leader said.

'Over 3,500 buses are in shambles'

Govt. spending ₹500 cr. per 1K buses for maintenance: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BJP said that barring 32 out of a fleet of 3,760 DTC buses, all other buses currently plying in the Capital are overage. The party said that these buses should have been withdrawn from use, but the Delhi government is instead spending crores of rupees for the maintenance of these buses.

BJP MLA and former Delhi BJP president Vijender Gupta alleged that the AAP government has spent ₹500 crore for the maintenance of 1,000 such overage buses. "If the Delhi government spends ₹500 crore per 1,000 buses for all the 3,760 overage buses, the total cost to exchequer amount to approximately ₹1,800 crore. The amount being spent on maintenance of overage buses could have been utilised to procure 2.000 new buses," Mr. Gup-



DTC buses parked at the Shadipur depot. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The party said that for the last six years, no new buses have been added to the DTC fleet and since 2015, the DTC has been inuring recurring losses that has left the transport system in shambles.

Plaint to CVC

Mr. Gupta said that he had complained to the CVC and sought intervention in the AMC contract of 1,000 overaged DTC buses after which the CVC has initiated an inquiry.

"The AMC contract of the new DTC buses is already under scanner by the CBI. Instead of answering people's questions on the matter, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot are trying to deflect attention from their misdeeds by running in courts and attacking the Opposition for exposing them," Mr. Gupta said.

Cong. protests against hike in fuel, LPG prices

'Govt.'s achhe din remains a poll promise'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Indian Youth Congress on Thursday organised a protest outside the Petroleum Ministry against inflation and the rising price of LPG, petrol and diesel.

the Modi government came to power, the price of essential commodities has been rising and the government was not listening to the voice of the poor people.

Protesters marched from Raisina Road to Shastri Bhawan where they were stopped and detained by the

IYC president Srinivas B.V. said that the public are suffering from inflation while the Narendra Modi go-

vernment is busy with tax collection. "The Modi government came to power by showing big dreams to the citizens. But today, it has become difficult for the poor to purchase expensive cooking gas cylinders," he said.

The IYC said that the dream of 'Achhe Din' has remained only a poll promise.

"The price of LPG cylinder has again increased by ₹25. With this, the price of LPG cylinder in Delhi has now gone up to ₹884.50. Why is the Modi government punishing the public by continuously increasing the prices of cylinders? Petrol and diesel are the most expensive in India as compared to the neighbouring nations," Mr. Srinivas added.

Surprise check in Gurugram schools to ensure COVID norms

Teams comprising doctors formed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Around two dozen doctors have been appointed as nodal officials by the Gurugram Health Department to conduct surprise inspection in schools, both government and private, to conduct random Rapid Antigen Tests on students and ensure adherence to CO-VID-appropriate behaviour among them.

'Possible third wave'

The initiative has been taken in the backdrop of the anticipation that the third possible wave of the deadly virus might affect the children the most.

The schools are now open and regular classes are being conducted, therefore, the health department had decided to appoint the doctors already working with the children under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram as nodal officials to ensure adherence of protocol in schools, said Civil Surgeon Virender Yadav.

Deputy Civil Surgeon Isha Narang said doctors were made into 11 teams -

each comprising a male doctor, a female doctor, an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife and a pharmacist - and each team was imparted training in conducting Rapid Antigen Tests. The teams have been is-

sued 25 kits each to conduct tests on the students for early identification of infection and ensure quick isolation "These teams will ensure

that the home isolation protocol was also strictly followed by the parents of the infected child and conduct + regular visits to their home," said Dr. Narang. The teams will also edu-

cate the children regarding cough etiquettes, hand hygiene, social distancing, different types of masks and how to use and discard them. It has been more than a

month since schools were allowed to open in Haryana from Class VI onwards. The primary schools for Class IV and V were also allowed to open on September 1. However, prior consent of the parents is must for the students to attend the classes.

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Last date to submit online application is 18th September, 2021.



Despite fears of a possible third wave looming large, people flout social distancing norms while travelling in a truck on Ring Road near Burari on Thursday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Deseal Tikri border, appeal Bahadurgarh industrialists

Footwear industry suffering due to its closure and sit-in stir, they write to NHRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bahadurgarh industrialists have written to the National Human Rights Commission seeking directions to the Delhi police to deseal the Tikri border, the site of farmers' agitation against the farm laws for the past over

nine months. Narinder Chhikara, vice-Bahadurgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), in his complaint, said the industry in the town bordering Delhi was suffering due to the sealing of the border by the Delhi police. Bahadurgarh, the hub of non-leather footwear industry in the country, is a major industrial town of Haryana with 9,000-odd micro, small and medium units.

Losses worth ₹2,000 cr.

Mr. Chhikara said the industry, already having suffered due to the national lockdown in March last year, had incurred losses to the tune of ₹2,000 crore due to the ongoing farmers' agitation.

He claimed that around 2,000 units, mostly in Part-B of the Modern Industrial Estate of the town, were hit the most and a large number of them were completely shut.

Taking a detour He said the industrialists and

the workers mostly commuted to work from Delhi and had to take a detour to reach the units when earlier it took them just a few minutes to cross over to Bahadurgarh. Mr. Chhikara said the in-

dustry was also dependent

supply of raw material and sale of the finished goods. He also pointed out that

on the national capital for

the common man was also harassed due to the sealing of the border and emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire tenders had difficulty in movement.

The BCCI has earlier written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Manohar Lal seeking their intervention into the matter.



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PUBLIC NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Club is scheduled to be held on Saturday, the 25th day of September 2021 at 10:35 a.m. through Video

Conferencing/Other Audio Visual Means organized by the Club to transact the agenda as set out in the Notice calling for the AGM dated 13.8.2021 forming part of Annual Report for the year 2020-21 was dispatched to all members by Courier on 2nd September 2021. The Club is providing the facility of oting through electronic means

("remote e-voting") in compliance with Section-108 of the Companies Act 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014. The business as set out in the aforesaid Notice will be transacted through electronic voting facility provided by M/s Central Depository Services India) Limited (CDSL). The Executive Committee has appointed Sri K M Subheramaniam, Advocate, as Scrutinizer to oversee the remote e-voting.

The remote e-voting period begins on Wednesday, 22.9.2021 (9.00 a.m.) and ends on Friday, 24.9.2021 (5.00 p.m.). The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting after 5.00 PM on 24.9.2021. During this period, Members whose name appear in the Register of Members as on 3.9.2021 and those who are eligible as per Article-48 only shall be entitled to exercise their vote through e-voting process.

Members who participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility and have not cast their vote on the Resolutions through remote e-voting shall be eligible to vote through e-voting system available during the AGM. The facility for e-voting will be available during the AGM proceedings and will be disabled after 1.00 pm on 25.09.2021.

The notice of the meeting is www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com and the e-voting website of CDSL: www.evotingindia.com. In case of grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Manager, (CDSL) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon turex, Mafatlal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai-400013 or send an email to call on 022-23058738 / 022

/ By order of the Executive Committee Place: Chennai **SP Sivalingam** Date: 3.9.2021 President

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that Mr. Varun Bansal S/o Vidya Bhushan Bansal is purchasing Kothi No. D-50, Sector-51, Noida, U.P. from Shri Dhruv Vira S/o Late Shri Pradeep Vira, R/o 19, Anand Lok, Sadiq Nagar Andrewsganj, South Delhi-110049. If anybody is having any objection regarding this purchase he/she may contact with 15 days of

this notice Varun Bansal C-3/62, Sector-31, Noida, UP Mobile: 9811157176

Centre to send expert team to Firozabad as fever cases rise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

As Firozabad continues to reel under the impact of cases of high fever, the Central government has decided to send a team of experts from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme to the district.

B.P. Singh, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Firozabad said the team would visit on Friday. Dr. Singh said the number of casualties because of dengue and other diseases had touched 49.

However, he refused to confirm if the deaths had been caused by dengue or other diseases, and requested waiting for the audit. "We can confirm that out of the fresh cases in the last 24 hours, 36 tested positive for dengue and two for scrub typhus," Mr. Singh

Cong. stages protests against Karnal incident

Anti-farmers polices of Haryana govt. exposed, says Selja

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Haryana Congress workers and leaders on Thursday staged demonstrations in several parts of the State against the recent baton charge on farmers in Karnal, accusing the BJP-led State government's policies of being against farmers.

In Karnal, the party's state president Kumari Selja led the demonstration and said that the policies of the BJP and its alliance partner - the Jannayak Janta Party

- has been exposed time

and again for ignoring the

interests of farmers. "The recent use of batons on farmers protesting in Haryana's Karnal during a protest against BJP leaders is the latest example of the BJP-JJP's insensitivity towards the farming community," she said.

She said the Congress



Kumari Selia

had submitted a memorandum to the Governor, Bandaru Dattatreya, seeking action against the officials involved in the violence against farmers.

Land Acquisition Bill

"We also requested the Governor not to give his assent to the new Land Acquisition Bill passed in the Monsoon session and send it back to the Haryana Legislative Assembly for reconsideration under Article 200 of the Constitution. This Bill is anti-farmer, antipoor and undemocratic," she said.

Ms. Selja, in a statement, said that after the Congress party's complaint, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought a report within four weeks from the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of Karnal regarding the baton charge on farmers on August 28.

"The NHRC move is a welcome one. I am hopeful that this step will pave the way for justice to the farmers. I believe that the administration will submit the report to the NHRC after conducting a fair investigation and strict action will be taken against the guilty with immediate effect," she

Baghjan oil well fire: new panel to assess damages

SC ousts NGT's 10-member committee

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Thursday formed an expert committee led by former Gauhati High Court judge, Justice B.P. Katakey, to assess the damage and the cost of reparation of the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and surrounding ecologically fragile areas of Assam, which were damaged in the Baghjan oil well blowout in May 2020.

Justice Katakey's committee substitutes the National Green Tribunal's 10-member committee led by the Assam Chief Secretary in which the Managing Director of Oil India Limited, the public sector company allegedly responsible for the fire and destruction, was a member.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said the committee's work would require extensive domain expertise and was of an "adjudicatory" nature. Moreover, the apex court took exception to having the OIL chief on board

the very same committee which would decide the compensation.

The court recorded that this would be a "serious conflict of interest and would not contribute to the fairness of the outcome". Besides Justice Katakey as chairperson, the new committee would comprise Oamar Oureshi, a professor with the Wildlife Institute of India; Ritesh Kumar, Director of the Wetlands International South Asia; Bedanga Bordoloi, a soil expert and G.S. Dang, a petroleum expert.

The court requested the committee to begin its work expeditiously and submit an interim report within a month on the remedial compensation OIL ought to pay. The Court directed OIL to pay for the committee's expenses. The environment ministry has been ordered to appoint a nodal officer to facilitate the committee and take care of its logistical arrangements.

Chapters on prominent leaders taken off Bihar varsity syllabus

Among them are Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bihar government on Thursday took serious note of the removal of chapters on veteran socialist leaders Jayaprakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia from the Post Graduate political science syllabus of the JP University at Chhapra in Saran district.

It sought an explanation from the varsity, ironically named after Jayaprakash Na-Other eminent figures

whose names have been omitted from the syllabus include Davanand Saraswati. Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Bal Gangadhar Tilak. New additions include Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhayay, Subhas Chandra Bose and Jyotiba

"The Vice-Chancellor and Registrar of the university

have been asked to explain, and if there is no satisfactory response, they have to come to the State education department secretariat to explain the background," Education Minister Vijay Kumar Choud-

'CM surprised'

hary said.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, he said, had expressed surprise and anguish and directed that the issue be resolved immediately.

"The issue has been brought into the notice of the honourable Chancellor as well, who is currently outside the State," the Minister said. He directed his department to gather information about changes made in the syllabus of other Universities in the State in recent days. "If anything improper and illegal is found, necessary correc-

HIMACHAL PRADESH

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

tive action will be taken," he asserted.

Earlier, students of the JP University had protested the changes and threatened to launch an agitation. The Vice-Chancellor of the University Faruque Ali, however, said the syllabus committee constituted by the Raj Bhawan had made the changes.

It was Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad's tweet on September 1 that brought the issue to light. "I had set up JP University 30 years ago in the name of Jayaprakash Narayan at my karmbhoomi. Now the RSS-backed Bihar government has removed the thoughts of great socialist leaders like JP and Lohia from the same University. This cannot be tolerated. The government must take immediate cognisance," he had

Ph. No. 01907-266245

Ruckus in Odisha Assembly

Opposition demands resignation of State Law Minister

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

The second day of the Odisha Assembly's monsoon session was washed away after Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress vociferously demanded immediate sacking of State Law Minister Pratap Jena, who was entangled in a murder case.

BJP members rushed to well of the House as soon as the question hour began on Thursday. Waiving posters in front of Speaker's podium, they demanded removal of Mr. Jena from Council of Ministers.

Kulamani Baral, former chairperson of Mahanga block of Cuttack and BJP leader, and his associate Dibyasingh Baral were brutally hacked to death when they were returning to their village Nrutanga January this year. Ramakant Baral, son of

deceased Kulamani Baral,



Odisha Law Minister Pratap Jena

had filed case in Mahanga Police Station against 13 persons including the minister alleging their involvement in the murder. On finding Minister's name missing in the chargesheet, he had moved court seeking a probe against Mr.

Subsequently, Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Salipur ordered fresh probe against Mr. Jena after hearing a petition regarding dropping of minis-

announcements in this

section, please contact our

office at the following number

between 10a.m. and 8p.m.

New Delhi: 011-43579797

ter's name in the chargesheet. Armed with the court direction, BJP members alleged Mr. Jena as a minister could influence investigation process.

"An inspector in charge of police station cannotw probe against State's Law Minister. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik must remove him from his Cabinet to pave the way for a fair investigation," said BJP member Mohan Majhi.

Probe sought

Similarly, Debasish Patnaik, a Congress leader, demanded that the Minister be immediately removed from his position and an independent probe be ordered to find out real culprit in the murder case.

Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro had to adjourn the House due to ruckus created to by Opposition mem-

Two arrested

for GST fraud

The State GST (Goods and

Services Tax) enforcement

wing on Thursday arrested

two persons on charges of

passing on bogus input tax

credit (ITC) worth ₹323

Addressing a press con-

ference here, Sushil Kumar

Lohani, Commissioner of

day, had been arrested for

their involvement in the

creation and operation of

STAFF REPORTER

BHUBANESWAR

The Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Sunder Nagar (HP) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works detailed in th Name of Work Estimated Starting date Earnest Deadline for submissio (in Rs.) -loading Bid of Bid 1. Balance work for C/o 90.00 mtr span suspension foot 06.09.2021 13.09.2021 bridge over Alsed Khad in Tehsil Sundernagar, Distt. 95,12,672/-1,90,500/-Mandi (HP) (SH: C/o balance work of super structure including approach work). The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department Executive Enginee vebsite WWW.hptenders.gov.in. Sunder Nagar Division, HPPWD Sunder Nagar-175018 On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-mail: ee-sun-hp@nic.in

REMEMBRANCE **DEATH**

Security Dept, The Hindu, Chenna passed away on 02-09-2021 Address: Ward No:2, Main Road passed Seelayampatti, Theni Dist, 625515.Mobile No: 9865038052

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Date & Time of Opening: 27.09.2021 at

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where Tender Form available

Commercial Taxes and GST, said Amit Kumar Agrawal, a chartered accountant, and his accom-**WESTERN RAILWAY** plice Satindra Kumar Ya-

> 13 fictitious firms. "The two have availed and passed on ITC worth ₹323 crore by raising fake purchase and sale invoices to the tune of ₹1,819 crores in the name of 13 fictitious or non-existent business entities," said Mr. Lohani.

> > Allowed submission

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Manat D/o Fawaz R/o H.No. Z-2/531, Welcome, Delhi has been kidnapped since 20.06.2017 from her house. In this regard a FIR No. 171/18, dated 21.05.2018 u/s 363 IPC has been lodged at PS, Welcome, Delhi. The description of kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Manat, Father's Name: Fawaz, Age: 03 years, Height: 3', Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Built : Normal, **Wearing** : Unknown

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers. Website: http://cbi.nic.in SHO

e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in P.S., Welcome Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Delhi DP/1000/NE/2021 Ph.: 011-22826808, 8750870722

SEARCH FOR MISSING

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARENCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

namely Raja S/o Lekhraj R/o Jhuggi Krishna Colony, answer the said complaint on or before 25.10.2021.

> Shefali Barnala Tandon, Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Central District, Room No.145, 1st Floor Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

work

HP / 3796/21-22

1.The Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No-III, HPPWD, Shimla-3 on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP.PWD., for the work as detailed in the table. Name of Estimated Starting EMD Deadline for

date of

HIMACHAL PRADESH

			Diu				
1.	Civil &	Rs.	09-09-2021	Rs.	Rs.	Two	15-09-2021
	Sports	1,32,74,682/-		1,70,300/-	500/-	Years	
	infrastructure						
			gh Schoo l Krish				
	playground, up-gradation of Science Lab & Class rooms, painting, Volley Bal Court,						
	plants, rain water harvesting tank for the fire extinguishment and emergency exit etc						
	complete und	der building as	learning AID (B	ALA) schem	ne under	Shimla Sr	nart City).
2.	Annual	Rs.	09-09-2021	Rs.	Rs.	Two	15-09-2021
	surfacing/	27,52,398/-		42,000/-	500/-	Months	
	no nousel						

renewal coat of 30mm thick bituminous concrete KM's at RD's 1/00 to 2/670 under AMP for the year 2021-22) The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

coat on road from Navbahar to Holly Lodge KM's 0/00 to 2/670 (SH:- Providing

The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application Executive Engine Shimla Division No.-III

HP PWD Shimlaon behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

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Witnesso the plantit in the flove sulfree floate out against by and another for Specific ferturerance of Contract exentioned to the plant. You are eretic experiment to anyther ation the above Frontier Court on DE-09-2021 at 10.35 set effor settorals or frough Advicus ed to present the stores, building it d your appearance in the storye. Windston Color Stateme Agency

he profess of the Hortotic Court Inis-N.V.S. MURTHY (EALU) KILLGAREBII May Disk Title

TENDERS

For Sale/eAuction: Damaged Cakes (Semi Finished Good of Ravon Yarn) as follows: 1.Qtv - 72.876 Kg lying at Grasim Industries Limited, Unit: Indian Rayon. Veraval 362 266, Dist- Gir Somnath, Gujarat. Contact Person -Mr. Shankar Kumar- 9998602890 /Mr.

Prakash Nair - 9428835785

Processors Pvt. Ltd., Plot No.- 419/2,3 Road No.-4 Near Hdfc Bank Sachin GIDC, Surat, Gujrat - 349230; Contact Person - Mr. Susanta Bhattacharya – 9998613056 Last Date For Inspection & EMD Deposit -11.09.2021 & Date Of E-auction-13.09.2021 & 14,09_2021 (3PM), Auctioneer: Meenakshi-

9625137014 / M F Islam - 09911003339

(Insurance Claim Material Will Be Sold On 'As Is

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Where Is', 'Whatever There Is' And 'No Complaint' Basis) For More Details: www.Salvagemanagers.Com

Support@Salvagemanagers.Com

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
"R-181, Block-B PUBLIC NOTICE
Residential House: "8-181, Block-B,
Ramprastha Colony, Ghaziabad (U.P.)"
Be it known to all concerned that on behalf or yclient Mr. Sankalp Singh Sandhu, I hereby inform that the first original sale deed (From M/s Mahamaya General Finance Co. Pvt. Ltd.
to Mr. Prahlad Dass) of the above said property is missing & not traceable; if anyone finds the document release contact the behalf.

umber or address.

FIR has been lodged in Crime Branch, Delh Police Vide LR No.167976/2021 and any use f this document by any Person or Company rill be illegal. My client, lawful owner of the roperty, namely Mr. Sankalp Singh Sandhu now intending to sell the above said roperty. Any Person, Association, Company, m, Bank, Financial institution, and any legal ntity having any sort of claim title or interes aid subject property under sale may put forth is/her/its claim to the undersigned within Ten (10) days from the publication of this Notice nd thereafter NO claim whatsoever shall be ntertained in the future.

Harmeet Singh Gulati (Advoca F-203 Lawyer's Chamber, Karkardooma Court, Delhi, Mobile: 9810298893



AASMA BEGAM

women namely Aasma Begam, W/o: Abraruddin, R/o: H.No. 756, Haveli Azam Khan, Jama Masjid, Delhi has been missing since 25.08.2021 from her House. In this regard DD No. 09A dated 26.08.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Jama Masjid, Delhi. The description of missing women is as

SHO

General public is hereby informed that a

Name: Aasma Begam, Age: 34 Years, Height: 5', Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Black Colour Kameez, White Colour Kadai & Black Palaza and Black Colour Plastic If anyone has any information about this missing women please

inform P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi. Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

Police Station, Jama Masjid, Delhi Ph: 011-23261625, 23269777 DP/965/CD/2021

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

K.KALANGIAM(86), Retired Daffedar

In memory of your loved ones

RAIL LAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY A statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways, Government o Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konnectus Tower-II, DMRC Buil Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi-110002 Ph.: +91-11-23232854 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER (RFP Notice No. RLDA/RFP/CD/37 of 2021) GRANT OF LEASE FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON RAILWAY LAND PARCEL ADMEASURING 0.75 HA at Asansol Site Opposite to DRM Office (ER), (West Bengal) for 45 YEARS Site Description Area BUA Offered Bid Security Reserve Price

Asansol Site-1 Opposite to DRM Office (ER), (West Bengal) 7,500 15,000 Sqm. Sqm. ONLINE PRE-BID MEETING ON WEBEX: 10th September, 2021 AT 12:30 Hrs (Online Pre-bid meeting details to be obtained from JGM/Project-1). Last Date of Submission of E-bid Online: 27.10.2021 UPTO 15:00 HRS For Further details of the project, please visit our website www.rlda.indianrailways.gov. or on e-procurement Portal www.tenderwizard.in/RLDA Under the heading 'e-tender For any clarifications, may please contact: -

Note:-Any Corrigendum or Addendum shall be published only on RLDA's Website

Jt. General Manager/Project-1 | Chief Project Manager/Kolkata | For E-bid Queries-M: 94731 99244 | M: 62074 92215 | Mr. Suraj, M: 95996 53865 gmland2@rlda.railnet.gov.in | cpmrldakolkata@gmail.com

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

Sec-20 B, Faridabad, Haryana has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 285/19 u/s 380, P.S.: Patel Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Raja** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Raja has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Raja of FIR No. 285/19 u/s 380, P.S.: Patel Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to

Cases fall by 97% in Karnataka in 100 days

Five districts contributed 75% of State's total active cases; Kerala mulls reopening of schools

In 100 days, Karnataka has brought down the active CO-VID-19 cases by 97%, from 6,03,639 on May 17 to 18,386 on August 31.

In the last four weeks, active cases dropped from 24,280 to 18,386, according to an analysis by Project Jee-

COVID-19

van Raksha, a public-private partnership initiative involving the Public Health Foundation of India, the Indian Medical Association and Proxima, a management consulting firm.

A look at the district-wise

STAFF REPORTER

Thursday morning.

Four fishermen were killed

and 12 others were injured

when a boat capsized near

Azheekkal here in Kerala on

identified as Thankappan,

70, Sunil Dutt, 24, Sudevan,

53, and Sreekumar, 52, all

residents of Tharayilkkada-

The boat Omkaram re-

portedly lost balance and

capsized after it got caught

in strong waves. Since the

incident took place very

near to the shore, rescue op-

erations were launched im-

mediately by others on the

spot. Some residents said

the Coastal police failed to

arrive on time. They also al-

lege that their repeated at-

tempts to alert the Coastal

police unit were ignored.

vu in Alappuhza district.

The deceased have been

4 fishermen killed in

Kerala boat capsize

Coastal police arrived late: residents

spread of active cases in August shows that Bidar and Raichur had the lowest number of active cases - two and six, respectively.

At the other end of the spectrum, five districts contributed 75% of State's total active cases as on August 31. Bengaluru Urban had the highest number with 7,438 active cases, contributing 41% of the total active cases. With 2,322 active cases, Dakshina Kannada's share was 13%, Udupi (1,697) 9%, Mysuru (1,021) and Hassan (1,050) 6% each.

Experts say the performance of these districts in September and October will set the future COVID-19 trend in the State. Mysore

The capsized boat being

brought to the shore in

Kollam on Thursday. •PTI

Fisheries Minister Saji

Cherian visited the families

of the deceased and an-

nounced an emergency as-

sistance of ₹10,000 to their

kin and ₹5,000 to the in-

jured. Ex gratia would be

provided to the immediate

dependents of the dead and

free treatment will be made

available to the survivors.



Long wait: People queuing up for COVID-19 vaccine at a special drive in Bengaluru. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Sanjeev, convener of Project Jeevan Raksha, said eight districts enforced high-quality containment steps and ensured less than 100 new cases during the period.

Kerala reported 32,097

new cases on Thursday when 1,74,307 samples were tested in the past 24 hours. The test positivity rate has also stabilised to around 18%

for the past three days. The Kerala government is

also mulling reopening of schools in the State. General Education Secretary A.P.M. Mohammed Hanish told The *Hindu* that there could not be any time frame for the school reopening. An expert committee had to be set up and it would need to hold wide-ranging discussions before a decision.

10 deaths in Andhra

Andhra Pradesh reported 10 deaths due to COVID-19 and 1,378 cases in the 24 hours ending Thursday morning.

Telangana recorded 313 COVID-19 cases on Thursday, taking the total to 6,58,689.

(With inputs from Thiruvananthapuram, Vijayawada and Hyderabad)

BJP will fight next election under Bommai, says Shah

He also pats Yediyurappa for doing 'a great job'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HUBBALLI

In what is being seen as a message to BJP leaders and cadre that the new Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is not a "stop-gap" arrangement, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in Davangere on Thursday that he had confidence that under the leadership of Mr. Bommai, the BJP would come back to power with full mandate in Karnataka.

A section of party leaders had been speculating on the possibility of a leader from the RSS replacing Mr. Bommai. There was also speculation that former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's son Vijayendra could



Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai welcoming Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the Hubbali airport on Thursday. • PTI

emerge a competitor to Mr. Bommai. However, the remarks of BJP's key strategist Mr. Shah has for now ended all such speculation.

Addressing a gathering, Mr. Shah said Mr. Bommai had vast experience in governance as well as in public life, and he had been with the BJP for long.

However, the Home Mi-

nister did not forget to recall the contribution of Mr. Yediyurappa. He said Mr. Yediyurappa did a "great job" during his two terms as Chief Minister, especially for the development of villages and farmers. "If at all the era of development began in Karnataka, it was under the BJP rule and under Mr. Yediyurappa's rule," he said.

HC sentences 4 IAS officials to jail term in contempt case

STAFF REPORTER

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Thursday gave varying jail terms to four IAS officers - Revu Muthyala Raju (Additional Secretary to the Chief Minister), S.S. Rawat (Principal Ssecretary-Finance), M.V. Seshagiri Babu (Inspector-General of Registration and Stamps) and A.Md. Imtiyaz – and retired IAS officer Manmohan Singh in a contempt case. It also imposed fines on them.

The court, however, allowed them a month to file appeals, during which period the jail term will remain suspended.

The court ordered that the petitioner, T. Savitramma, should be paid compensation out of the salaries of these officers.

Contempt notices had been served on them for their failure to pay compensation (in spite of court orders) to Savitramma of Nellore district after a three-acre D-form patta land in Yerragunta village in Venkatachalam Mandal that was owned by her husband Venkataiah, who died in April 2018, acquired.

Ms. Savitramma said the land was allotted and given possession to the erstwhile National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped for the construction of its regional centre without giving her compensation as per rules.

Moreover, when the matter was pending to be sorted out, the MRO concerned had issued a notice dated November 5, 2016 seeking an explanation within 15 days why the patta granted to her should not be cancelled due to its non-cultivation.

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Odisha, Saurashtra & Kutch, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Telangana, Yanam and Karaikal

gartala	0.1	32.6	26.4	Kozhikode	8	.29.8	24.8
hmedabad	5.3	31.1	25.5	Kurnool		.33.8	24.8
.izawl		28.3	21.7	Lucknow		.36.5	27.5
llahabad		36.7	28.0	Madurai	1	.34.6	25.1
engaluru	2.9	26.7	20.6	Mangaluru	. 17.1	.29.2	23.2
hopal	0.6	31.3	23.5	Mumbai	6	.31.5	24.8
hubaneswar		33.2	25.2	Mysuru	1	.30.0	21.6
handigarh	11.5	31.0	25.5	New Delhi	118	.32.3	23.7
hennai		30.0	27.0	Patna	–	.34.2	28.0
oimbatore		31.9	23.4	Port Blair	76	.28.1	23.2
ehradun	0.4	32.4	22.8	Puducherry	–	.33.0	23.6
iangtok	3.4	20.5	17.9	Pune	–	.30.1	22.2
ioa	9	30.8	23.5	Raipur	–	.34.0	24.6
iuwahati		30.5	25.9	Ranchi	–	.32.4	23.8
lubballi		28.0	21.0	Shillong	2	.24.0	16.8
lyderabad		32.8	23.2	Shimla	4	.24.9	18.0
mphal		29.9	22.1	Srinagar	–	.29.9	14.6
aipur	12	31.2	24.2	Thiruvananthapuram	–	.31.4	24.7
ochi	23	30.4	23.4	Tiruchi	11	.34.9	23.6
ohima	19	23.5	17.7	Vijayawada	22	.34.4	25.2
olkata	6	33.8	27.0	Visakhapatnam	0.2	.32.4	25.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overal pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI

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 statue and monuments.

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by

reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

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

Maharashtra teachers to be fully vaccinated before schools reopen

CM will take final decision on reopening with State COVID-19 task force: Ajit Pawar

STAFF REPORTER

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Thursday said that the State government planned to fully vaccinate all teaching and non-teaching staff before the reopening of schools.

Speaking in Mumbai, Mr. Pawar said the final decision on starting schools would be taken by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray after his discussion with the State CO-VID-19 task force on Sunday.

He said, "While [State Education Minister] Varsha Gaikwad had declared a reopening date during an earlier review, the final decision rests with the CM who has said he would announce a date only after discussing the matter with the task force.



reopened in some States, students tested positive within a few days

While schools have reopened in some States, students tested positive within a few days. Kerala has the highest number of patients, followed by Maharashtra, and the Centre has directed to take required measures to celebrate festivals indoors."

He added, "Hence, we have decided that until a decision is taken, we will fully vaccinate teaching and nonteaching staff in schools, be they Zilla Parishad or government schools, grant or non-grant institutions."

'Parents will be relieved' The Deputy Chief Minister said even parents will be relieved to an extent if both doses of the vaccine are administered to teachers and other staff of the school their child is attending.

Meanwhile, Minister Bacchu Kadu said a decision on reopening schools will be taken in the next two days. "A meeting on this is to be held within the next couple of days. Schools have started in other parts of the country, so it should be started in our own State, too. But the decision will have to be taken carefully keeping in mind

that Maharashtra has the

highest number of active

cases after Kerala," he said.

State Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Sunday had said the State government planned to fully vaccinate all teaching and non-teaching staff by September 5.

Mr. Tope had said that a special drive was being conducted to achieve this, and that the State COVID-19 task force was of the opinion that schools in districts which were not reporting positive cases could be reopened.

State's active case tally further dips to 50,607

4,755 recoveries, 4,342 cases recorded

STAFF REPORTER

Maharashtra's recoveries barely exceeded its recoveries on Thursday, with 4,755 patients being discharged against 4,342 new COVID-19 cases. The active case tally has dipped again to 50,607.

As many as 55 deaths took the State's toll to 1,37,551. The case fatality rate remains at 2.12%.

State Health Minister Rajesh Tope said while cases were declining, the threat from the virus was far from over. He said a lockdown would only be imposed in if the oxygen demand rose to a very high level.

The total cases have reached 64,73,674, while its cumulative recoveries have risen to 62,81,985, with the recovery rate rising incrementally to 97.03% Pune reported nearly 950

new cases, taking its total cases to 11,21,068, while four deaths pushed the total death over 18,700. As per district authori-

ties, the active case tally has exceeded 9,300.

Mumbai reported 440 new cases to take its total case tally to 7,45,010, while the active count rose incrementally to 3,756. Three deaths took the city's death toll to 15,984.

Duplicate toners

A 32-year-old man has been arrested here for allegedly manufacturing duplicate brands, the police said.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU India's National Newspaper

E-TENDER NOTICE

CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tenders against Tender No. CR-NGP-M-02-DT-01-09-2021, Closing Date/Time: 23.09.2021 12:30 Hrs under "Two Packet' system. Bidders will be able to submit their original /revised bids up to closing date and time only on Indian Railway's website www. ireps.gov. in. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Name of the work "Mechanised cleaning of coaches during Primary Maintenances, interior cleaning of coaches of RBPC trains cleaning Depot premises & provision of On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) in trains based at Coaching Depot Ńagpur and Ajni". **Location o** the work: Nagpur & Aini, Completion Period: 2 years Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 24,07,70,326.75 (Rupees Twenty Four Crore, Seven Lakh, Seventy Thousand, Three Hundred Twenty Six and Seventy Five paise only) Earnest Money Deposit: Ni Tender Document Cost: ₹ 10.000 (Rupees Ten thousand only) (non refundable) **Tender closing date and time:** 23.09.2021 at 12:30 Hrs. For more details, please log on to www.ireps.gov.in.

Rail Madad Helpline: 139 NGP-94

Actor Sidharth Shukla dead

40-year-old had won Bigg Boss 13

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Popular television and film actor Sidharth Shukla (40), who became a household name with his role in the long-running show Balika Vadhu, died on Thursday.

Shukla, who is survived by his mother and two sisters, was taken to Cooper Hospital in Juhu at 10.20 a.m., authorities at the hospital said. Though some reports suggested a heart attack, the cause of his death is not immediately clear.

"He was brought dead to the hospital. The cause of the death will be known after the post-mortem is con-



Sidharth Shukla

ducted... it will take some time," said Cooper Hospital Dean Dr. Shailesh Mohite.

The hospital's Dr. Jitten Bhavsar said Shukla - who won Bigg Boss 13 in 2020 was declared dead by the principal medical officer.

Shukla began his career as a model and made his acting debut in the show Babul Ka Aangann Chootey Na.

Sambhajiraje-led delegation of MPs meets President

BJP MP urges Kovind to request Centre to raise 50% quota cap

STAFF REPORTER

Bharatiya Janata Party MP Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati, who led a delegation of Maharashtra MPs on Thursday to meet President President Ram Nath Kovind, said they urged Mr. Kovind to request the Centre to lift the 50% reservation limit.

Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, Mr. Sambhajiraje a direct descendant of the Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji and social reformer

Rajashri Shahu Maharaj said as the Supreme Court, while scrapping the Maratha quota law in May, had upheld the 1992 Indra Sawhney verdict, the 50% quota limit in a State remained. The delegation consisted

of MPs from the four major parties in the State and included Ranjitsinh Naik-Nimbalkar (BJP), Vandana Chavan (NCP), Vinayak Raut (Shiv Sena) and MLA Sangram Thopate (Congress), who filled in for party Chandrapur MP Suresh Dhanorkar, who could not attend as he was unwell. He said, "We explained to the President in detail all aspects of the Maratha quota issue and he patiently heard us out."

Man dupes Kharghar hotel

RAINA ASSAINAR NAVI MUMBAI

of ₹25 lakh

The Kharghar police are on the lookout for a 43-yearold man who along with his 12-year-old son escaped from the bathroom window of a hotel after staying for eight months and running up a bill of ₹25 lakh.

The accused, Murali Kamath, checked into the hotel in Kharghar on November 23, 2020, and told the owner that he was a VFX programmer in the film industry. He said he stayed in Andheri and planned to buy a theme park in Khopoli. On July 17, when the accused failed to respond, the hotel management opened the door with a duplicate key and found the room empty.

The police filed an FIR in August this year after a preliminary investigation.

OSBI

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Stressed Asset Recovery Branch (SARB) 2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001

Demand Notice U/S 13(2)

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower Mr. Rajnish Kumar, S/o Sri Awadh Bihari Prasad (Borrower) has defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by him from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to him under Section 13 (2) o Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on his last know addresses, but they have been returned unserved and as such he is hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of Borrower/ Guarantor	Details of properties/ Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice	Date of NPA	(as on the date of Notice)
S/o Sri Awadh Bihari Prasad Add: 158, Amartha, Po- Gachhai, Vill- Amartha, Anchal- Karakat, Rohtas -802214	Part -I (Hypothecation of Movable Properties) Document of Housing Loan 1. Letter of Arrangement, 2. Term loan agreement for Housing loan 3. Mortgage Confirmation 4. Letter of consent and agreement to mortgage on dated 12.02.2015 and Amount Secured is Rs. 10.00 Lakh and Registered in the name of Mr. Rajnish Kumar, S/o Sri Awadh Bihari Prasad.		12.11.2016	Rs. 18,22,670/- as on 27.07.2021 Plus further interest, Cost charges etc.

Part - II (Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Properties) All that land & building of Mauja-Amartha, Thana & Anchal - Karakat, Thana No- 568, Halka No-4, Khata No - 199, Plot No - 1639, measuring 1 Katha, Deed No - 6115, Dated 23.07.2013 Distribution of the control of Rohtas, registered in name of Sri Rajnish Kumar, S/o Sri Awadh Bihari Prasad, Boundaris of the Land: North - Road ther Jamuna Singh Yadav, South - Nand Kishore Singh, East - Kamla Singh, West - Kanti Mahto

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower (s) hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failling which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub - section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002. This demand notice has been issued in supersession of all earlier notices/actions taken by the authorised office

under SARFAESI Act 2002 The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available

Sd/ Authorized Officer Date: 27.07.2021 Place: Patna State Bank of India, SARB, Patna



Noble intentions

The UN must ensure that the Taliban uphold human rights and give up terror tactics

s India ended its month-long presidency of the UN Security Council this week, the Government **** claimed a victory of sorts for chairing a session that resulted in the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2593, condemning terrorism and urging the Taliban to ensure human rights in Afghanistan. The Government has said that the resolution – sponsored by the U.S., the U.K. and France – addressed key Indian concerns, calling for the Taliban to ensure safe evacuations of Afghans wishing to leave and not allowing Afghan soil to be used for terrorist activity. The passage of the resolution was timely, practically coinciding with the exit of the last U.S. troops from Kabul, and the Taliban's declaration of complete victory. It also followed on three discussions held under India's chairmanship that have set out the expectations from the new regime in Afghanistan: the importance of upholding rights; to push for an inclusive, negotiated political settlement for government, and condemning all acts of terror, including the recent attack on Kabul airport; preventing any future attacks, and combating of the presence of UN-designated entities. However, the resolution did not contain any consequential language that would give the UNSC's stated intentions any real teeth, and appears to accept the Taliban regime as the default force in Afghanistan.

While it is very early to consider more punitive action against the Taliban for violating their commitments by using the UN Charter's "Chapter 7" mandate, that empowers the UNSC to maintain peace, it is disappointing that the India-chaired resolution does not contain language that would hold the new regime more accountable. The watered-down language was probably on account of severe opposition from Russia and China, who later decided to abstain. This divide in the P-5 nations will only prove to be counterproductive if the UNSC wants to remain "seized" of the situation, as the resolution affirms. It is hoped that the UN system acknowledges the powerful leverage it has in Afghanistan's future and actualises all mechanisms in its mandate to monitor the progress of government formation. A major tool is the India-chaired 1988 (Taliban) Sanctions Committee, due to meet soon, which needs to ensure that no designated leader of the Taliban and their associates are given recourse to funds, arms or travel permission unless they show a commitment to international principles. The renewal, on September 17, of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan's mandate is another lever. As a concerned neighbour of Afghanistan, one that could be drastically affected by an uptick in terrorism there, and a believer in the UN-led multilateral order, India still has a role in Afghan's future. While it has decided to embark on talks with the Taliban in Doha, it must continue to play that role on the world stage.

Breakthrough challenge

Vaccine makers should move to making vaccines for the Delta variants

Tith over 66 crore vaccines administered since the vaccination drive commenced in January, India has now inoculated at least half its adult population with at least one dose, and 16% with two. There is a small, discernible rise in the number of new infections. Kerala, which contributes the bulk of infections, also has among the highest proportions of the population who are double vaccinated. This apparent paradox underlies concerns about the rise in 'breakthrough infections', or confirmed infections in those who took the second dose at least two weeks earlier. A recent study by CSIR scientists found that nearly a quarter of 600 fully vaccinated care workers were reinfected. Earlier studies from the CMC Vellore, and PGIMER, Chandigarh, too have reported between 1%-10% of fully vaccinated health-care workers as having been infected. However, less than 5% of them have required hospitalisation and no deaths have been confirmed, indicating the effectiveness of vaccines in preventing severe sickness and death. Internationally too, the trend is clear. Israel and the U.S. in spite of high vaccination coverage, continue to report new cases; though here too, the infection rate is much higher in the unvaccinated. The prime suspects, internationally as well as in India, are the Delta variants and related sub-lineages that are believed to form the bulk of coronavirus infections. The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) that tracks mutations in coronavirus strains has said that the breakthrough infections reported so far are within "expected" numbers. That is, vaccines in large, controlled clinical trials had demonstrated 70%-90% efficacy but lost considerable ability to reduce symptomatic infections when confronted with the Delta variants, and so a certain fraction of those fully vaccinated would continue to be vulnerable.

tate to be able to avoid antibodies, and vaccines, therefore, would have to keep being upgraded, it seems that the moment appears to have come too soon. A country like India, in spite of being a major vaccine producer in the pre-pandemic era, has only now managed to get production lines to deliver one crore vaccines a day. While other vaccines are in the pipeline, all of them are designed on the Wuhan-virus platform and although companies claim that the strength of m-RNA and DNAbased vaccine platforms lies in the ability to quickly tweak them to accommodate new variants, there are no reports yet, anywhere in the world, of vaccine makers specifying a timeline for vaccines that are tuned to the Delta variants. Vaccine makers who may have got emergency-use authorisations but are a while away from launch, should ideally move to making vaccines for the Delta variants and not rely on their existing pipeline.

While it is a fact of evolution that viruses would mu-

A hydro onslaught the Himalayas cannot take

There is rock solid scientific evidence to demand the cancellation of many upcoming and approved hydel projects



MALLIKA BHANOT & C.P. RAJENDRAN

n normal circumstances, when a mistake is understood and suffered, one tends to learn from it and not repeat it. Unfortunately, this does not hold true in the case of the policymakers who are bent upon permitting projects and large-scale infrastructure in the already fragile and vulnerable Ganga-Himalayan basin. Recurrent disasters in the last decade in the State of Uttarakhand have been studied and analysed. And in every disaster, the increasing anthropogenic pressure in this area has been found to be a direct or an indirect contributor. The most recent example is the Rishi-Ganga valley disaster, in February this vear which claimed over 200 lives as the river turned into a flood carrying a heavy load of silt and debris and demolishing hydropower projects along its course. While science and logic tell us to press on with conservation and protection in these sensitive areas, our Government has decided to go in the dangerous and opposite direction.

The background

The affidavit filed recently by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC in an ongoing matter in the Supreme Court of India has recommended the construction of seven partially constructed hydroelectric projects in the Uttarakhand Himalaya. This essentially goes against the core mandate of the Ministry which is to conserve the country's natural environment – and one of the prominent electoral promises of the Government, the rejuvenation of one of the country's major rivers, the Ganga. After the Kedarnath tragedy of 2013, in suo motu cognisance by the Supreme Court, an expert body (EB-I) was constituted to investigate whether the "mushrooming of hydro-power projects" in the State of Uttarakhand was linked to the disaster. In its findings, EB-I said there was a

these dams in aggravating the disaster. Paving the way for the projects, the Ministry formed committee after committee until it got approval for these projects with some design changes.

This affidavit, dated August 17, reveals that the Government is inclined towards construction of 26 other projects, as in the recommendation of the expert body (EB-II; B.P. Das committee). The conclusions of the first expert body (EB-I), chaired by Ravi Chopra, that had flagged the incalculable environmental risks of such structures have been conveniently sidelined and overwritten by EB-II whose mandate has been to pave the way for all projects through some design change modifications. Politicians in cahoots with private developers are bent upon going ahead with such projects for short-term monetary gains despite the dire warnings of climate change threats and environmental challenges. It must be noted that the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has special significance in the context of fragile mountainous ecological regimes.

Dangerous reversal

The aforementioned affidavit submitted by the MoEFCC conceals the Ministry's own observations and admissions given in its earlier affidavit dated May 5, 2014 which admitted that hydroelectric projects did aggravate the 2013 flood. Interestingly, the recent affidavit also conceals the minutes of the meeting and decision taken by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on February 2, 2019 in this regard. The minutes of this meeting make the policy decision of there being "no new hydropower projects" on the Ganga along with the cancellation of those that have not reached at 50% of its construction. This in itself is a bizarre demarcation because on one hand there is an acceptance of the devastative impact of the dams (and the decision not to have more) while on the other, there is a push to still pursue them on an unfounded logic of money having been spent on them. Should we continue with a mistake made or make amends?

The sustainability of the dams in the long term is highly question-

on the excess availability of water. Climate change models are clear about the cascading impacts of global warming trends on the glaciers of the Himalaya – the main source of water in the region that sustains the drainage network within the mountain chain. Temperatures across the region are projected to rise by about 1°C to 2°C on average by 2050. Retreating glaciers and the alternating phases of floods and drought will impact the seasonal flows of rivers.

The most crucial aspect is the existence of sediment hotspot paraglacial zones, which at the time of a cloud burst, contribute huge amounts of debris and silt in the river, thereby increasing the river volume and the devastation downstream. The flash floods in these Himalayan valleys do not carry water alone; they also carry a massive quantity of debris. This was pointed out by EB-II alongside its recommendation not build any projects beyond 2,000 metres or north of the MCT, or the Main Central Thrust (it is a major geological fault). The existing fully commissioned dams in the region are already indicative of the fact that these high-capital intensive ventures have negatively impacted local communities and their livelihoods. It is high time the MoEFCC formulated a written position on climate change adaptation with respect to the hydropower sector, after a thorough public discourse.

'Risk-laden artifacts'

Amelie Huber, a political ecologist who has conducted extensive research on the hydropower development in northeast India, says that the dams in the mountainous regions that are exposed to earthquakes, floods, extreme rainfall, avalanches and landslides, are "risk-laden artifacts" (https:// clichéd discourses on hydropower as a renewable source of green energy promoted by the dam lobby, deliberately ignore the contentious externalities such as social displacement, ecological impacts, environmental and technological

Factor of climate change

These discourses assume great significance in the Himalayan terrains as these projects exacerbate ecological vulnerability, in a region that is already in a precarious state. The intense anthropogenic activities associated with the proliferation of the hydroelectric projects in these precarious regions accelerate the intensity of flash floods, avalanches, and landslides. The additional element of climate change makes these scenarios much worse. About 15% of the great earthquakes (of magnitudes greater than 8) of the 20th century took place in the Himalaya and many of its segments are likely to see a period of intense earthquake activity in the future, as studies show. The 2015 Nepal earthquake is a case in point. Several dams were damaged in that event destroying a third of Nepal's

hydropower. The recent events such as the Rishi Ganga tragedy and the disasters of 2012 (flashfloods), 2013 are examples of how hydroelectric projects which come in the way of high-velocity flows aggravate a disaster and should be treated as a warning against such projects in the disaster-prone Uttarakhand river valleys. The proliferation of dams is not restricted to Uttarakhand. By 2007, Sikkim had entered a contract with private puplayers development of 5,000 MW and Arunachal Pradesh signed memoranda of understanding in 2010 for 40,000 MW. As Ms. Huber points out, "these agreements thrived on speculative investments and political brokering.... Private companies... often partner with public companies - have minimal accountability or experience in the courier and logistics, real estate, steel fabrication, and tourism sectors".

She cites the example of the 510 MW Teesta V hydropower plant in central Sikkim, commissioned in been complaining about the sinking of mountain slopes, drying up of springs, development of fissures and increased incidents of landslides. The construction and maintenance of an extensive network of underground tunnels carrying water to the powerhouses contribute to the failure of mountain slopes

Several people in the Tapovan Vishnugad hydroelectric project were washed away earlier this year, while scores were buried in the debris of the 2013 floods aggravated by the Phata-Byung and Singoli-Bhatwari hydroelectric projects of the Kedarnath valley. Many lives and livelihoods were lost in the Ukhimath flash floods of 2012 where the Kali-Ganga and Madmaheshwar dams are located. The dangers of an impending earthquake or flash flood loom large over the highly vulnerable Chamoli region where Vihsnugad-Pippalkoti is based. We are already aware of the massive impact of the Tehri hydroelectric project, if an unfortunate catastrophe strikes this gigantic structure.

The river must flow free

These are the projects that have been approved by the Government with no science backing them but with several scientific truths demanding their cancellation. A preposterous amount of money is being wasted in the construction of these dams that will always function much below their efficiency, cause the loss of water and forests, and render the area fragile. By the time they are constructed, the cost of electricity generated will also be phenomenally high and would have no buyers. Considering the environmental and cultural significance of these areas, it is imperative that the Government refrains from the economically challenged rapacious construction of hydroelectric projects and declares the upper reaches of all the headstreams of the Ganga as eco-sensitive zones. It must allow the river to flow unfettered and free.

Mallika Bhanot is a member of Ganga Ahvaan, a citizen forum working towards conservation of the Ganga and the Himalayas, C.P. Rajendran is an adjunct professor at the National Institute of

There has to be space for Bharati, and Bama too

The Delhi University undergraduate syllabus review case is a setback for pioneering academic freedom and thought



APOORVANAND

he decision of the authorities of the University of Delhi to remove the texts by Dalit writers Bama Faustina Soosairaj, Sukirtharani and Mahasweta Devi from the undergraduate courses of English literature should worry the academic community for the reasons given and the manner in which it was done.

Consultative syllabus drafting These writings were part of different papers of the undergraduate programme. The syllabus was drafted through a long process of consultation with the teachers of the undergraduate programme and approved unanimously. There was no dissent note even from any of the faculty members. The established norm requires the courses to be endorsed by the academic council, which comprises teachers from all disciplines and is the apex body of the university for academic matters. Usually, the council respects the academic decision of the department concerned. But the University of Delhi has created another layer of an oversight committee to look at the syllabus cleared by the department before

putting it up for discussion by the nominees of the authorities. One need not say that this is an unnecessary arrangement as there is another standing committee of the academic council to look at any objections to the courses.

It is this committee which ignored and overruled the collective academic wisdom of the department of English and arbitrarily removed these texts. And the members of the academic council, ignoring the protests from their colleagues from the English department, seconded the decision of the oversight committee. They know well that these writings must have been chosen after a long debate and discussion among the faculty members teaching these courses. There are certain departments which take this task seriously and there are some which do not bother about the rigour of the process. The department of English cannot be faulted for a lack of rigour at least.

This insensitivity of the academic council towards the intellectual labour put in by their colleagues of the English department is a sign of lack of collegiality in the apex body. It is disturbing that a majority of the members of this body, most of them nominees of the Vice-Chancellor and ex-officio members, choose to follow the wishes of the authority. This is not their role. They abdicate their responsibility by not engaging with



academic arguments and simply toeing the line of the authorities.

The FYUP rollback case

One must also note that this very academic council also took a momentous decision of introducing the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) without any discussion. The casual approach of the academic council in a matter such as this explains why it did not care about this 'small' issue of three texts. We had witnessed the same pusillanimity when the academic council had approved the FYUP in 2012 and then withdrew it in 2014 at the instance of the Government. The academic council showed no embarrassment in rolling back what it had termed as a historic and revolutionary step only two years earlier! I remember asking the then head of my department the reason why he had voted for FYUP and he nonchalantly told me that it was for the 'people above' to think and not his concern.

We, as teachers, do need to introspect about this internal, moral

weakness for which only we are question of representation and dies, be it departmental committees or faculty bodies or the academic council. It is we who fail the students and the university by not performing our role as members of these crucial committees. We forego our freedom of thought for the comfort of being on the 'right'

Patronising approach

Dismissing the criticism of the censoring of the syllabus the University said, "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. Such an inclusive approach is important for the young minds who imbibe the teaching-learning emanating from the syllabus in letter and spirit. Therefore, the content of the syllabus depicts the idea of inclusive-

ness, diversity and harmony." The patronising approach towards young minds aside, need one repeat that the role of the department of literatures is precisely this: to understand how emotions and sentiments are formed, to examine the claim of a sentiment to be universal, the question of whether the 'subalterns can speak', not only for themselves but for others too, and why the

enough to have space for the empathic and nationalist voice of Subramania Bharati. It is equally important to have the space for the assertive voices of Bama and Sukirtharani. The chairman of the committee is free not to look at things in terms of caste but he is not at liberty to erase the reality of castes. The removal of Draupadi and the refusal to have any text by Mahasweta Devi reveals the political bias of the committee. The story depicts the resistance of an Adivasi woman despite her being ravaged by the security forces, who confronts the 'nation' with the nudity of body. Obviously, it leaves the claim of the nation shamefaced.

It is dismaying

The department of English of Delhi University was one of the first to diversify and Indianise its syllabus by opening up to the writings from languages. In this process, it discovered many Indias, the silenced ones, those who are laying claim over this India, and exposed its students to them. It is sad that the process is now being reversed and that too by those who have no academic authority to do so. Even more dismaying is the fact that the larger academic community of the university watches this silently while this butchering takes place.

Apoorvanand is a teacher and writer

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.

Back to school There are parents, of well-to-do schoolchildren in particular, who have been sceptical about the opening of schools by claiming that schools cannot enforce standard COVID-19 protocols and that their children would be at risk. To such parents, I have a question. Why do they not see the same risk when they take their children to known and unknown leisure spots, malls,

multiplexes, social gatherings and other public places? Even in normal times schools should have all the basic facilities such as clean drinking water, washrooms and so on. The transport arrangements and commuting with parents also need to be safe. Hygiene is the most important aspect in a school whether private or government run. What is new now is that the children should be taught

to follow COVID-19 protocols. It is important for parents to follow these at home and set an example for children to follow. At this time, both parents and school managements need to cooperate to run schools safely. Teachers can play a primary role in instilling confidence among children. N. NAGARAJAN,

are beginning to reopen

schools. Eighteen months of not having schooling is a major setback for any child in the process of his learning. Though an online class is no match for a physical classroom, it is also not available to a majority of students. Schools should be allowed to run following strict adherence to standards of COVID-19 appropriate behaviour. Teachers have a very crucial role to play. DR. D.V.G. SANKARARAO,

■ It is good that many States

Bona fide press

As a remedy, the direction of the Madras High Court to the Tamil Nadu government to form a State Press Council may prove worse than the disease of removing fake journalism. It could end up being used by the ruling party to pack the council with its 'yes pressmen' to reap huge political dividends.

A workable solution is to cancel, in the form of a judicial order, the passes and



K. CHELLAPPAN, Chennai

unbiased news.

Is monetising public assets a good idea?

PARLEY

Ajay Shah

and Policy

Montek

Ahluwalia

Commission

is former Deputy

Chairman of the

erstwhile Planning

Scan the QR code to

listen to the full

interview online

is Professor at the

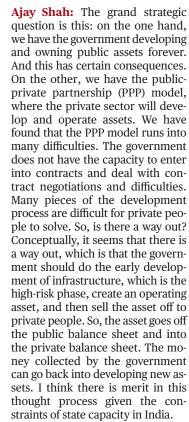
National Institute

for Public Finance

The challenge is in structuring the complexity of contracts with private players

Last week, the Centre released the 'National Monetisation Pipeline', a document listing the various public assets that will be leased out to private companies over the next four years. The government believes that monetising underutilised public assets will bring in almost ₹6 lakh crore to the government and help build new infrastructure to boost the economy. The Opposition has accused the government of selling off valuable national assets to "crony capitalists". In a conversation moderated by Prashanth Perumal J., Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Ajay Shah discuss this move. Edited excerpts:

What do you think of the government's idea of monetising operating assets to build fresh assets?





have the resources to build it. There are two possible responses. One, for new infrastructure, one can think of bringing in the private sector, set up a contractual framework for what it has to do, and then let it bring its own resources. The second is to recognise that there are more risks in the construction stage and it is perhaps better to let the public sector build the asset and then sell it off to private players or if not an outright sale, let the private sector manage it. We have a huge amount of infrastructure to build in the future and we have huge value embedded in existing infrastructure. So, why not realise that value and let the public sector use the resources to build the infrastructure we need?

Of course problems will arise. The first is whether you are realising adequate value from the assets. This depends on the quality of the bidding process and whether enough private players are attracted to bid. The second is cronyism. The only way of ensuring that asset monetisation doesn't lead to cronyism is to make the bidding conditions such that the people eligible to bid are not a small, predetermined set. However, because of the capital intensity of the project, not everybody is going to be able to bid. Even so, you can ensure that there is sufficient participation.

Why would the government choose asset monetisation over outright privatisation?

MSA: I don't know what considerations went into making that decision. I think we should do monetisation and privatisation because we don't know what's best. One reason that the government might not want to do outright privatisation is if it involves the transfer of a scarce resource like land. Land is so valuable that you may not want to just hand it over. It's easier to justify a 30-year lease because at the end of that lease the land stays with the government. In another context, if the land is of no great value, you could simply hand it over. That's why I feel that these are issues of choice.

AS: I would like to put more consid-



off between outright privatisation and asset monetisation. The first is: do we want to build a society where there is a gigantic public sector? How much do we want state domination of society? My view is that reduced state domination of society is important. The second aspect is practical. When a private person builds an infrastructure asset, it tends to get done better because a person has self-interest in making it a high-quality asset. The economist Lawrence Summers once famously said that never in the history of the world has anyone ever washed a rented car. If I'm a private investor in a highway through a complex asset monetisation contract, I do not really own the highway and I will take less care of the asset. Entering into a complex contract with a government organisation involves great risk because the Indian state is not a great party to have a contract with. So, a clean asset sale puts an end to the complexity of govern-

Are there ways to ensure that there's no asset stripping by private investors with limited time horizons?

ment interference.

MSA: When you have a 30-year contract, for example, your incentive to put money into the asset, which would ensure that it remains productive in the 31st, 32nd and the 33rd year, goes down compared to when you own it yourself. That's an unresolved problem. People should think about that. One option would be that you allow a renewal of the lease even before the lease ends. But then you need a competitive process there. If you take the Taj Hotels, for example, which owns valuable property in Delhi on a fixed lease, they didn't allow the hotel to run down right at the end of the lease in the hope that the lease will

When a private person builds an infrastructure asset, it tends to get done better because a person has self-interest in making it a high-quality asset.

get renewed. So, the problem can be resolved.

AS: The question is how much complexity you want to build into a contract. Imagine that I've got a highway contract for 30 years. In the contract, the government can embed some clauses stipulating various conditions. But you're soon starting to go closer to the complexity of the PPP world. The more complex you make the contract, the more difficult it is for the Indian state to achieve the state capacity required to uphold the contract. All too often the Indian state engages in dadagiri, so private people are not comfortable entering into complex contracts with the Indian state. Now, that doesn't mean that outright sale is easy. With an outright sale, we will still have a government regulator and we will face the problem of regulatory capacity. The trade-off is about the cost of building regulatory capacity versus the cost of building contracting capacity.

What about the risk of assets being owned by a few large companies and its impact on

MSA: Because of the limited number of private players, bidding for assets may not be totally fair. If you open up bidding to include foreign players, then you're not limited to small players. As far as the consumer becoming hostage to a particular player is concerned, many of these projects by their very nature are

monopolies. You don't have competition in the sense that if you're handing over a road from Delhi to Agra to a private player, there isn't a parallel road competing with it. You can maybe go by rail, or you can go by air. But there's only one major highway between Delhi and Agra and you certainly don't want the person who has got it to start behaving like a monopolist. So, what do you do? You lay out in the operating contract that you signed the terms of service. Now all this is subject to the government's poor contracting ability. But in principle, it is possible to have a relatively more complex contract, and to have a way of adjudicating within the terms of that contract with a sufficiently credible, independent set of regulators. This may not be easy because many people believe that regulators appointed by the government will give judgments favourable to government. So, the regulatory authority should not be under the institutional control of the ministry that enters into the contract. But these are all areas we need to experiment with. Here, however, the critical thing to ask is: what's the alternative? We could limit ourselves to what the government can do with its own resources and accept the lower trajectory of infrastructure development; or we could take

AS: I agree with what Montek said about experimenting with many pathways rather than presuming that we know the right answer. I feel that if you have a simple problem like a highway, then outright sale to the private sector makes more sense. But there are many problems that are far more subtle. So, I feel it's healthy for us as a society to go in with an epistemic scepticism and an approach of experimentation and learning. About crony capitalism, I would like to say that opening up bidding to global players will be extremely valuable, not least because the vast amounts of money required to build infrastructure are best financed through global corporate finance structures. Overseas organisations are particularly important in obtaining the most efficient arrangements because Indian financial organisations need to deal with the infirmities of Indian finance. I'm attracted to dispersed shareholding

these risks and go for a higher tra-

jectory. We should do the latter.

companies as the owners of operating assets. A lot of elements of policy can and should be modelled in favour of more competition.

How do we overcome issues that have stymied past disinvestment and monetisation efforts?

MSA: The history of our efforts at privatising is littered with cases where the system doesn't actually want to privatise. So, it puts forward conditions which to the government look very sensible. For example, any government would like to say when it is privatising something that the new owner will not be able to get rid of excess staff. But if you're a private owner, making management changes and also scaling down excess labour is one of the key things in efficiency. If you come up with a privatisation proposal which says that you can't get rid of the staff, you're going to end up with poor bids. In the mid-1980s, when Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, it was agreed that we can privatise Scooters India. At that time, Bajaj Auto was willing to take over on conditions that were quite reasonable. But the conditions that the ministry came up with were guaranteed to make Bajaj Auto say, 'no, thank you'. I don't know the conditions that will be imposed in the asset monetisation programme. But I think these are the sorts of things that should be addressed upfront in a policy document.

AS: Take the example of a Food Corporation of India warehouse in Mumbai occupying 120 acres of land. The question should be whether you really want a government asset occupying such a large area of land in Mumbai. The best imaginable use of that land is probably to sell it off, raise money and pay down public debt. So, that's a classic privatisation question. If you try to view this through an asset monetisation lens, you will start thinking, 'I want to give this asset to a private vendor, who will continue to store wheat in it as an agent of the government for the next 30 years'. That really does not make much sense. So I think we should be asking first principles questions about how many of these assets we really want under government control.



The new President has to put Zambia's public finances in order and restore civil liberties

The new Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema's landslide victory on August 12, in his sixth bid for high office, was a resounding rebuke against an unpopular rule. Mr. Hichilema, leader of the United Party for National Development (UPND), won by about a million votes more than his predecessor Edgar Lungu, of the Patriotic Front (PF), in an extremely polarised climate.

Army patrols in major cities on the eve of voting; a cyber security law enacted months earlier, ostensibly to prevent the dissemination of fake news; a shutdown of social media platforms on election day; and intimidation of independent media only heightened apprehensions of a rigged election. In the event, the country witnessed a record turnout of over 70%.

Contentious moves

Mr. Lungu had set his sight on extending his rule. First, he ensured that he could sidestep the legally stipulated two-term limit for a President. In December 2018, the constitutional court upheld Mr. Lungu's eligibility to run in last month's elections. It maintained that the latter's ascent in the January 2015 by-election could not be construed as a full first term because he was chosen to serve the remainder of his deceased predecessor's tenure.

His second objective was to preclude the risk of losing in the event of a close contest. To this end, he devised a constitutional amendment last year to alter the two-stage election procedure. Under the proposal, if the candidate with the maximum vote failed to clear the 50%+1 ballot in the first round of polling, he would be authorised to explore a coalition government rather than face his closest rival in a run-off. The bill did not garner the requisite majority for a constitutional amendment.

No less contentious than these two moves was the manipulation of voter records. The electoral commission deferred the complex exercise of compilation of new voter registers until just a year before the August 2021 polls. The delay triggered a legal challenge on grounds that this con-

travened the constitutional requirement for continuous registration between elections. As millions of voters were allowed little over a month to register in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions, civil society groups voiced concerns about the potential disenfranchisement of large numbers of citizens. Defying past practice, the authorities further refused an independent audit of the new rolls.

The road ahead

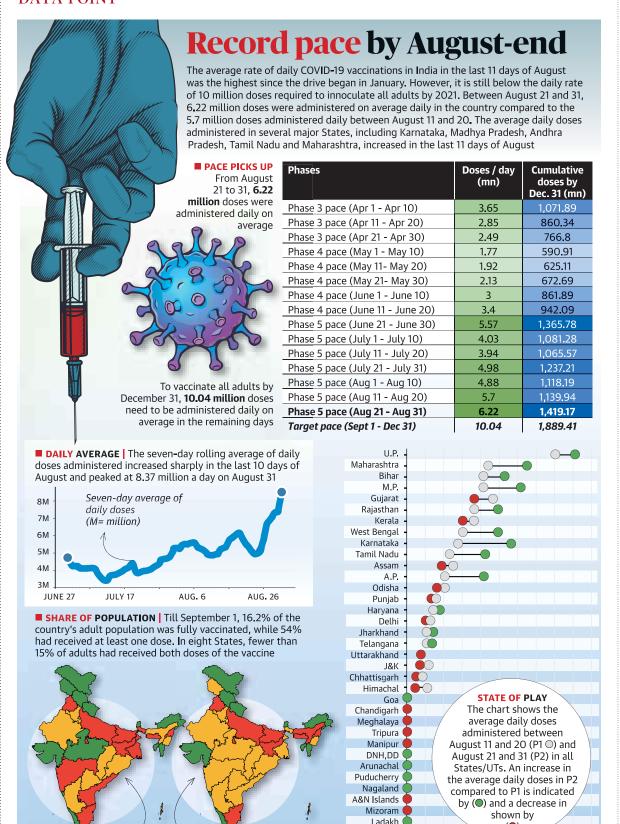
Mr. Hichilema, a business tycoon, embarks upon a difficult task of putting Zambia's public finances in order. As his government negotiates a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he can count on the support of the country's veteran economists and central bank ers who have publicly advocated such a deal. Africa's second largest producer of copper, Zambia last year defaulted on around \$12 billion in external debt. The government benefited from a G-20 initiative on concessional terms of repayment on bilateral lending following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Private bondholders have, however, declined Lusaka's plea to defer interest payments in the absence of an IMF rescue and reforms of its domestic finances. They also have concerns about all creditors being on an equal footing. Their concerns relate especially to the usually opaque terms that the Chinese investors enter into in their trading with African

While the economic priorities of the new government in Lusaka undoubtedly need urgent attention, there could possibly be no trade-off with the consolidation of political and civil liberties that have been a major casualty in recent years. The country was described as one of the fastest eroding democracies in the world, by the 2021 report of the Varieties of Democracy Project. The millions who voted Mr. Hichilema to office would be quite anxious to see that stain erased at the earliest. For the incumbent, that would be no

Garimella Subramaniam is Director -Strategic Initiatives, AgnoShin Tecchnologies Pvt Ltd



% WHO GOT ONE DOSE



Sikkim

0.1

0.5

Avg. doses in millon

% WHO GOT BOTH DOSES

The Man Frindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 3, 1971

Population decline in Europe

Strasbourg, September 2: You may not have noticed it the last time you elbowed your way down the Via Veneto or tried to find a parking space in downtown Paris, but Europe is becoming emptier. That is what population study experts, known as demographers, from nearly 30 countries gathered for an eight-day conference were told yesterday. Although it may be an exaggeration to think of Europe as a ghost continent, experts said the ramifications of under-population should be taken seriously. The Director of the French Institute of Demographic Studies, Mr. Georges Bourgeois-Pichet, told his colleagues that some nations, namely West Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Portugal, were proving incapable of maintaining present population levels. He said the replacement of their future generations was uncertain. Mr. Bourgeois-Pichet offered statistics showing that the European birth rate had been declining since 1965. In the Soviet Union the drop began in 1958, and in Portugal and Holland it started in 1963, he said. Other population experts said that from 1920 to 1960 the world population increased 60 per cent while that of Europe lagged with 31 per cent. Europe would account for an estimated 42 per cent of the population of developed nations by the year 2,000 whereas it now contained more than 53 per cent.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 3, 1921

'Pussyfoot' and liquor boycott (From an Editorial)

With the arrival of "Pussyfoot" in India the national campaign against drink must be considered to have secured a powerful ally in support of its cause. Mr. W.E. Johnson comes to us with an amount of experience in fighting the curse rarely to be found it any of our workers. The various Congress organisations will therefore do well to take the fullest advantage of his visit and intensify their campaign with the benefit of his advice and active cooperation. The fact that Mr. Johnson is going to exclude all politics from his programme of work in this country need not in any way deter us from seeking his advice and help in a matter which will be admitted on all hands to be entirely non-political in its immediate aim, viz., National self-purification. Attempts will no doubt be made in interested quarters to give a political colouring to the campaign, as has already been done in many places by the virtual opposition of the Government and the arrest of active workers in the cause.

FROM PAGE ONE

Afghan-origin terror is prime concern: India

Asked why the Taliban had asked for the meeting, Mr. Bagchi said he "presumed that the Taliban wanted to reach out to all countries which have interests, and are relevant". "Without thinking, we would not have taken such a step [meeting the Taliban]. Our main, primary and immediate concern is that the Afghan soil should not be used for anti-Indian activities or terror activities. This is our focus."

Mr. Bagchi told presspersons at the MEA's weekly media briefing that very few Indians now remained to be evacuated, and the 24x7 Afghanistan special cell was in touch with them. Flying them out would depend on the resumption of flights from Kabul, and concerns were raised about them in the Doha meeting.

The Stanekzai-Mittal discussions in Doha raised several other questions, as the announcement of the meeting has only been made by Delhi despite the Taliban reportedly requesting the meeting. Since Tuesday, Taliban spokesperson Muhammad Naeem Wardak has issued tweets on a number of other engagements, including the Taliban's political office meeting diplomats from Canada, China, the Netherlands and Turkey, but has given no intimation of the meeting with India.

"That is up to them, and I would refer you to the [Taliban] for answers," Mr. Bagchi said, adding that there had been no particular "thought" behind the fact no photograph of the event had been recorded.

CJI flags communal content in media

The rules require these platforms to appoint a grievance redressal officer, who is a resident of India

Transfer of cases

The government recently asked the top court to transfer cases challenging the Information Technology Rules from the High Courts to itself.

In the case of complaints against broadcasters, Mr. Mehta referred to the Cable (Amendment) Rules of 2021.

He submitted that the Rules provided for a three-level grievance redressal mechanism - self-regulation by broadcasters, self-regulation by the self-regulating bodies of the broadcasters, and oversight by an Inter-Departmental Committee at the level of the Central government. "The real contest is between the freedom of the press and the right of citizens to get unadulterated news... We have tried to regulate, balance," Mr. Mehta submitted.

Exports rose 45% to \$33 billion in August

Unless a weaker agricultural outlook restrains demand, gold imports may well touch \$40 billion in 2021-22, he

Net oil imports remained largely stable, benefiting from a moderation in crude oil prices, despite a rise in mobility in the country, she pointed out.

In the first five months of 2021-22, India's merchandise exports have now touched \$163.67 billion, nearly 67% higher than that of the corresponding period last year and 22.9% higher than 2019. The government has set a target of merchandise exports worth \$400 billion for the year.

Exporters said the steady recovery in global trade was helping their order books but sought urgent attention from the government on the runaway freight rates, rampant container shortages and other policy constraints, including the release of pending benefits under earlier export incen-

"The government needs

to provide freight support to all exports till March 31, 2022, as freight rates have skyrocketed," said A. Sakthivel, president of the Federation of Indian Exporters' Organisations.

Apart from augmenting the flow of empty containers to Indian ports, he suggested that the government should establish a regulatory authority to seek justification of freight hikes and imposition of various charges by shipping lines.

Among the major commodity groups, excluding petroleum, and gems and jewellery, which entail marginal value addition, engineering goods recorded a healthy 58.8% rise to \$9.6 billion, while cotton yarn, fabrics and handloom products jumped 55.6% to about \$1.3 billion.

Electronics goods exports rose 31.5% from a year ago, to hit \$1.15 billion. The employment-intensive readymade garments sector, however, only recorded a 14% growth at \$1.23 billion in August.

RT-PCR must for flyers

from seven more nations

The Ministry has also written to the States and the Union Territories directing them to strengthen their Whole Genome Sequencing activities, which are critical to establishing clinical epidemiological correlations. Mr. Bhushan warned that the second wave of the CO-VID-19 pandemic was not

He added that 69% of the total cases in the past week were reported from Kerala alone. The State currently has more than 1 lakh active cases, while four States – Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Prahave between 10,000 to 1 lakh active cases. "Forty-two districts in the country are still reporting more than 100 new cases daily, which is a cause of concern. However, India

has managed to fully vacci-

nate 16% of its adult popula-

tion, while 54% has got one shot," he said.

He added that Sikkim, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Himachal Pradesh have administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines to 100% of their population above 18.

Reiterating the need to continue wearing masks even after being fully vaccinated, Balram Bhargava, Director-General, Council of Medical Research, said mass gatherings should be avoided.

Also speaking at the conference, NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul said people shouldn't take the virus

lightly. "The problems with the virus still continue and we have to be careful... Also, India is looking at evidence of the COVID vaccine booster dose requirement and a decision will be reached after due diligence," he said.

India keeping a watch on ties between Taliban and Pakistan

The group's spokesperson said Kashmir is an issue between the two countries

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

India is closely watching the Taliban's stance towards Pakistan as it appears imminent that the outfit will form the next government based in Kabul or Kandahar in the next few days. The concern in this regard is shaped by the fact that Sher Mohammed Stanekzai, head of the Taliban's Political Office in Doha, met India's envoy to Qatar, giving the first sign that channels of communication between the two sides are now open.

Soon after the India-Taliban meeting in Doha, Pakis-Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed asserted the special bond between Pakistan and Taliban, saving in a TV debate, "We are the custodians of Taliban leaders. We have taken care of them for a long time. They have got shelter, education and a home in Pakistan. We have done everything for them." Such repeated comments from Pakistan can increase India's discomfort, especially after the meeting in

The comment from the



Pakistani Minister, however, is not reflected in the Taliban's recent statements regarding Pakistan. Since the fall of Kabul on August 15, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid has spoken on four occasions about issues that matter to Pakistan. At an initial press conference, Mr. Mujahid refused to extend the general amnesty to former Pakistani military ruler General Pervez Musharraf. General Musharraf had ended Pakistan's open support for the Taliban just before a military coalition led by the United States overthrew the Taliban regime in 2001. The Taliban responded by

launching multiple attacks

on General Musharraf that failed to succeed. Mr. Mujahid refused to follow the Pakistani position on the contested Durand Line, which is a sensitive issue for the Pashtun community that resides in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. "We are still in the process of forming a government, but the Durand Line is an important matter for our nation and it will be what the nation wants," he said.

Autonomous line When asked by a reporter on

the Kashmir issue, he followed the line laid by Mr. Stanekzai, and said, "Kashmir is an issue between India and Pakistan. We have nothing to do with issues that are internal to our neighbours." Mr. Stanekzai had described India-Pakistan tension as "political and geographical", and urged both countries to not use Afghan territory to deal with that dispute. The Taliban's comments asserting an autonomous line is creating mixed opinions as it is well known that Pakistan's establishment has unparalleled leverage over the organisation which has operated out of Quetta. Veteran observers here

say that the Taliban and Pakistan are both aware that the former's military success against the government of President Ashraf Ghani may influence the restive Pashtun population in Pakistani territory. Veteran diplomat Rajiy Dogra observed that the Taliban has adopted "sophisticated messaging" for independently reaching out to major countries. "This outreach to the world is new," said Mr. Dogra, explaining the Taliban's attempts to project itself as a free player. He pointed at the discomfort between the Taliban and Pakistan over the Durand Line.

Shringla in Washington for talks with U.S. officials

Visit precedes a possible trip by PM

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Following his visit to New York where he chaired a meeting of the Security Council, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla arrived in Washington for meetings with officials including one with his counterpart Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, scheduled for Thursday. The Foreign Secretary's visit precedes a possible month-end visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Shringla's delegation included Joint Secretary (Americas) of the Ministry of External Affairs Wani Rao and Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) from the Ministry of Defence Somnath Ghosh, both of whom led the Indian side at the India-US 2+2 inter-sessional on Wednesday. The U.S. side was led by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Affairs Ely Ratner and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Ervin Massinga.

"Both sides took stock of the progress and developments in the bilateral agenda under the India-US strategic partnership, including



Harsh Vardhan Shringla

defence, global health, economic and commercial cooperation. science and technology, clean energy and climate finance, and people to people ties," an MEA statement

The inter-sessional included a discussion on strengthening multilateral cooperation among the U.S., India and "other likeminded partners", according to a statement from the Pentagon. "The U.S. and Indian officials exchanged views on a range of regional issues of shared interest, including in South Asia, East and Southeast Asia, and the Western Indian Ocean and identified opportunities for enhanced cooperation on maritime security, regional connectivity, counterterrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief," the statement said.

Long wait for a Deputy Speaker for Lok Sabha

Delhi HC has asked Centre to explain stand; Cong. says it has been demanding election to the post

SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELHI

With the Delhi High Court asking the Union government on Wednesday to explain its stand on a petition that said keeping the post of Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha vacant is a violation of Article 93 of the Constitution, the issue is once again in the spotlight.

Petitioner Pawan Relev pointed out that the position had been vacant for the past 830 days.

Constitutional post

The Congress's floor leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, "It is a Constitution-mandated position and not a ceremonial one. During each session. the Congress has demanded that the election to the post be held, but our demands have been ignored."

Senior Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien



Vital post: When Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla contracted COVID-19, the absence of a Deputy Speaker was felt. • PTI

said the longest time that this post had remained vacant was in the 12th Lok Sabha and even then on the 59th sitting of Parliament, election to the post was held.

"Modi-Shah is dismantling every institution, including Parliament. We have been screaming ourselves hoarse. Angry. Sad," Mr. O'Brien said.

Congress Chief Whip in the Lok Sabha Kodikunnil Suresh said that by convention, this post went to the Opposition. "During the Budget Session of Parliament, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla contracted CO-VID-19. The panel of chairpersons are not equipped to handle the job," he noted.

As of now, there are nine members who are part of the panel from the BJP, the DMK, the YSR Congress Party, the BJD, the Trinamool Congress

and the Revolutionary Socialist Party.

A Deputy Speaker enjoys the same legislative powers as the Speaker. And in the absence of the Speaker because of death, illness or any other reason, the Deputy Speaker assumes the administrative powers.

First attempt

Soon after the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the government had made some effort to fill the position.

It approached the YSR Congress Party, which turned down the offer since it would have been difficult to carry on a protest against the government for not according special status to Andhra Pradesh while occu-

pying the post. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Ioshi and his deputy in the Lok Sabha, Arjun Ram Meghwal, were not available for comment.

Mr. Birla had said that it was for the House to elect a Deputy Speaker and it was not the Speaker's job.

BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, who is a member of the panel of chairpersons, said the Lok Sabha's functioning was not affected by the lack of a Deputy Speaker. "Currently, the Maharashtra Assembly is functioning without an elected Speaker after the resignation of Nana Patole," he said.

As the combined Opposition did not have the strength to elect a member of their choice, the choice fell on the government. The fact that there was no recognised leader of the Opposition also hampered the process, he said.

In 1984, when Rajiv Gandhi came to power with an overwhelming majority, the Deputy Speaker's position was given to the AIADMK, he

CBI gets 2-day custody of its SI, advocate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The CBI on Thursday got two-day custody of its subinspector (SI) and a Nagpur-based advocate, who were arrested for allegedly attempting to influence a probe into the corruption charges against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

The sub-inspector has been identified as Abhishek Tiwari. The lawyer, Anand Daga, is being brought to Delhi on transit remand. The accused were produced before a special court, which granted twoday remand to the agency. "The CBI has registered a case against its sub-inspector, a Nagpur-based advocate and unknown others on allegations including illegal gratification... searches have been conducted in Allahabad and Delhi," said a CBI official.

Navlakha seeks to be shifted home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Activist and journalist Gautam Navlakha, accused in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case and lodged at the Taloja Central Jail, urged the Bombay High Court on Thursday to shift him to house arrest owing to a lump in his chest.

Advocate Yug Chaudhry, appearing for Mr. Navlakha, informed the court about his [Mr. Navlakha's] health and said he be taken to a private hospital where

his sister is a nurse. However, Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, representing the National Investigation Agency probing the case, said that moving Mr. Navlakha to the private hospital is not mentioned in the petition.

Mr. Singh said, "If at all he wants to go for a checkup, he can go to Tata Memorial Centre Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer... People throughout the country come there for treatment.'

The court directed Mr. Chaudhry to make an application for the same. Mr. Chaudhry said, "When your client tells you there is a lump possibly leading to cancer, you don't want such delays." He agreed for Mr. Navlakha to be taken to Tata Hospital.



But more than 6,000 of 18,000 faculty positions vacant

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

Forty Central universities will kick off implementation of innovative measures such as the academic credit bank and the glue grant meant to encourage multidisciplinarity, at their meeting on Friday to be chaired by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

However, Mr. Pradhan is likely to pull them up on a more basic issue – the fact that over a third of their faculty positions are still vacant. More than 6,000 out of a

total 18,000-odd faculty positions are still vacant and that is a major issue on the meeting's agenda, Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare told The Hindu on Thursday. Delhi University (DU) was the worst offender in absolute terms, with 846 or almost half of its 1,706 sanctioned posts lying vacant. At the University of Allahabad, the vacancy rate was almost 70%, with only 263 of its 863 posts having been filled.

Glue grant scheme Without sufficient number of teachers, the other ambi-

tious initiatives proposed

under the National Educa-



institutions in the same city can share resources.

tion Policy would come to naught. "We have taken the first step by appointing Vice-Chancellors at many of the institutions where the position was vacant or filled by temporary personnel. Now they must get their act together," said Mr. Khare, noting that even in institutions such as the DU and Jawaharlal Nehru University that still did not have permanent V-Cs, the process of advertisement and selection could begin. The interview process had been completed for the DU V-C post and was likely to be filled soon, while it had not yet begun at JNU.

Under the glue grant, announced in this year's budget, institutions in the same city would be encouraged to share resources, equipment and even allow their students to take classes from each other. "This is the first step for multidiciplinarity. We intend to start this from the second semester of the current academic year. Ultimately, faculty will be able to design joint courses, and you could see a DU student able to take a few classes at IIT-Delhi, or vice versa," said the Higher Education Secretary. This also meant that institutions need not duplicate work by developing the same capacities, but would able to build on each other's expertise. The first step would be

the academic credit bank, which would have to be adopted separately by the academic council of each university to kick off implementation. To start with, the system would allow students to attain qualifications by amassing credits rather than specific durations on campus. A certain number of credits would add up to a certificate, then a diploma and then a degree, allowing for multiple entry and exit points. Students can earn up to 40% of their credits in online Swayam classes. In the future, the credits will be valid across institutions.

Police baton-charge farmers in Moga

They were marching to SAD event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The police on Thursday resorted to use of batons and water cannons on a group of protesting farmers at Moga in Punjab as they marched towards a venue where former Deputy Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal was addressing a rally.

Farmer leaders claimed that around a dozen farmers suffered injuries after the police resorted to 'lathicharge'.

Leader of the Kirti Kisan Union Nirbhay Singh told The Hindu that farmers were protesting peacefully and wanted to meet Mr. Badal to seek answers on farmers' issues. "We have every right to seek answers from leaders, and today, we wanted to ask Mr. Badal why his

party, at the first place, did support the three farm laws, when they [SAD] were a partner of the government at the Centre. As we moved towards the venue, the police used water cannons and batons on us, leaving close to a dozen injured," Mr.

Nirbhay Singh said. Moga Superintendent of Police Gurdeep Singh said the police had to use mild force to control the situation after the protesters started pelting stones and attacking

the police personnel. Senior SAD leader Bikram Singh Singh Majithia alleged that attempts to disrupt the Akali Dal gatherings, being organised as part of the party's "Gal Punjab Di" campaign, were part of a deeprooted conspiracy of the ruling Congress in conjunction with the Central government.

APPEAL



lame of Patient: Master Vinayak Kumar Singh V, 5 years Hospital Name: Christian Medical College. Diagnosis: halassemia Major This is a type of Blood Disorder which life threatening. The best option for him would be to unrgo Allogeneic Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately Rs. 14,00,000/-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 Vinayak Kumar Singh.V. <u>Our Account Details:</u> S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaipuram Branch and IFSC Code: SBIN0001855, You can donate Google Pay No. 9884607377 UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi 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 nnamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Ph:044-42044165, Mobile: 988460737 E-mail: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

CBI files chargesheet in Bengal poll violence

Govt. appoints 10 IPS officers to assist SIT in the probe

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Thursday filed the first chargesheet in a case of post-poll violence in West Bengal. The chargesheet was filed before a court in Rampurhat in West Bengal's Birbhum district.

The case involves the murder of a person at Dubrajpur in Birbhum. The two accused in the case are already in custody.

The CBI has so far registered more than 30 FIRs in cases involving post-poll violence after the Calcutta High Court directed the agency to investigate cases of alleged murder and rape in West Bengal after poll results were declared.



Taking stock: CBI officers leaving a police station after discussing about the post-poll violence on August 30. • PTI

During the day a team of CBI officials visited Presidencv Correctional Home here. to interrogate the accused held for the murder of a person in the city's Kankurgachi area, days after the election results were announced.

In another development

West Bengal government appointed 10 IPS officers to assist the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by Calcutta High Court to investigate into the allegations of post-poll violence during West Bengal Assembly elec-

Is the Cong. cold-shouldering Sidhu?

No meeting took place between the Punjab Congress chief and the Gandhis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a sign of growing distance between the newly appointed Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu and the party's top leadership, Mr. Sidhu is said to have returned from Delhi without getting an appointment with the Gandhis.

The Punjab Congress chief came to Delhi on Wednesday, while the All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary for Punjab, Harish Rawat, was still in Chandigarh to interact with leaders, including Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

There was no official word about the purpose of his Delhi visit but sources claimed Mr. Sidhu wanted to meet general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, whose support ensured him the top



Deep discussion: A file photo of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu in Amritsar.

party post in Punjab, and former party chief, Rahul Gandhi.

However, no meeting took place between the Punjab Congress chief and the Gandhis, leading to speculation if they are cold shouldering Mr. Sidhu.

Though the party high command had hoped that Punjab in-fighting would

come to an end with Mr. Sidhu's appointment as the party chief, subsequent developments have proved quite the opposite.

Controversial comments

on Kashmir by Mr. Sidhu's adviser, Malwinder Singh Mali, embarrassed the party to such an extent that Mr. Rawat asked the Punjab Congress chief to remove him.

Soon after, Mr. Sidhu himself put the party in a spot when he claimed that there was no freedom in decisionmaking and he did not want to become a showpiece.

The Punjab Congress chief had also been constantly targeting the Amarinder Singh government over issues like the Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) and the drug mafia in the State.

As Punjab Congress moved from one controversy to another ahead of next year's Assembly elections, Mr. Rawat was forced to issue a public statement that the high command had "not handed over the party to Mr. Sidhu but chosen him to

In a subtle hint, the AICC Punjab in-charge had also stated that Capt. Amarinder Singh will lead the party to

All is not well in Punjab unit, says Rawat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Amid the ongoing infighting in the Congress Punjab unit, All India Congress Committee in-charge of Punjab affairs Harish Rawat on Thursday said all was not well within the

To a question, Mr. Rawat said, "I won't say all is well, but all things will get sorted out and whatever few issues are there an effort to resolve is being made."

Mr. Rawat was in Chandigarh to meet party leaders to resolve the bickering.

The infighting flared up after four Ministers, including Sukhjinder Randhawa, Tript Rajinder Bajwa, Sukhbinder Sarkaria and Charanjit Channi, besides a few MLAs on August 24 had expressed "lack of faith in the leadership of the Chief Minister in fulfilling the party's 2017 As-

sembly election promises". Mr. Rawat met Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and State unit president Navjot Singh Sidhu among other leaders.

'Akhil Gogoi deriding Cong. in public'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee would let the party leadership in Delhi know what activistturned-MLA Akhil Gogoi thinks of them.

Newly appointed State Congress president Bhupen Borah left for Delhi on Thursday to meet the central leadership, a day after Mr. Gogoi met Rahul Gandhi and Mukul Wasnik.

"We will abide by whatever decision [on an alliance with Mr. Gogoi's party Raijor Dal] the central leaders take. But I will let them know how he has been deriding the Congress in public". He alluded to "Congress is a setting sun", "Congress cannot do well under Rahul Gandhi" and other such statements

A witness to Kashmir's history

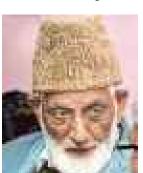
Geelani's adversaries disliked his politics but admired his resolute stand

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Senior separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani (1929-2021) was laid to rest in a quiet predawn burial in Srinagar's Hyderpora area. Curfew-like restrictions were imposed in and around Srinagar. Only close family members and neighbours were allowed to attend the last rites at his

Geelani's political career spanned over six decades. He was a witness to all the critical phases of Jammu and Kashmir's tumultuous history – the accession to India in 1947, the dethroning of then Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah in 1953, the ascension of the Jamaat-e-Islami in the 1970s, the rise of armed rebellion of 1990s, the secret dialogue on Kashmir in the 2000s, and the end of J&K's special Constitutional posi-

The history Geelani witnessed may be chequered, but his ideology – accession to Pakistan - remained linear, single-point and unwavering, to the chagrin of ma-



Syed Ali Shah Geelani

He was elected thrice as a Member of the Legislative Assembly from Sopore in north Kashmir since the 1970s but opposed electoral politics as a means to address the Kashmir problem after the 1990s.

From CPI(M)'s Sitaram Yechury to lawyer Ram Jethmalani, Geelani befriended top political leaders and backchannel players of both India and Pakistan but refused to show any flexibility when the conversations revolved around accepting "realistic" solutions. His adversaries disliked his politics but admired his resolute stand.

Born in Sopore's Zoori

tongas (horse-driven cart), Geelani's speeches and public appearances catapulted him to centre stage in the 1990s when armed rebellion broke out.

Riding high on his growing influence among youth, Geelani could afford to part ways with his mother organisation, the Jamaat; set up his own separatist group, the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat in 2003; separate himself from the Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led Hurriyat over unconditional engagement with the Central government; and oppose Pervez Musharraf's fourpoint formula. He also faced a backlash from the Musharraf regime for his stand.

Parallel government

Spearheading many street agitations from 2008 to 2016 and drafting protest calendars that ran a parallel government for many months, Geelani refused to open the doors to the group of 27 parliamentarians in 2016, when the Valley was embroiled for several months in street agitations after the killing of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen 'comseen as unforgivable contempt by many in Delhi.

Since then, his house detention, which had been a norm from 2008 to enervate his ability to galvanise masses on the streets, was made tougher and only close family members had access to him. Jailed several times since 1960s, the ailing Geelani was surviving on a pacemaker.

Just 11 months after the Centre ended J&K's special Constitutional position in August 2019, Geelani's sudden decision to resign from Hurriyat surprised all. The resignation was his last bid to express anger at Pakistan and his own leaders' failure to respond to the Centre's decision.

For sure, Geelani, once a mass leader in the Valley. died in isolation. But he succeeded in leaving behind a political legacy of hawkish and uncompromising politics, which many will be vying to follow. Whether the presence of Geelani was a safety valve in Kashmir or his absence will prove more dangerous, only time will

9-member Cong. panel to plan 'sustained agitation'

This is the first time it has set up a formal structure for it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

After seven years in the Opposition, the Congress on Thursday announced a ninemember committee to plan "sustained agitation" on national issues. While former Madhya

Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh will head the panel, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be one of the members.

"I have sought an appointment with the honourable Congress president and will seek her guidance," Mr. Singh told The Hindu when asked about the issues the committee plans to identify to launch an agitation.

This is the first time that the principal Opposition party has set up a formal structure to plan agitation and campaigns. Usually, the Congress general secretary in charge of organisation coordinates and plans such campaigns.

While it is being speculated whether the panel on agi-



Congress protesting against cooking gas price rise.

shared by election strategist Prashant Kishor, sources said a few senior leaders had suggested it to the Congress president much before Mr. Kishor's recent meeting with the Gandhis to revive the

Raised earlier too

The Congress has been raising the issue of repeated increase in prices of cooking gas, diesel and petrol, and the national monetisation pipeline (NMP).

former party president Rahul Gandhi did two press conferences on these issues.

On the issue of hitting the streets, Mr. Gandhi said they were exercising "restraint".

"The anger against the government is building, but voices are being suppressed. COVID-19 pandemic is still not over, so we also do not want lakhs of people to take to the streets. This can lead to other issues, so we are exercising a little restraint," Mr. Gandhi told reporters on

ny dispensations in both Terrorists afraid of

'No major terror attack since 2014'

Modi govt.: Rajnath

Rajnath Singh

OROP issue

Mr. Singh also credited the

Prime Minister with resolv-

ing the decade old One

Rank, One Pension (OROP)

issue that the previous Con-

gress administration had re-

fused to resolve during their

tenure. "Modiji implement-

ed OROP formula as soon as

Opposition Congress for

playing politics over Ram

Temple in Ayodhya, and

said the BJP had sacrificed

three State governments af-

ter the Babri mosque struc-

ture was demolished to pave

way for the temple in Lord

Union Minister Parshot-

tam Rupala praised Mr. Mo-

di and Home Minister Amit

Shah for removing Article

370 that granted special sta-

tus to Jammu and Kashmir,

and ensuring J&K's full inte-

gration with the rest of In-

Rama's birth place.

Mr. Singh slammed the

he came to power."

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AHMEDABAD

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh asserted on Thursday that terrorists were afraid of the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre and there had been no major terrorist attack in the country since Mr. Modi assumed office in 2014.

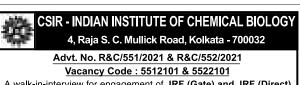
He also credited the Prime Minister with adopting the policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism.

The Union Minister was in Gujarat to address the BJP's State executive meeting at Sardar Patel Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Narmdaba

district. "No matter what it takes, we will not let terrorists succeed. Leave alone Jammu and Kashmir, no major terrorist attack took place in any part of the country after the arrival of Modiji. This is our major achievement... This is not a small thing," he

Recalling the surgical strike the Indian forces had conducted targeting terrorists and their infrastructure in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in 2018, Mr. Singh said it was a clear message that India would not allow safe harbours for terrorists either in its own territory or outside.

"Terrorists have now realised that they are not secure even in their safe havens. The surgical strike in PoK after the Uri attack gave a clear message to the world that we can kill terrorists on this side, as well as by cross-



A walk-in-interview for engagement of JRF (Gate) and JRF (Direct) will be held at CSIR-IICB Jadavpur, Kolkata - 32, Campus on 28.09.2021 and 29.09.2021 from 10.00 a.m. For details log on to our website www.career.iicb.res.in ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MALABAH CANCER CENTHE Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructures, East Division, BBMP, No. 208, 2nd Floor, New Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002 No : EE/RI/East/TEND/01/2021-22 Date: 01.09.2021 INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

ing the border if the need arises," the Defence Minister (Short Term Tender Notification) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only) The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure (East Division)

invites tenders from eligible Contractors for the work detailed Name of the Work to tender

(Rs. in Lakhs Construction of PSC super structure for additional 4 spans at ROB LC 136A, Byappanahalli including development of Road 1288 integrating Banaswadi Main Road and Old Madras Road to facilitate connectivity to new

M. Visvesvaraya Terminal and Defence land allied works. EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): EMD Declaration Form

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from 03.09.2021. (2) Pre tender meeting will be held on 07.09.2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the office of the Chief Engineer Road Infrastructure, 4th Floor, Annex Building-3, BBMP Offices Bengaluru-02. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 4:00 p.m. on 18.09.2021 and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. (4) Technical bids will be opened on the website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - East Division, Annex Building No. 3, 1st Floor, N.R. Square, BBMP on or after 21.09.2021 after 11:00 a.m. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website https://eproc. karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, RI-East Division, BBMP COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED Wear Mask Follow Physical Distancing

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: 7/2021-22/PHC/KNR-Re-tender - Jal Jeevan Mission-Kasaragod district - Kayyur Cheemeni panchayath - WSS to Kayyur Cheemeni Phase II. EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 16800. Last Date for submitting Tender: 01-10-2021, 02:00:pm Superintending Enginee Phone: 04972705902 Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in

www.etenders.kerala.gov.in KWA-JB-GL-6-336-2021-22

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD. e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) 8 MVA Power Transformers (b) 12.5 MVA Power Transformers (c) Various Steel materials (d) 33KV CTs ratio 600-300/1-1-1A 0.2S class e) 100 Sq.mm AAA Conductor and (f) 33KV, 3Cx400 Sq.mm TR-XLPE UG Cable on e-procurement platform. For further details of each item above, please visit <u>www.tssouthernpower.con</u> <u>www.tender.telangana.gov.in</u>. Phone:040-23431319, 1035,1033,1026,1360

DIPR R.O.No.15504-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2020-21 Dt. 02.09.2021

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM



BRBNMPL invites applications for National Expression of Interest (EOI from eligible, resourceful and qualified tenderers for "Supply of raw materials suitable for manufacturing of varnishes and inks for offset intaglio, numbering process used for banknote printing" at Varnika, BRBNMPL Mysuru, filled in applications for the above EOI are to be submitted to the General Manager (PP), Varnika, BRBNMPL, Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru-570003, Karnataka, India by 1430 hrs on or

For eligibility criteria and other details kindly visit our website www.brbnmpl.co.in Further amendment/s, if any, shall be notified on the website of the company only. Interested applicants are requested to visit our website General Manager periodically to know any changes / amendments.

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD.



E-mail - ohpc.co@gmail.com CIN: U401010R1995SGC003963 No. OHPC: TECH: C&P: 06/2021-22/ 5564 NOTICE INVITING TENDER No. 12/2021-22

Sealed Tenders are invited in two part i.e. (i) Techno Commercial bio & (ii) Price Bid in separate sealed envelopes from the reputed textile manufacturers fulfilling the eligibility criteria as per the terms & conditions for the work as mentioned below **Description of Services Cost of Tender Paper**

Supply of Suiting & Shirting Fabrics for the (Rs.10.000.00 + GST @18% For details of the tender documents, terms & conditions please visit our website www.ohpcltd.com from dtd.10.09.2021. CAD-1075:

LOOK OUT NOTICE

Sri. Akash, Age 28, S/o. Santhosh, Thazhayasseril Veettil, Chirakkadavam Muri, Kayamkulam Village, Karthikappally Taluk, Alappuzha District who is the accused in Cr.3077/2019, U/s 376 (2)(n), 354A (1)(i), 354 C IPC & Sec. 6 r/w 5(1) 10 r/w 9(1) of POCSO Act & Sec. 66(E) of IT Act of Kayamkulam Police Station, he



is absconding after the commission of the crime. If any clue or information is obtained about him that may be intimated immediately to Kayamkulam Police Station SHO, Deputy Superintendent of Police Kavamkulam, District Police Chief Alappuzha.

Contact Number: ISHO, Kayamkulam - 9497980276 DySp, Kayamkulam - 9497990044 District Police Chief, Alappuzha - 9497996982 1431/F2/2021/I&PRD

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL) (A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)

Nigam Bhavan, 1st Floor, Sector-16, Gandhinagar-382016

Tender Notice

The tender is invited by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. (TCGL), for the appointment of agency for "Construction & Repairing of Remaining works at Tourist Center, near Buddha Caves Site, Village-Khambhalida Dist: Rajkot". Estimated Cost of the Project: Rs.5,78,13,158/-.The interested bidders/agencies may download the tender documents from the website: www.nprocure.com from Date: 03.09.2021. Last date of submission on online is Dt.23.09.2021 up to 3.00PM. Tenders may also be referred on www.gujarattourism.com.

Managing Director of TCGL reserves the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason

Unit-2: Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit-1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu
Ph. : 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)

Ph.: 04332 - 261600				
NOTICE INVITING TENDER				
Tender No.	Due Date			
212213	Providing Annual Support for Oracle EBS & Database for a period of One year	16.09.2021		
002582	"Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only.	16.09.2021		
212223 001222	Liquid Sodium Sulphide for TNPL Unit-II Quantity - 350 MT	16.09.2021		
Email	212213002582 - purchase.inst@tnpl.co.in 212223001222 - purchasepacking.u2@tnpl.co.ir	1		

DIPR/2579/Tender/2021 General Manager (C&P)



by floods in Assam

The flood situation in Assam improved on Thursday but the swollen rivers claimed two more lives - one each in Kamrup and Morigaon districts. A total of seven people have died since the floods struck the State a week ago. The death of two persons has been attributed to "non-flood" drowning. A statement issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority said the number of flood-affected people came down by 1.55 lakh in the past 24 hours.

Cong. leader must say sorry: students' body

GUWAHATI Thadou Students' Assocation a Manipur students' body, has sought a public apology from senior Congress leader and Raiva Sabha member Jairam Ramesh for "hurting" the sentiments of the State's hill dwellers by "implying" they are poppy cultivators. On August 31, referring to a news report. Mr. Ramesh tweeted: ' ...Urea is diverted to hill areas in Manipur, where poppy is being grown for opium in large areas in last 4 yrs. The State Govt is fully complicit in this."

ED attaches assets worth ₹233 crore in bank scam

NEW DELHI The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached partly paid compulsorily convertible preference shares of Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) group companies worth ₹233 crore in connection with the Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank scam involving ₹6,117.93 crore. On the strength of these shares, the HDIL group had the rights for the allotment of flats under construction, measuring 90.250 sq ft floor space index in Mumbai's Ghatkopar, of the developer Aryaman Developers Private Limited, said the agency. The developer has given an undertaking to not sell, transfer, alienate or create any third party rights on the

'Rajiv Gandhi' goes from

attached portion.

Less than a month after the Central government renamed the Khel Ratna after hockey legend Dhyan Chand, the Assam Cabinet has decided to drop former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's name from the Orang National Park, "The decision to restore the original name of Orang National Park was taken following requests from the Adivasi groups in the State.' government spokesperson Pijush Hazarika said after a Cabinet meeting. The Assam **Pradesh Congress Committee** condemned "such petty attitudes" of the BJP-led government.

Hospitals see many cases of long COVID

Common symptoms being reported include muscle weakness, fatigue, sleep problems and hair loss

Medical care facilities across the country are now offering rehabilitation programmes for COVID survivors as there have been cases of long CO-VID, when symptoms persist even after several weeks of the infection.

The most common symptoms being reported are muscle weakness/fatigue, sleep problems and hair loss.

Hospitals are also seeing cases of COVID-19 related development of tuberculosis and fungal pneumonia and cases of increased heart rate.

The rehabilitation programme includes physiotherapy, psychological counsellpulmonologist consultation and lung function tests.

Akshay Budhraja, pulmonologist, Aakash Healthcare, said: "We are seeing issues with those over 30 years and aggravated complaints



Still suffering: After the devastating second wave of COVID-19, some survivors continue to experience symptoms.

among the elderly." A study, published recently in medical journal *Lancet* one-year outcomes among COVID survivors in Wuhan, the epicentre of the first coronavirus outbreak in China, said that a number of survivors continued to have lower health status a year after symptom onset.

"Survivors continued suf-

leased between January 7 and May 29 of 2020 after their recovery The Union Health Ministry

said post-COVID sequelae is a matter of concern and that it has been tracking the subject since September last year. "The Ministry, understanding the issue, has prescribed a holistic approach, which includes continued monitoring of health and use of Ayurveda to aid post-COVID recovery," said an official.

All patients had been re-

Keeping in touch

G.S. Chabbra, director, respiratory medicine, QRG Hospital, Faridabad, said while admissions due to long COVID have slowed down now, the hospital has been in constant touch with their patients via telemedicine and hospital

"After the second wave we did have patients with complaints of hair fall, episodes of breathlessness, joint and muscle pain," he said.

Neetu Jain, senior consultant of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine, PSRI Hospital, said the facility gets four or five patients every day with post-COVID symptoms.

On the complications related to long COVID, the Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) has urged the World Health Organization (WHO) and governments to prioritise and fund urgent research on the link between CO-VID-19 and dementia.

Alireza Atri, neuroscientist and chair of the ADI's medical and scientific advisory panel, said there seems to be a clear link between "long COVID" and dementia.

"We are seeing this with my patients and we need to be worried about the 'Trojan horse' of dementia that long COVID is leaving behind in our brains," he said.

'Uphold rights of women in mental health centres'

SC directs Centre, States to take steps

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has given the State governments and the Union Territories three months to take measures and 'alleviate' the violation of human rights suffered institutionalised in government-run mental health establishments.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud, Vikram Nath and Hima Kohli based its or der on research conducted by NIMHANS, in 2016, and the National Commission of Women, as recently as in 2020, about the deprivations suffered by hundreds of mentally ill women in institutional care.

In a 12-page order published on Thursday, the Bench highlighted that the research on the plight of these women indicates gross violation of the Mental Healthcare Act and other laws. They did not enjoy basic rights guaranteed under the Constitution like dignity and privacy, the studies showed.

The women, the court quoted from the research, were denied sanitary napkins. Mothers were not allowed to keep their children. There were no mother-child separate wards in many of the government-run institutions.

The court directed the Ministry to take up the issues in the monthly meetings it had ordered to be held between the Centre and the State governments to monitor the progress in the establishment of halfway homes for those treated and who needed a place to stay. Data would have to be regularly updated. The court scheduled the next hearing for December 14.

Visas of stranded foreign nationals valid till Sept. 30

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Thursday that Indian visas or stay stipulation period of foreign nationals stranded in the country due to the COVID-19 situation would be considered to be valid till September 30. The facility was earlier available only till August 31 and has now been extended by a month.

"Such foreign nationals will not be required to submit any application to the FRRO [Foreigners Regional Registration Office]/FRO [Foreigners Registration Office] concerned for extension of their visas till September 30, 2021. Before exiting the country, they may apply online for an exit permission on e-FRRO portal, which would be granted by the FRRO/FRO concerned on gratis basis without levy of any overstay penalty," said the MHA statement. If an extension is required beyond September 30, the foreign nationals can apply through the online e-FRRO platform.

Afghan nationals already in India would be granted extension under separate

Preparation for DefExpo 2022 reviewed

Ministry, Gujarat govt. sign a pact for the event

fering from at least one post-

COVID medical complication

even a year after COVID.

While most survivors re-

turned to their original work

and life, the baseline health

status of some continued to

be lower," said the study,

which followed the cases of

1,276 patients admitted at the

Jin Yin-tan Hospital in Wuhan

over one year.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani jointly reviewed the preparations for DefExpo-2022, to be held for the first time in Gujarat, at a meeting in Kevadia on Thursday.

The 12th edition of the biennial DefExpo, which is India's flagship event showcasing the land, naval, air as well as homeland security systems, will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat bet-



Go deep: India's heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo Varunastra on display during DefExpo 2020. ■FILE РНОТО

ween March 10 and 13, 2022, a Defence Ministry statement said. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ministry of Defence and Gujarat Government for organising the event, in the presence of Mr. Singh. The DefExpo 2022 will be

a hybrid business event,

with the exhibition planned at the helipad exhibition centre, and seminars at Mahatma Mandir convention and exhibition centre, the statement said. A live demonstration of weapons and defence platforms is also being planned at the Sabarmati river front in Ahmedabad, it stated. The aim is to build upon the vision to achieve self-reliance in defence and reach the \$5bn defence exports target by 2024, the Ministry said.

DefExpo 2020 had an exhibition expanse of over 75,000 square metres, with participation of more than 1,000 exhibitors, according to the statement.

Jallianwala Bagh conservation was

Mizoram says Assam police abducted man

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Mizoram police on Thursday accused the Assam police of abducting an excavator operator at gunpoint, ripping his clothes off and threatening him with dire consequences. The incident reportedly

happened in Aitlang, a place Mizoram claims is in Kolasib district while Assam asserts is in Hailakandi district. Kolasib Deputy Commissioner H. Lalthlangliana stated in a letter that such incidents could cause interstate border tensions.

Indian biologist wins global award for turtle conservation

Shailendra Singh's work has helped several species survive

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

Indian biologist Shailendra Singh has been awarded the Behler Turtle Conservation Award for bringing three critically endangered turtle conservation species back from the brink of extinction.

A press statement issued by the headquarters of the Turtle Survival Alliance earlier this week said: "For some species, such as the red-crowned roofed turtle (Batagur kachuga), northern river terrapin (Batagur baska), and black softshell turtle (Nilssonia nigricans), Dr. Singh and his team's efforts are the last hope for their wild survival in the



Shailendra Singh with a red-crowned roofed turtle.

The award has been bestowed by several global bodies involved in turtle conservation such as Turtle Survival Alliance, IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, Turtle Conservancy, and the Turtle Conservation Fund. "In just 15 years, there are

few individuals that have made such monumental contributions to turtle conservation as Shailendra Singh. He and his team's efforts now span much of India, impacting well over half of its turtle and tortoise species, many of which are among the most endangered turtles on the planet," said Rick Hudson, president, Turtle Survival Alliance. "While it may take decades to witness the full impact of Dr. Singh's commitment, his name and legacy have become synonymous with Indian turtle conservation," Mr. Hudson added.



Journalist Chandan Mitra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Journalist and former Rajya Sabha member Chandan Mitra passed away on Wednesday night, his family said on Thursday.

"...He had been suffering for a while," his son Kushan Mitra said. The 66year-old former BJP MP had been the editor-inchief of The Pioneer.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his con-



passes away

dolences to the family.



renovated Jallianwala Bagh by some historians, Culture Secretary Raghvendra Singh said on Thursday the "conservation was done under direct supervision of the Archaeological Survey of India" and that there was "nothing factually incorrect".

Mr. Singh said the Ministry was in talks with the descendants of the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre to share their memorabilia for display at the one of the galleries at the complex.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated four new galleries and the revamped Jallianwala Bagh on



A view of the Jallianwala Bagh memorial.

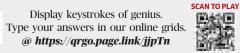
August 28 after the site was closed for renovations for about a year-and-a-half. The site of a massacre of Indians by British forces on April 13, 1919 in Amritsar, some historians said, had been turned into a place for enjoyment through the renovations.

According to sources, the project had been carried out by the ASI and the NBCC, which tendered out the

work. The contract was given to Gujarat-based Vama Communications. In response to the critique that the space had been beautified, an official said landscaping had been done and it was not the same as beautifica-

One of the criticisms of the project was the addition of glittering murals on the walls of the narrow corridor through which British forces entered. The official said the murals had not been "mindlessly created" and that they depicted families happily entering the space where they were eventually killed. The official said the 31 descendants of the martyrs who attended the opening on August 28 had "no objections".

TH CROSSWORD+ 13343





19 Alabama soldier has a Catholic yearbook (7) 22 Nearer shutter (6)

24 Predicted lot of red unusually (8)

26 Two consecutive letters about a president and controversial monk (8)

Display keystrokes of genius.

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

28 Place to keep boats in Myanmar (in Avevarwady) (6)

30 At first, brother managed and ground husk (4)

31 Throw out as part of massive victory (5) 32 Formulate formulations without formalin? Means "Same as above"! (4)

DOWN

1 Shed boy ran wildly (4) 2 Postponement following mistake in agreement (8)

3 Recent development in core area (6)

4 Massachusetts Republican: "Can I drink?" (7)

5 To some extent. Pakistan bullies Constantinople (8) 6 Weapon made by space technology promoter and alien (6)

7 Denote average (4)

14 Bay window in Mussoorie lodge (5)

16 Travelling around India, male's communication via Internet (1-4)

18 Using wire, strangulates targets walking around centre of Vancouver (8) 20 Wager amount with Moor returning to foyer (8)

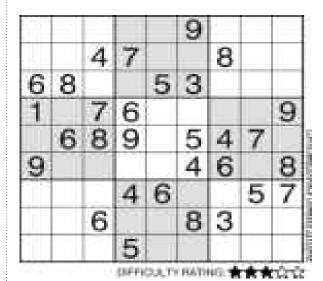
21 Swine going around moor with Newton gets old German money (7)

23 Consume wine without lying (6) 25 Far out meteor splits (6)

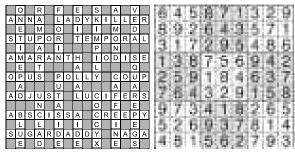
27 Australian god's ambience (4) 29 Leading members of new environment study tour create avian

accommodation (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13342 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

tions.

Factors behind action

In the eighteenth chapter of the Gita, the factors involved in the jivatma's actions are explained and analysed against the backdrop of God's overall control. A proper understanding of these matters is crucial for every individual so that one is able to review the extent of his role and responsibility in his daily activities, pointed out Asuri Sri Madhavachariar in a

The Lord explains that all actions in the world are possible owing to five factors. The body is the seat of all activity. The self in the body is the agent, the Kartha. The next factor is the Karmendriyas and the mind. The fourth factor is the vital breath, prana that sustains and pervades the body. The fifth factor is the Supreme Spirit dwelling in all these. Whatever action a man does, using his sarira, speech and mind, whether it is right or wrong, it is owing to these five factors. So, a jivatma cannot lay any claim as the sole agent for his ac-

Now, if the Lord is the fifth and hence also the primary cause of all activity, it may be asked if He is the cause of the bad deeds in people.

The answer lies in the fourth chapter when He explains the desireless nature of His work. As the Supreme Being, He is the cause of this universe of infinite variety, in terms of individual gunas and karma. He is the ruler of Prakriti, and who grants the respective sarira for each jiva and is also the karma phala data. He is the source of everything and pervades everything. He is the Kartha from this angle. But He is not subject to Prakriti which is dependent on Him. He is only a witness and always unattached and is not responsible for the acts, good or bad, of the jivatma. He is thus the nondoer, akartha from this angle.

ACROSS 8 Cost of travelling long distance with Head of Electronics (4)

9 Tests old flame in front of a short young lady (5) 10 American edition's second hand (4)

11 Badly incites after losing one to crime (6) 12 After vehicle is returned, monarch's keeping tabs on movement (8)

13 Number in the next block (8) 15 Please, in Germany, with right type of beer (6)

Taliban close to forming government

Dozens of women stage a rare protest for the right to work under a new regime, more inclusiveness

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Taliban said on Thursday they were close to forming a new government, as dozens of women held a rare protest for the right to work under a new regime that faces enormous economic hurdles and deep public

The Islamist militants. who have pledged a softer brand of rule than during their brutal reign of 1996-2001, must now transform from insurgent group to governing power.

Cabinet formation

The announcement of a Cabinet, which two Taliban sources said may take place on Friday following afternoon prayers, would come just days after the chaotic pullout of U.S. forces from Afghanistan, ending America's longest war with an astounding military victory for the Islamist group.

In one of the most symbolic moments since the takeover of Kabul on August 15, the militants paraded on Wed-



Raising their voice: Afghan women holding placards as they take part in a protest in Herat on Thursday. • AFP

nesday some of the military hardware they had captured during their offensive, even flying a Black Hawk helicopter over Kandahar, their movement's heartland.

Now, all eyes are on whether the Taliban can deliver a Cabinet capable of managing a war-wracked economy and honour the movement's pledges of a "inclusive"

Speculation is rife about

the make-up of a new government, although a senior official said on Wednesday that women were unlikely to

Top posts unlikely

be included.

Senior leader Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai – a hardliner in the first Taliban administration – told BBC Pashto in an interview that while women could continue working, there "may not" be a place for them in the Cabinet of any future government or any other top position. In the western city of Her-

at, some 50 women took to the streets in a rare, defiant protest for the right to work and over the lack of women's participation in the new government.

"It is our right to have education, work and security," the protesters chanted in unison, said an AFP journalist who witnessed the protest.

"We are not afraid, we are united," they added.

Herat is a relatively cosmopolitan city on the ancient silk road near the Iranian border. It is one of the more prosperous in Afghanistan and girls have already returned to school there.

the protest, Basira Taheri, said she wanted the Taliban to include women in the new Cabinet. "We want the Taliban to

One of the organisers of

hold consultations with us," Ms. Taheri said. "We don't see any women in their gatherings and meetings."

Among the 1,22,000 people who fled Afghanistan in a frenzied U.S.-led airlift that ended on Monday was the first female Afghan journalist to interview a Taliban official live on television.

Speaking to AFP in Qatar, the former anchor for the Tolo News media group said women in Afghanistan were "in a very bad situation".

"I want to say to the international community please do anything (you can) for Afghan women," Beheshta Arghand said.

In Kabul, residents voiced worry over the country's long-running economic difficulties, now seriously compounded by the militant movement's takeover.

'With the arrival of the Taliban, it's right to say that there is security, but business has gone down below zero," Karim Jan, an electronic goods shop owner,

The UN warned earlier this week of a looming "humanitarian catastrophe" in Afghanistan, as it called to ensure that those wanting to flee the new regime still have a way out.

At least 26 dead after Ida slams U.S. northeast, causes flooding

Heavy rain flooded low-lying apartments, New York subway



Heading for safety: First responders helping residents of New York after remnants of Hurricane Ida brought torrential rain and flash floods to the area on Wednesday. • REUTERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A stunned U.S. northeast faced a rising death toll, surging rivers, tornado damage and continuing calls for rescue on Thursday after the remnants of Hurricane Ida walloped the region with record-breaking rain, filling low-lying apartments with water and turning roads into car-swallowing canals.

In a region that had been warned about potentially deadly flash flooding but hadn't braced for such a blow from the no-longerhurricane, the storm killed at least 26 people from Maryland to New York on Wednesday night and Thursday

At least 12 people died in New York City, police said. Officials said at least eight died in New Jersey and three in Pennsylvania's suburban Montgomery County; one was killed by a falling tree, one drowned in a car and another in a home.

Experts say the situation was slightly exacerbated by climate change - warmer air holds more rain – and urban settings, where expansive pavement prevents water from seeping into the

"These extreme storms, and the climate crisis, are here," President Joe Biden said in a White House speech. "We must be better prepared. We need to act."

In New York, some highways flooded, garbage bobbed in water rushing down the streets and water cascaded into the city's subway tunnels, trapping at least 17 trains and forcing the cancellation of service throughout the night and early morning. Videos online showed riders standing on seats in cars filled with water. All riders were evacuated safely, officials said.

Qatar, Taliban working on reopening Kabul airport

Doha despatches technical team to help in resuming flights for humanitarian aid, people's movement

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Qatar is working with the Taliban to reopen Kabul's airport as soon as possible, its Foreign Minister said on Thursday, urging the hardline Islamists to allow Afghans to leave.

The airport, the scene of a frenzied evacuation which ended with the U.S. troop withdrawal on Tuesday, is out of operation with much of its infrastructure degraded or destroyed.

"We are working very hard (and) we remain hopeful that we will be able to operate it as soon as possible," said Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Ab-

"Hopefully in the next few days we will hear some good news," he told a news conference in Doha.

dulrahman al-Thani.

A Qatari technical team flew into Kabul on Wednesday to discuss reopening the airport, the first plane to there since the

A source with knowledge of the matter said the goal was to resume flights both for humanitarian aid and to provide freedom of movement, including the resumption of evacuation efforts.

More than 123,000 foreign nationals and Afghans fled the country in the airlift operation, but many more are desperate to depart.

"It's very important... that the Taliban demonstrate their commitment to provide safe passage and freedom of movement for the people of Afghanistan," Sheikh Mohammed said.

Turkey's role

Qatar is "engaging with (the Taliban) and also with Turkey if they can provide any technical assistance", he added.

Sheikh Mohammed was addressing a joint press conference with his British counterpart Dominic Raab, who said "we need to adjust to the new reality" of Taliban

"Our immediate priority is to secure the safe passage of those remaining British nationals, but also the Afghans who worked for the U.S., and indeed others who may be at most risk," Mr. Raab said.

Qatar hosted negotiations between the Taliban and the U.S. in recent years and was a transit point for about

65 dead as Yemen rebels launch new assault on govt. stronghold

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sixty-five combatants have been killed after Yemen's Houthi rebels launched a renewed offensive on Marib, the last government stronghold in the north, a military official said on Thursday.

The Iran-backed rebels attacked pro-government positions south of the strategic city, making progress despite losing dozens of fighters in coalition air strikes.

It was the Houthis' first major offensive on Marib, the key to controlling the region, since June, when 111 fighters on both sides died in three days of clashes.

"Twenty-two pro-government (forces) were killed and 50 others were wounded, while 43 Houthis were killed in the last 48 hours," a government official said.

+ Ireland fines WhatsApp after probe

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ireland's privacy watchdog has fined WhatsApp a record €225 million (\$267 million) after an investigation found it breached stringent EU data protection rules on transparency about sharing people's data with other Facebook companies.

The Data Protection Commission said on Thursday that it was also ordering WhatsApp to take "remedial actions" to change the way it communicates with users so that it complies with EU regulations. WhatsApp, which has 2 billion users worldwide, said the fine was out of proportion and it would appeal the decision.

The watchdog's announcement wraps up an investigation into the Facebookowned messaging service that opened in December 2018, after the EU rules, known as General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, took effect. It's the second penalty – and the biggest - issued by the Irish watchdog under GDPR. Last year, it fined Twitter €4,50,000 for a security breach.

U.S. top court declines to block abortion ban

Texas legislation prohibits the procedure once a fetal heartbeat can be detected

REUTERS WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court refused on Wednesday to block a Texas ban on abortion after six weeks of pregnancy, dealing a major blow to abortion rights by leaving in place a State law that prohibits the vast majority of abortions.

The decision is a major milestone in the fight over abortion, as opponents have sought for decades to roll access to procedure.

By a 5-4 vote, the Justices denied an emergency request by abortion and women's health providers for an injunction on enforce-

ment of the ban, which took effect early on Wednesday, while litigation continues.

One of the court's six conservatives, Chief Justice John Roberts, joined its three liberals in dissent.

"The court's order is stunning," liberal Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in a dissenting opinion.

"Presented with an application to enjoin a flagrantly unconstitutional law engineered to prohibit women from exercising their constitutional rights and evade judicial scrutiny, a majority of justices have opted to bury their heads in the sand."

In an unsigned explana-



A view of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington DC.

tion, the court's majority said the decision was "not based on any conclusion about the constitutionality of Texas's law" and allowed le-

gal challenges to proceed. The decision illustrates the impact of former Republican President Donald Trump's three conservative

appointees, who have tilted

the court further right. All

were in the majority. The law would amount to a near-total ban on the procedure in Texas, as 85% to 90% of abortions are obtained after six weeks of pregnancy, and would probably force many clinics to

close, rights groups said. Such a ban has never been permitted in any state since the Supreme Court decided Roe v. Wade, the landmark ruling that legalized abortion nationwide, in 1973.

Texas is among a dozen mostly Republican-led States to ban the procedure once a fetal heartbeat can be detected, often at six weeks and sometimes before a woman realises she is pregnant.

Courts have blocked such bans, citing Roe v. Wade.

The court's action over the Texas ban could foreshadow its approach in another case over a 15-week ban by Mississippi in which the state has asked the Justices to overturn Roe v. Wade.

The court will hear arguments in the term beginning in October, with a ruling due by the end of June 2022.

China: ball in U.S. court for climate cooperation

Stop seeing Bejing as a threat: Wang

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

China has challenged the United States to fix relations with Beijing to make progress on climate change, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday, as Washington's climate envoy visits to press the world's top polluter to slash emissions.

Tensions between China and the U.S. have soared in recent months with the two sides trading barbs on Beijing's human rights record and its initial handling of the coronavirus.

Tackling climate change is among a handful of issues where the two sides had struck notes of harmony.

But Beijing has in recent months emphasised that environmental cooperation could be hurt by deteriorating Sino-U.S. relations.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday told U.S. climate envoy John Kerry during a China visit that cooperation on global warming could not be disentangled from broader diplomacy between the two countries.

In a video call with Mr. Kerry, Mr. Wang accused Washington of a "major strategic miscalculation to-



wards China", according to the Ministry statement. "It is impossible for Chi-

na-U.S. climate cooperation to be elevated above the overall environment of China-U.S. relations," Mr. Wang The Chinese Minister said

court, and the U.S. should stop seeing China as a threat and opponent".

"the ball is now in the U.S."

Mr. Kerry visited Japan earlier this week before travelling to the northeastern Chinese city of Tianjin.

At a virtual meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng on Thursday, Mr. Kerry said "there is no way for the world to solve the climate crisis without the full engagement and commitment" of China, according to a U.S. State Department spokesperson.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE fered to DPR Korea may be last year to stop the virus Regardless, the isolated country told UNICEF relocated to severely affectspreading from neighbour-

North Korea rejects Chinese vaccines: UNICEF

North Korea has rejected around three million doses of a Chinese COVID-19 vaccine, suggesting they should be given to countries in greater need, UNICEF said on Thursday.

The impoverished North was the first country to impose a strict lockdown when it sealed its border in January ing China, where it first emerged before sweeping the world.

Pyongyang insists it has yet to see any cases of the virus – a claim that analysts doubt – but it has paid a huge economic price for the blockade, with the regime admitting in June it was tackling a "food crisis".

which distributes vaccines under the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (Covax) programme for low-income countries – that the Chinesemade vaccines could be given to others, UNICEF said. North Korea's Public

Health Ministry "has com-

municated that the 2.97 mil-

lion Sinovac doses being of-

ed countries in view of the limited supply and surge in some countries", a UNICEF spokesperson told AFP.

Pyongyang would "continue to communicate" with COVAX "to receive COVID-19 vaccines in the coming months", they added.

In July, a South Korean think tank affiliated with Se-

gyang had also rejected shipments of AstraZeneca's vaccine offered by the Covax scheme, apparently over concerns about side effects. The Institute for National

oul's spy agency said Pyon-

Security Strategy added at the time that the North was not equipped with sufficient cold chain storage for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

China bans reality talent shows

It is part of wide-ranging crackdown on 'immoral' pop culture

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

China banned reality talent programmes on Thursday and ordered broadcasters to promote more masculine representations of men, in a wide-ranging crackdown on "immoral" pop culture Beijing believes is leading young people astray.

Talent shows that put hundreds of aspiring young performers through rigorous boot camps and subject them to public votes have become massively popular in China, sparking criticism over obsessive fans and poor role models.

"Broadcast and TV institutions must not screen idol development programmes or variety shows and reality shows," China's broadcast regulator, the National Radio and

casters to resist "abnormal aesthetics" such as "sissy" men, "vulgar influencers", stars' inflated pay and performers with "lapsed morals".

Television Administration said. The regulator ordered broad-

Faced with falling birth rates, Chinese authorities have tried to instil traditional masculine values in the youth by ramping up gym classes and criticising male entertainers who model the effeminate looks of Korean pop idols.

Instead, broadcasters were urged to "strongly promote outstanding traditional Chinese culture... and advanced socialist

Popular Chinese blogger Feng Xiaoyi had his account suspended by Douyin - China's version of TikTok – last week for "promoting unhealthy values", after some users complained about his "sissy" videos.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT **AUCTION PROGRAMME** NOTICE NO: 11 / 2021

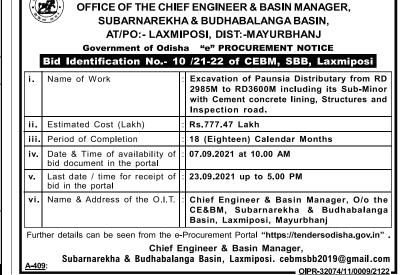
e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap. Non-Ferrous scrap other Perrnanent Way scrap material e-auction conducted

Date of auctionfor the Month of October 2021 1 Dy.CMM/GSD/PER 01.10.21 11.10.21 22.10.21 2 Dy.CMM/CSSD/GOC 04.10.21 12.10.21 25.10.21 The details of item to 3 Dy.CMM/SSD/PTJ 04.10.21 25.10.21 4 Sr.DMM/MAS 05.10.21 13.10.21 26.10.21 e-auction will be 05.10.21 13.10.21 26.10.21 available i 5 Sr.DMM/SA 6 Sr.DMM/TVC 06.10.21 18.10.21 27.10.21 catalogue i 7 Sr.DMM/PGT | 07.10.21 | 20.10.21 | 28.10.21 | www.ireps.gov.ii 8 Sr.DMM/TPJ 08.10.21 21.10.21 29.10.21 website. Sr DMM/TPJ 08.10.21 21.10.21 29.10.21 (for MDU divn)

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

'Chip paucity hurting car

sales, not tepid demand'

Supply side fettering economy: Sanyal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

buy cars but because of the

chip shortage that was ham-

pering output at carmakers.

and 'Nobel laureates' for

urging India to spur de-

mand to revive the econo-

my, Principal Economic Ad-

viser to the Finance Ministry

Sanjeev Sanyal said there

was no point pumping up

demand by endowing 'heli-

copter money' on people if

the supply side was unable

that we are now facing in

economic expansion, at

least in India, is not lack of

demand. It is in fact, that we

have run out of chips for our

automobile industry, it's not

that people don't want to

buy cars, we can't produce

them because we can't pro-

cure chips," Mr. Sanyal said

in an interaction with Elara

Capital chief economist Ga-

rima Kapoor, on Thursday.

mous demand for our ex-

ports... we are seeing record

exports. But the lack of con-

tainers and ships is con-

straining us," he said, stress-

ing on the government's

Mr. Sanyal said India's

"This year, we are likely

macroeconomic situation

was in good shape to scale

to see double-digit growth.

But I think we will see possi-

bly double-digit growth

even in 2022," he said. Anti-

cipating strong growth in

the July-September quarter

after the 20.1% GDP growth

up growth very rapidly.

supply-side

on

interventions.

focus

"Similarly, there is enor-

"The biggest problems

to respond.

Taking on economists

MARKET WATCH

	02-09-2021	
Sensex	57,853	0.90
US Dollar	73.06	0.02
Gold	46,193	0.15
Brent oil	73.39	3.65

NIFTY 50		
		CHANGE
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv		
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL	479.80	2.80
Britannia Ind	4086.10	70.75
Cipla	955.25	32.40
Coal India	141.60	-2.60
Divis Lab	5165.55	37.10
Dr Reddys Lab	4859.70	96.25
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech	1172.75	8.10
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
State Bank		
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma		1.45
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.		
Tata Motors	293.15	-2.10
Tata Steel		
TCS	3836.75	121.80
Tech Mahindra	1437.80	1.50
Titan		
UltraTech Cement		
UPL		
Winro		

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 02						
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL				
US Dollar	72.86	73.18				
Euro	86.29	86.67				
British Pound	.100.44.	100.89				
Japanese Yen (100)	66.21	66.53				
Chinese Yuan	11.28.	11.33				
Swiss Franc	79.50	79.85				
Singapore Dollar	54.20	54.44				
Canadian Dollar	57.73	57.98				
Malaysian Ringitt	17.51	17.61				
Source:Indian Bank						



Piaggio India rolls out new range of superbikes

Piaggio India has announced the introduction of a series of superbikes in India. While the all new Aprilia RS 660 and Tuono 660 are priced at ₹13.39 lakh and ₹13.09 lakh ex-showroom, respectively, the RSV4 and Tuono V4 are priced at ₹23.69 lakh and ₹20.66 lakh ex-showroom, respectively. Moto Guzzi V85 TT is priced at ₹15.40 lakh ex-showroom.

Tata Realty buys Actis's stake in IT4 Pvt. Ltd.

Tata Realty & Infrastructure Ltd. (TRIL), a 100% subsidiary of Tata Sons Pvt Ltd., said it has acquired the entire equity share held by global investor Actis in TRIL IT4 Pvt. Ltd. that owns and operates Intellion Square, an IT building in the western suburbs of Mumbai, in an all cash deal of an unspecified amount. The 0.8 mn sq.ft. building has been leased to tenants largely from the technology & BFSI sectors.

LIC IPO: Govt. yet again invites law firms' bids

NEW DELHI The Centre has invited bids for the second time from law firms to advise on the initial public offering of LIC. On July 15, the Centre had invited bids from legal advisers with August 6 as the the last date. "Considering insufficient demand received in the first RFP, it has been decided to issue a fresh RFP," the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management said. This time around, September 16 is the last date. PTI

Granules gets DRDO

Granules India has received licence from the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) to manufacture and market 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose (2-DG) Developed by DRDO, 2-DG has been approved by the Drugs Controller General of India for emergency use as adjunct therapy in moderate Granules said it is working closely with DRDO to unveil the earliest.

Lack of GST details stumps economists

'With the data currently available for GST, no analysis is possible except to say revenues rose or fell'

NEW DELHI

GST collections have crossed ₹1 lakh crore in 11 of the last 12 months, with the government attributing the trend to a rapid economic recovery and improved compliance levels, but economists are unable to analyse these tax numbers as critical data points are no longer shared by the government.

Until December 2020, when monthly GST collections were released, the official statement from the Finance Ministry usually included details of the number of GSTR 3B returns filed by taxpayers and a Statewise break-up of revenues.

State-wise revenue trends have been shared for only four of the eight months since then - February.

SEBI moves SC

over PNB HF's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

₹4,000-cr. plan

PNB Housing Finance on

Thursday said capital mar-

kets regulator SEBI has ap-

proached the Supreme

Court against the Securi-

ties Appellate Tribunal's

order in the matter related

to the firm's plan to raise

₹4,000 crore from inves-

the two-member bench of

the Securities Appellate

Tribunal (SAT) gave a split

verdict, saying there was

difference of opinion bet-

ween the members of the

bench. SAT directed that its

interim order of June 21

would continue till further

orders, restraining PNB

Housing Finance from dis-

closing results of the share-

In its order on August 9,

tors led by Carlyle Group.



Patchy data: State-wise collection trends have been shared for only 4 of the last 8 months. • PICHUMANII

March, July and August. The last month for which the government shared the number of GSTR 3B returns filed was January. The return is a summary of a firm's GST liabilities for each month.

"With the current details

available for GST, there cannot be any kind of analysis except to say the revenues went up or down," said a

professor at a major Delhibased economic research institute, requesting anonymi-

ty. GST now accounts for

65% of States' own tax revenue, he pointed out.

The chief economist at a rating agency, who also asked not to be named, said it was difficult to tell how much of the GST kitty could be ascribed to better compliance and how much to rising economic activity.

"Continuous improvements in compliance levels are a major factor according to the government itself. Ideally, we should have the information on compliance so as to assess trends better," the economist observed.

'Concern for States'

Kerala's Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal said the lack of transparency around GST data was a concern for States. "Transparency is critical even for States to know

the situation on the ground. If a transparent attitude is not there... States will lose not only their rights, but they could lose financially as well if they are not able to check the situation," he said.

In January, when GST collections hit a record of ₹1.2 lakh crore, the total GSTR 3B returns filed were 90 lakh as per the Ministry. But that number hasn't been released ever since.

"After the sharp uptick in January, the government has stopped disclosing compliance levels, but the Finance Minister's statement talks about a 40%+ increase in the GST tax base to 12.8 million since then," IM Financial analysts Aishwarya Sonker, Dhananjay Sinha and Arshad Perwez wrote in a note on GST collections

Semiconductor shortage to hit output at M&M

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mahindra & Mahindra on Thursday said the output at its automotive division will be cut by up to 25% ow-

In a filing, M&M said its some parts of the world.

"Consequently, the comby 20-25%," M&M added.

India's economic growth is facing challenges not due to lack of demand, but because of supply constraints, a senior Finance Ministry official said, asserting car sales were down not because people didn't want to

in the first quarter, the former banker said some sectors involving personal services were still under lockdown and would be opened up.

"Wherever we have opened up, we have found demand coming back very strong. So even in areas like tourism, restaurants, which we had restricted till recently, wherever restrictions are even mildly removed, we see demand coming back."

'Direct tax overhaul'

Terming an overhaul of India's direct taxes as the only major structural economic reform that remained to be done, Mr. Sanyal also said the government would now focus on administrative reforms of the bureaucracy and judiciary as enforcement of contracts remained an area of concern.

He also indicated the government may tweak some of the provisions around the three agriculture laws that are facing protests. "We have a supply-side

approach to most of the reforms we are doing, including the ones which we have faced political opposition over, like the farm sector reforms... we may need to make some adjustments in order to make it politically palatable in the 1-2 States where there is opposition, but nevertheless, we remain committed to the general direction," he underlined.

Govt. focus on infrastructure, exports to propel growth: UBS

'Oct.-March to see momentum as vaccination numbers rise'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The government's push to boost capital expenditure, especially on infrastructure, combined with its focus on manufacturing and exports could prove to be the next set of growth drivers, UBS Securities said in a report.

"We maintain our base case estimate of India's real GDP growth at 8.9% YoY in FY22 (consensus: 9.2%)," Tanvee Gupta Jain, chief India economist, UBS Securities, said in a statement.

"In our view, the government's push towards boosting capex, especially on infrastructure, focus on manufacturing and exports could be the next growth



drivers. Our Activity Indicator suggests economic activity rebounded in the September quarter," she added.

In the near term, growth is expected to gain momentum between October and March on cyclical tailwinds including pent-up demand, largely led by contact-intensive services, especially after as per the securities firm. Besides, favourable external demand would aid growth. UBS Securities said the formal sector seemed to

more people are vaccinated,

have gained market share during the pandemic period while the unorganised / informal economy had suffered; this had not been adequately captured in the GDP numbers at the current juncture, it added. "The scarring caused by

the pandemic has adversely affected employment and income levels of workers in the informal sector (largely in non-agriculture in rural areas and high-contact services in urban areas)," UBS Securities said in the report.

ing to 'no-production' days across plants due to semiconductor shortage.

automotive division continued to face supply shortage of semiconductors, which further accentuated due to COVID lockdowns in

pany will be observing 'no production days' of about 7 days in September," the company said. The move is estimated to result in a "reduction in production volumes of the automotive division in September 2021,

Apple faces antitrust case in India over apps issue Non-profit challenges firm's in-app fee

REUTERS

Apple Inc. is facing an antitrust challenge in India for allegedly abusing its dominant position in the apps market by forcing developers to use its proprietary inapp purchase system, according to a source and documents seen by Reuters. The allegations are simi-

lar to a case Apple faces in the European Union, where regulators last year started an investigation into Apple's imposition of an in-app fee of 30% for distribution of paid digital content and other restrictions.

The Indian case was filed by a little-known, non-profit group which argues Apple's fee of up to 30% hurts competition by raising costs for app developers and customers, while also acting as a

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The U.K. India Business

Council (UKIBC) said it had

presented its pre-Free Trade

Agreement (FTA) submis-

sion to the island nation's

Department for Internation-

al Trade with recommenda-

tions to the U.K. govern-



barrier to market entry. "The existence of the

30% commission means that some app developers will never make it to the market... This could also result in consumer harm," the group said in the filing, which was seen by Reuters.

Details of cases reviewed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) are not made public. Apple and CCI did not respond to a request for comment.

UKIBC urges tariff cuts ahead

Sign mini pacts that will eventually form a full FTA: Council

of free-trade negotiations

on nod for Revlimid copy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Shares of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories and Natco Pharma gained almost 2% and more than 4%, respectively on Thursday after the drugmakers announced the unveiling of a generic equivalent each of anti-cancer drug Revlimid (lenalidomide) capsules in Canada.

The unveiling followed Health Canada approving their products. Natco said its Nat-Lenalidomide was the first generic alternative to Revlimid to be approved by the regulator. Both Dr. Reddy's Reddy-Lenalidomide and Natco's product are available in 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, and 25 mg strengths.

While DRL shares closed

DRL, Natco rise

1.96% higher at ₹4,857.20, Natco ended the day with a 4.12% gain at ₹979.35.

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Richard Heald

energy.

the negotiations should fo-

ensuring tax parity between U.K. and Indian businesses. The council has also re-

commended that the governments sign a series of interim or mini agreements that will, over time, form a fully comprehensive FTA. "The announcement and

signing of the Enhanced Trade Partnership between India and the U.K. in May represented the culmination of much effort and engagement between the two governments," UKIBC Chair Richard Heald said in a

"The launch of the process into a FTA between the two nations is moving on apace as evidenced by the end of the consultation period today," he added.



licence for COVID drug HYDERABAD

FTA negotiations are scheduled to begin this year. 'Inputs from 200 firms' The council said the submission captures inputs from about 200 companies from all parts of the U.K., representing sectors such as digito severe COVID-19 patients. tal and data, food and drink, life sciences and healthcare, insurance and financial serthe product in the country at vices, higher education, de-



fence and aerospace, and

It has recommended that

cus on reducing tariffs, including on alcoholic spirits and medical devices; reducing non-tariff barriers to goods trade, such as by aligning standards, simplifying burdensome and costly customs procedures, and

statement.

India hits back after being skittled out for a modest 191

Shardul's scintillating half-century and Kohli's fifty highlight another ordinary performance by the visitors; England ends day one on 53/3

INDIA IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Shardul Thakur marked his return to India duty with a record-breaking fifty that saw the visitors fight back on the first day of the fourth Test against England at the Oval on Thursday.

Shardul made 57, including a fifty in just 31 balls – the fastest in terms of balls faced in a Test in England – as he revived India from 117/6 to a total of 191 all out after the team had lost the toss in overcast, bowler-friendly conditions.

Prize wicket

Jasprit Bumrah then removed both the hosts' openers in the same over before Umesh Yadav captured the prize wicket of England captain Joe Root for 21 after the star batsman, now top of the world rankings, had made hundreds in the first three Tests of a five-match series all square at 1-1.

At stumps, England was 53/3, a deficit of 138 runs. with Dawid Malan 26 not out and nightwatchman Craig Overton on one.

Shardul's innings surpassed England great Ian Botham's 32-ball fifty against New Zealand, also at the Oval, in 1986 as the quickest in a Test in England.

India captain Virat Kohli, who made exactly 50, was



Eventful day: Joe Root has his stumps disturbed by Umesh Yadav; Chris Woakes, with a four-for, was the top wicket-taker for England, while Shardul Thakur launched a stunning assault on the English bowlers. • GETTY IMAGES

the only other India batsman to pass 17.

England all-rounder Chris Woakes, playing his first Test in over a year because of iniuries and Covid complications, took 4/55 in 15 overs.

But the Warwickshire paceman, who replaced leftarm swing bowler Sam Curran, would have had even better figures had not two catches been dropped off his bowling.

England, having seen its openers share a welcome century during last week's innings and 76-run win in the third Test at Headingley, then found itself 6-2 in four

Bumrah had Rory Burns

stylish late cut. playing on for five on the Surrey left-hander's home

But Umesh had his revenge when he bowled Root between bat and pad with a ball that seamed in off the pitch.

Earlier, first-change Woakes struck with his sixth ball Thursday when Rohit Sharma (11) fended a steeply rising delivery to Jonny Bairstow, back keeping wicket after Jos Buttler missed this match due to paternity

Cheteshwar Pujara, the promoted Ravindra Jadeja and the struggling Ajinkya Rahane were all caught behind the wicket cheaply as they failed to deal with the moving ball.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS

Rohit Sharma c Bairstow b Woakes 11 (27b, 1x4), K.L. Rahul lbw b Robinson 17 (44b, 3x4), Cheteshwar Pujara c Bairstow b Anderson 4 (31b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c Bairstow b Robinson 50 (96b, 8x4), Ravindra Jadeja c Root b Woakes 10 (34b, 2x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Moeen b Overton 14 (47b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant c Moeen b Woakes 9 (33b, 1x4), Shardul Thakur lbw b Woakes 57 (36b, 7x4, 3x6), Umesh Yadav c Bairstow b Robinson 10 (20b) 1x4), Jasprit Bumrah run out O (Ob), Mohammed Siraj (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-8): 8; Total (in 61.3 overs): 191. **FALL OF WICKETS**

1-28 (Rohit, 8.6 overs), 2-28 (Rahul, 13.5), 3-39 (Pujara, 19.4), 4-69 (Jadeja, 29.6), 5-105 (Kohli, 42.5), 6-117 (Rahane, 49.5), 7-127 (Pant, 52.6), 8-190 (Shardul, 60.6), 9-190 (Bumrah,

ENGLAND BOWLING Anderson 14-3-41-1, Robinson 17.3-9-38-3, Woakes 15-6-55-4, Overton 15-2-49-1.

ENGLAND — IST INNINGS

Rory Burns b Bumrah 5 (11b), Haseeb Hameed c Pant b Bumrah O (12b), Dawid Malan (batting) 26 (46b, 4x4), Joe Root b Umesh 21 (25b, 4x4), Craig Overton (batting) 1 (8b); Total (for three wkts. in 17 overs): 53.

FALL OF WICKETS

(Hameed, 3.6), 3-52 (Root,

INDIA BOWLING Umesh 6-1-15-1, Bumrah 6-2-

15-2, Shardul 3-1-11-0, Siraj 2-0-12-0. Toss: England.

Ashwin overlooked again



R. Ashwin. • GETTY IMAGES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

On Thursday, Indian skipper Virat Kohli once again announced at the toss that R. Ashwin, India's fourth highest wicket-taker in Test cricket, would not be among the five bowlers who would be playing the Oval Test.

Ravindra Jadeja, with two wickets from last three Tests, was persisted with for his left-handed willow wielding.

"It's something that we thought is a good match-up for Jadeja as well, because mostly all our seamers bowl over the wicket. It's a nice little spot for the left-handers as well," explained Kohli.

Fernando's ton sets up Lanka's win

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE COLOMBO

Opening batsman Avishka Fernando hit an attacking 118 (115b, 10x4, 2x6) to set up Sri Lanka's 14-run win over South Africa in the first of three One-Day Internationals on Thursday.

The host scored 300 for nine from its 50 overs after electing to bat.

South Africa fell short on 286 for six despite Aiden Markram's 96 off 90 balls and a run-a-ball 59 by Rassie van der Dussen.

The scores: Sri Lanka 300/9 in 50 overs (Fernando 118, Bhanuka 27, Dhananjaya de Silva 44, Asalanka 72) bt South Africa 286/6 in 50 overs (Markram 96, van der Dussen 59. Bavuma 38. Toss: Sri Lanka. MoM: Avishka Fernando

Sri Lanka leads the threematch ODI series 1-0.

Shardul believes India can restrict England

S. DIPAK RAGAV

India's top-scorer Shardul Thakur feels the visitors can put up a good fight on the second day and restrict England to a low total in the first innings, especially after taking three wickets on day

"Keeping England's first innings total under control is key and they have already lost three wickets. (Their) inform batsman (Joe) Root is out," said Thakur, who made a quickfire 57 to help India get to 191.

"I believe we have an amazing opportunity to restrict them to a low total, that will keep us in the game. The game will be neck-to-neck and is always won in the second innings," he added.

Speaking about his batting, Thakur said, "I really prepared well before the start of the series but missed



Virat Kohli. • AP

the last two matches because of injury. But I made sure that I went to the nets and kept batting. Our batting coach and throwdown expert kept pushing me that I can score runs and gave me confidence. So on this day, it was a time to deliver."

Thakur also said the move to promote Ravindra Jadeja ahead of Ajinkya Rahane at number five was to have a left-handed batsman alongside skipper Virat Kohli.

Canoeist Prachi Yadav makes the semifinals

Pramod enters the last four in badminton; no addition to India's medals tally

PARALYMPICS

ground and four balls later

he had Hameed, trying to get

off the mark with a flam-

boyant square-cut, caught

before Root hit two fours in

three balls off Umesh Yadav

- a leg-side clip followed by a

It was not long, however,

behind for a duck.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prachi Yadav qualified for the semifinals of the canoe sprint event in women's Va'a single 200m in the Tokyo Paralympics on Thursday. The 26vear-old recorded a time of 1:11.098s to finish fourth in class VL2 heat 1 at the Sea Forest Waterway.

Prachi, who has paralysis below her waist, has competed in para swimming at the National level as well but took up canoeing on the recommendation of her coach Virender Kumar.

World No.1 Pramod Bhagat sailed into the men's singles semifinals, after beating Ukraine's Oleksandr Chyrkov 21-12, 21-9 in his group A match of the Class SL3 badminton event on Thursday.

Other Indian shuttlers, including Suhas Yathiraj, Tarun

Dhillon and Krishna Nagar also had a good day as they opened their men's singles campaign impressively.

While Suhas and Tarun notched up easy victories over Germany's Jan Niklas Pott (21-9, 21-3) and Thailand's Siripong Teamarrom (21-7, 21-13) in SL4 class respectively, second seed Krishna outwitted Malaysia's Taresoh Didin 22-20 21-10 in the SH6 class.

came Turkey's Zehra Baglar 21-12 21-18 in her second women's singles match of SU5 group A In SL classification, per-

Young Palak Kohli over-

sons with standing/lower limb impairment/severe are allowed to compete, while SU refers to athletes with upper limb impairment.

Earlier in the day, 19-yearold Palak and Parul Parmar went down 7-21, 5-21 to Chi-



Change in fortunes: Prachi Yadav, who has been a National-level para swimmer, took up canoeing at the insistence of her coach Virender Kumar. • TWITTER/SAI MEDIA

na's Cheng Hefang and Ma Huihui in a Group B women's doubles SL3-SU5 class match.

China's Cheng Hefang, lost to

8-21, 2-21 in singles and then

Parul, who competes in SL3 class, was no match for

to Germany's Katrin Seibert 21-23, 21-19, 15-21.

In athletics, Arvind ended seventh in the men's shot put F35 event with a best effort of 13.48m. Uzbekistan's Khusniddin Norbekov produced a

5-Rublev (Rus) bt

Martínez (Esp) 7-6(2), 6-7(5),

6-1, 6-1; Tiafoe (USA) bt Pella

(Arg) 6-1, 6-2, 7-5; 18-Bautista

Agut (Esp) bt Ruusuvuori (Fin)

6-1. 6-3. 6-2: 12-Auger-Ali-

assime (Can) bt Zapata (Esp) 7-

6(5), 6-3, 6-2: Laaksonen (Sui)

bt 16-Garin (Chi) 3-6, 7-6(5),

6-2, 6-4; Gojowczyk (Ger) bt Lajovic (Srb) 2-6, 6-4, 2-6, 7-5,

6-4; 3-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Man-

narino (Fra) 6-3, 6-4, 6-7(4),

6-0; van de Zandschulp (Ned)

bt 8-Ruud (Nor) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3,

6-4; Bagnis (Arg) bt Trungelliti

Molcan (Svk) bt Nakashima

(USA) 6-3, 3-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-4;

11-Schwartzman (Arg) bt An-

derson (RSA) 7-6(4), 6-3, 6-4;

Popyrin (Aus) bt 15-Dimitrov

(Bul) 7-6(4), 7-6(4), 4-0, retd.;

(USA) 6-4, 7-6(3), 2-6, 6-3; An-

duiar (Esp) bt Kohlschreiber

(Ger) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 2-Medve-

dev (Rus) bt Koepfer (Ger) 6-4,

24-Evans (GBr) bt Giron

(Arg) 7-6(4), 4-6, 6-3, 6-3;

gold. The F30 classes are for

season-best 16.13m to take

athletes with coordination impairment (involuntary movements, uncoordinated movements and/or muscle tension) often due to cerebral palsy or brain injury. In F35 category, athletes compete in standing position.

Tragedy for Aruna

Aruna Tanwar was forced to withdraw from the repechage round of the women's taekwondo K44-49kg class because of injuries sustained during her opening bout despite which she fought in the quarterfinals. Aruna beat fifth seed Danijela Jovanovic of Serbia 29-9 in the opening round before losing to Espinoza Carranza of Peru 84-21

Shooter Rahul Jakhar signed off fifth in the P3 mixed 25m pistol SH1 event.

Women: 1-Barty (Aus) bt

Tauson (Den) 6-1, 7-5; Sorribes

(Esp) bt Su-Wei (Tpe) 6-1, 6-3;

Raducanu (GBr) bt Zhang (Chn)

6-2, 6-4; 11-Bencic (Sui) bt Tre-

visan (Ita) 6-3, 6-1: 28-Konta-

veit (Est) bt Teichmann (Sui)

6-4, 6-1; Gracheva (Rus) bt 24-

Badosa (Esp) 6-4, 6-4; 17-

Sakkari (Gre) bt Siniakova (Cze)

25-Kasatkina (Rus) bt Von-

drousova (Cze) 3-6, 6-4, 6-4;

19-Rvbakina (Kaz) bt Garcia

(Fra) 6-1, 6-4; Stephens (USA)

bt 21-Gauff (USA) 6-4, 6-2;

Fernandez (Can) bt Kanepi (Est)

7-5, 7-5; 8-Krejcikova (Cze) bt

McHale (USA) 6-3, 6-1;

Rakhimova (Rus) bt 32-Alexan-

drova (Rus) 6-4, 6-1; 18-Azar-

enka (Blr) bt Paolini (Ita) 6-3, 7-

6(1); 26-Collins (USA) bt Juvan

(Slo) 6-4, 6-2; 2-Sabalenka

(Blr) bt Zidansek (Slo) 6-3, 6-1.

Fallen seeds: Men: 8-Ruud, 15-

Women: 21-Gauff, 24-Badosa,

guruza. The two-time Austra-

Dimitrov, 16-Garin.

32-Alexandrova.

6-4, 6-2.

in the quarterfinals.

IMPORTANT SECOND ROUND RESULTS

India snatches a draw against Nepal

Thapa cancels out Bista's opener



Drawing level: Indian players celebrate after Anirudh Thapa,

second from left, equalised. •TWITTER/INDIANFOOTBALL

FOOTBALL

KATHMANDU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Indian men's football team played out a 1-1 draw against Nepal in an international friendly on Thursday with substitute Anirudh Thapa finding the equaliser after the hosts grabbed the

Thapa scored for the Blue Tigers in the 60th minute after Anjan Bista gave the home team the lead in the 36th minute.

The first half kicked off with India on the front foot, earning a corner with its

first attack. Both sides battled it out for the opening goal and in

the 36th minute, the hosts took the lead through Bista, who pounced on a loose pass in the Indian defence and put the ball in the back of the net. The Blue Tigers made a

host of changes at the break, with Thapa and Sahal Abdul Samad coming into their midfield positions, and Seriton Fernandes and Rahim Ali being brought on as well - making their respective senior India debuts.

At the hour mark, the Blue Tigers got the leveller through substitute Thapa, who showed great awareness to poke the ball home from close range.

The result: Nepal 1 (Bista 36) drew with India 1 (Thapa 60).

Barty and Bencic advance as NY recovers from a storm

Tsitsipas credits a lengthy toilet break for rolling into the third round; Azarenka to meet Muguruza next

U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Australia's top-ranked Ashleigh Barty rolled into the third round of the U.S. Open on Thursday while New York struggled to recover from a deadly storm and flash

Remnants of Hurricane Ida

killed at least eight people

and triggered a rare state of emergency for the city, flooding subways and turning roads into rivers. With abandoned cars scattered across streets near the National Tennis Center and

many highways shut down,

only a smattering of specta-

tors watched in a cavernous Arthur Ashe Stadium as Barty dispatched the 18-year-old Dane, Clara Tauson 6-1, 7-5. Swiss 11th seed Belinda Bencic, the Tokyo Olympic champion, beat Italy's Marti-

na Trevisan 6-3, 6-1 in windy

Refreshed

conditions.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, Stefanos Tsitsipas took a trademark long bathroom break then credited it for advancing to the third round.

The 23-year-old Greek third seed was booed after taking more than eight minutes between the third and fourth sets but dominated af-

ter his extended toilet trip to flush Frenchman Adrian Mannarino 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-0 at Arthur Ashe Stadium. "I think taking a break and

freshen himself. • AFP

going to change - I was completely wet - I was refreshed," Tsitsipas said when asked about the key to sweeping the final set in 30 The French Open runner-

up fired a career-high 27 aces, five more than his previous best, in winning his ATP-best 50th match of the year.

Rejuvenated: Stefanos Tsitsipas turned it on against Adrian Mannarino after taking a break to

Ida plays spoilsport High winds and water

drenched the grounds and wind-blown rain entered through upper corner openings under the closed roof of Louis Armstrong Stadium to

suspend a second-round match between South African Kevin Anderson and Argentina's Diego Schwartzman. Remnants of deadly Hurri-

cane Ida would shut down the covered court after twice interrupting the match, with the National Weather Service issuing a tornado and flash flood warnings for the area. Anderson and Schwartz-

man resumed in Ashe after Tsitsipas's victory, with the (4), 6-3, 6-4.

6-1, 6-2.

Medvedev breezed past Germany's Dominik Koepfer 6-4, Two-time Grand Slam win-Victoria Azarenka

South American winning 7-6 Russian second seed Daniil

booked a third-round show-

down with and Garbine Mu-

lian Open champion and three-time U.S. Open runnerup Azarenka, the 18th seed, defeated Italy's Jasmine Paolini 6-3, 7-6(1). Romanian 12th seed Simo-

na Halep, a two-time Major champion, beat Slovakian Kristina Kucova 6-3, 6-1 for her deepest U.S. Open run since 2016.

TV PICKS

Tokyo 2020 Paralympics: DD Sports & Eurosport (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m. onwards **England vs India**: Fourth Test, day 2, Sony Six & Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. **US OPEN 2021**: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m. & 4 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF



del Nero's life ban reduced to 20 years

LAUSANNE Indicted by United States federal prosecutors in the FIFA bribery case, Brazilian football official Marco Polo del Nero got his life ban from soccer cut to 20 years by a Swiss court. The Court of Arbitration for Sport said its judges confirmed FIFA's case against del Nero "as to the findings on the merits" but ordered a reduced ban for taking bribes. AP



Shakib to be offered all-format central contract

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is among five players to be offered all-format central contracts by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).Tamim Iabal's contract includes Tests and ODIs only, while Mahmudullah has been given an ODI and T20I deal, reported ESPNcricinfo. ANI

Allen returns to NZ squad



Finn Allen. • AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Batsman Finn Allen has rejoined New Zealand's squad for its Twentv20 series against Bangladesh after recording two negative tests for COVID-19, officials said on Thursday.

The 22-year-old, who made his international debut this year, tested positive 48 hours after arriving in

Dhaka last week. "It's great for us. He has been a big part of our squad," interim New Zealand coach Glenn Pocknall said. "Hopefully, he will come as soon as possible but he will have to undergo

a couple of (fitness) tests. "He will definitely come into consideration. He is physically fit but we need to assess on what game he

120 players to be drafted for Bengal T20 Challenge

comes into the team."

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), on Thursday, issued a list of 120 players and 17 reserves, who would be drafted into six teams for the second edition of the Bengal T20 Challenge. The drafting of the players will be held on Saturday.

Six new teams have been created for the upcoming edition. They are Kanchenjunga Warriors, Krishnanagar Challengers, Kolkata Heroes, Barrackpore Bashers, Kharagpur Blasters and Durgapur Dazzlers.

Anustup Majumdar will be the skipper of Warriors, while Arnab Nandi will lead Challengers. Ritwik Roy Chowdhury, Sudip Chatterjee, Abhishek Raman and Kazi Junaid Saifi will be the captains of Heroes, Bashers, Dazzlers and Blasters respectively.

Pukhraj and Manu in joint lead

With an opening round score of 64, the duo is a stroke ahead of Yashas

GOLF

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Ludhiana's Pukhraj Singh Gill and Gurugram's Manu Gandas struck scores of seven-under 64 to share the lead after the first round in the Vooty & Haldi-sponsored Golconda Masters Telangana Open at the Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA) course here on Thursday.

While the 24-year-old Pukhraj shot the best round of his professional career, 25year-old Manu continued his impressive run having already posted five top-10s in the season.

The duo was one shot ahead of Mysuru's Yashas Chandra (65).

Pukhraj's vounger brother Digraj, who had an eagle-two on the 14th during his round, was tied for fourth with a 66 along with Noida's Amar-



Flawless: Pukhraj Singh Gill produced some great ball-striking to turn in a bogey-free card and share the lead. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pukhraj, who turned professional in 2018, reaped the benefits of some terrific ballstriking as he bagged three birdies on the first six holes. He then had a quiet stretch

till the 14th before going on a birdie blitz on the last four holes to end up with a bogey-

After being in the bunker on the 17th, Pukhraj salvaged a birdie with a quality up and down. On the 18th too, he managed to pick up a birdie from a tough spot as he chipped-in after hitting his

Manu, who started from the 10th, was slow off the blocks, collecting two birdies and a bogey on the backnine, but then turned it on with six birdies on the front-

He sank a 22-footer on the third and made exceptional chip-putt birdies after hitting it over the green on the sixth and eighth.

Mane in poor way

PGTI Order of Merit leader, Chandigarh's Karandeep Kochhar, and the 2019 champion Chikkarangappa of Bengaluru were tied sixth with a

Olympian and defending champion Udayan Mane carded a 74 to be lie tied

Among the Hyderabadbased golfers, professional Mohd Azhar (69) and amateur Milind Soni (70) were well-placed at tied 20th and tied 28th respectively.

Formula One returns to Dutch shores

Formula One returns to the Netherlands after 36 years this weekend, thrilling Max Verstappen fans who hope to see their local hero claim victory, but fierce opposition outside the race community still clouds the prospects for the years to come.

Max-mania will reach fever pitch in the small beach resort west of Amsterdam as a sell-out crowd of around 70,000 orange-clad fans per day will roar Verstappen on as he aims to become the first Dutchman to win a home Grand Prix.

"We could have sold over a million tickets," circuit director Robert van Overdijk said on the eve of the event.

Sensational rise

The sensational rise of Max Verstappen, the youngest Grand Prix winner and the first Dutch contender for the championship, has al-

ready painted the stands at races in Belgium and Austria orange, and his welcome promises to be even warmer on home soil.

However, many Dutch are not so thrilled by the return of racing's top class, which they say endangers Zandvoort's precious dune reserve and runs counter to efforts to fight climate change.

Over the past two years, environmentalists and animal rights groups have launched a range of lawsuits in a bid to block the race.

All cases so far were lost, but this has not deterred the activists, who are still seeking ways to block future

A last effort was dismissed by a court this week, but only on procedural grounds as the activists' claim that organisers have underestimated the air pollution caused by the race is already being dealt with by a higher

Ronaldo surmounts another peak

Is now the all-time top international scorer after his goals against Ireland

WC QUALIFYING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Cristiano Ronaldo became the all-time top scorer in men's international football with two late goals as Portugal beat the Republic of Ireland 2-1, while holder France drew 1-1 with Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2022 World Cup qualifying on Wednesday.

Ronaldo had an early penalty saved by teenage goalkeeper Gavin Bazunu in Faro before Ireland took the lead on the stroke of half-time.

John Egan's glancing header put Stephen Kenny's side on course for a famous win, but Ronaldo broke Irish hearts with an 89th-minute equaliser that took him past Iranian Ali Daei's record of

The 36-year-old Ronaldo then snatched all three points for Portugal in the sixth minute of injury time, rising highest to power in a header from Joao Mario's right-wing cross.

Portugal sits top of Group A with 10 points from four matches, although Serbia is only three points behind with a game in hand.



Decisive: Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring against Ireland. • REUTERS

France fell behind in Strasbourg when Edin Dzeko rifled in a low drive from 20 yards.

Antoine Griezmann equalised when Dzeko's header at a corner struck the France forward and bounced just over the line. Erling Haaland scored his

first World Cup qualifying

goal in Norway's 1-1 draw against the Netherlands in Haaland's scrappy finish gave Norway the lead on 20 minutes, but Davy Klaassen

levelled before the break as Louis van Gaal began his third stint in charge of the

Croatia drew 0-0 away to Russia and remains above its opponents on goal difference as leader of Group H. Slovakia is a point behind after a 1-1 draw with Slovenia.

Daniel Wass and Joakim Maehle scored two quickfire goals as Euro 2020 semifinalists Denmark swept Scotland aside 2-0 to make it four wins from four in Group F.

The results:

Group A: Luxembourg 2 (Pinto 8, Rodrigues 28-pen) bt Azerbaijan 1 (Makhmudov 67); Portugal 2 (Ronaldo 89, 90+6) bt Republic of Ireland 1 (Egan 45). Group D: Kazakhstan 2 (Valiullin 74, 90+6) drew with Ukraine 2 (Yaremchuk 2, Sikan 90+3);

France 1 (Griezmann 40) drew with Bosnia and Herzegovina 1 (Dzeko 36)

Group F: Faroe Islands O lost to Israel 4 (Zahavi 12, 44, 90+2, Dabbur 52); Moldova O lost to Austria 2 (Baumgartner 45+1. Arnautovic 90+4); Denmark 2 (Wass 14, Maehle 15) bt Scot-

Group G: Latvia 3 (Gutkovskis 50-pen, 85, Ciganiks 89) bt Gibraltar 1 (De Barr 71-pen); Norway 1 (Haaland 20) drew with the Netherlands 1 (Klaassen 37); Turkey 2 (Under 9, Yazici 31) drew with Montenegro 2 (Marusic 40, Radunovic 90+7). Group H: Malta 3 (Attard 44,

54, Mbong 46) bt Cyprus O; Slovenia 1 (Stojanovic 42) drew with Slovakia 1 (Bozenik 32); Russia O drew with Croatia O.

Vimal impressed with Kiran's rise

Feels the youngster will be flying high in a couple of years

BADMINTON

STAN RAYAN

Five years ago, when he won the silver at the under-17 Asians in Indonesia, Kiran George appeared to be in a hurry to climb the men's ladder in Indian badminton quickly. He was just 16 then but he did not want to spend much time on the junior circuit.

Kiran is now just below the top-100 in the men's world rankings but is showing the country where he actually belongs. The 21-yearold topped the Badminton Association of India's recent trials in Hyderabad to select the Indian team for this month's Sudirman Cup and Thomas Cup in Denmark in

Players ranked in the World's top-20 were exempted. Still the trials, which raised many eyebrows and much noise, had some big names like Lakshya Sen (World No. 24), Sameer Verma (28) and H.S. Prannov And Kiran defeated Sameer, Prannoy and Ajay Jayaram to finish on top.

"This is one of the best years, I also defeated Mark



■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Caljouw (World No. 23) in the Orleans Masters in France in March," said Kiran in a chat with The Hindu from Bengaluru. He had shocked Prannoy in the same tournament.

"Game-wise too, I'm playing a lot better, picking shots and attacking at the right

Former international Vimal Kumar, who coaches Kiran at the Prakash Padukone Academy, feels the youngster would be flying high in a couple of years.

Improvement

"I was very confident that he would be in the top-50 last year but there were no tournaments. He has definitely improved and I'm quite impressed. Kiran has to now play the Challenge and Tour

100 events and graduate to the big stage," said Vimal. "I feel in the next one or

two years he would get into the top-30. And he should start looking at playing Super Series and try to win. By 2024 when the Olympics come, he should try to make the best he can. The Olympic Gold Quest has been supporting him for the last seven years. He was just 12 when he came to us in Bengaluru and ever since then he has been here."

Kiran comes from a family of shuttle stars based in Kochi. His father George Thomas was a former National champion and his mother Preetha and brother Arun had also made a mark in the national circuit.

That shows in his game.

Deceptive strokes

"Kiran has very good deceptive strokes and half smashes, he also has a good 'tumble' at the net. That's why sometimes a lot of these players, like Sameer who depend on speed and power, get upset with Kiran's game," said Vimal.

"Prannoy is also a very powerful, hard-hitter but Kiran manages him. But he needs to improve his strength."

Arif leads the pack with fine show

Dutch national team.

Rashmi tops the field with 137 cumulative points

CARROM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mohammed Arif came up with a fine performance to top the table with 69 points after four rounds of champions league in the Indian online carrom challenge organised by the All India Carrom Federation (AICF).

Arif had a white slam on the seventh board and was quite consistent in ending the fourth round with 19 points.

Negative score He was unable to match his spectacular performance in the third round when he had a negative score of -8. He had two universal slams and three white slams in all in the four rounds.

Arif was followed by Abdul Rahman (83), Riyaz Ak-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Some of the best Indian

players - Sunayna Kuruvil-

la, Tanvi Khanna and Abh-

ishek Agarwal - will com-

pete in the seventh HCL

PSA Challenger squash

tournament at the Shiv Na-

dar University, Greater Noi-

da, from September 4 to 7.

have a \$12,000 prize, while

the men's event will have

The women's event will

NEW DELHI

bar Ali (102) and Vikas Dharia (103) into the knockout

Yogesh Dhongade (104)

and the champion of the last Indian online challenge Mohd. Ghufran (105) narrowly missed qualifying for the semifinals.

Lagging behind

The reigning world champion Prashant More was 14th with 151 points while the former world cham-Yogesh Pardeshi pion placed eighth with 135

In the women's section, Rashmi Kumari continued to assert her supremacy as she topped the field with 137 cumulative points after four rounds of Champions

Even though it was the reigning world champion S. Appoorwa who had the

PSA Challenger squash from Sept. 4

Strict COVID-19 bio-bub-

ble protocols will be fol-

lowed to ensure the safety

program launched in 2019

is aimed at transforming

the Indian squash ecosys-

tem by providing holistic

support to players and help

them shine at the global

"We are looking forward

"HCL squash podium

\$6,000 as the prize.

of the participants.

best score in the fourth round with 39, she was second to Rashmi overall with a difference of 28 points.

Appoorwa had the distinction of scoring a white slam on the second board in the fourth round. Rashmi was the only other player in the women's field to record a white slam.

Missing out

Nidhi Gupta (172) and S. Shainy (175) were the others to enter the knock-out stage, while the champion of the last world online challenge, Naga Jothi missed out on qualification by two points.

The president of the International Carrom Federation Josef Meyer has offered cash awards for the event, and new boards to the select players.

to some exciting matches

over the four days," said

HCL president, strategy,

Eminent coach and the

secretary general of the

Squash Rackets Federation

of India (SRFI), Cyrus Pon-

cha said that with the sup-

port of HCL over the last

five years, "we have been

able to enhance the entire

squash ecosystem in In-

Sundar Mahalingam.

Keen to go to Doha, savs Raman

TABLE TENNIS

K. KEERTHIVASAN

Following Manika Batra's insistence on having her personal coach Sanmay Paranjape for the forthcoming Asian table tennis championships, former National champion and Olympian S. Raman, who is G. Sathivan's coach, is also keen to go to Doha.

The 52-year-old, however, said he would take a final call after arranging for his finances and discussing with his ward.

"My schedule allows me to travel. I am willing to go with 'no cost' to the Table Tennis Federation of India. Once Sathiyan returns from the Polish League on September 10, I will take a final call. I am also looking for private sponsors. Let's see," Raman told The Hindu here on Thursday.

Raman. • FILE PHOTO

Sports administrator Lakshmanan passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

G. Lakshmanan (94), one of the country's prominent sports administrators and a former sports officer of Southern Railway, passed away here on Tuesday, after a prolonged illness.

He is survived by his wife. three daughters, and two

Lakshmanan, a 1500m

National champion, accompanied the Indian athletics team for the 1968 Mexico Olympics as manager and held various positions in the Athletics Federation of India (it was earlier called Amateur Athletics Federation of India, AAFI), Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Tamil Nadu Olympic Association (TNOA), and Tamil Nadu Athletics Association (TNAA).

technical director for the 1982 Delhi Asian Games. He was also the vice-president of TNOA when he accompanied the state contingent as chef-de-mission in the National Games in 1989 & 2011.

Lakshmanan was the

A qualified NIS (Patiala) athletics coach, Lakshmanan recruited a lot of sportspersons into Southern Railway, who went on to achieve laurels internation-

Some famous names include Anand Natarajan (South Asian Games, 100m), Subramanian Perumal (1980 Moscow Olympics,



G. Lakshmanan

200m), R. Gnanasekaran (1978 Asian championship, 200m gold medallist), N. (World Indoor Games, 1985), Angel Mary Joseph (1978 Asian Games, silver in long jump & heptathlon), M.D. Valsamma (1982 Asian Games, 400m H gold), and V. Anusuya Bai (international athlete) among others.

He was the Technical Committee Chairman for the 1995 SAF Games held in Chennai.

Name to reckon with

Former India hockey captain and Olympian V. Baskaran, who served as the Senior Sports Officer of Southern Railway, said Lakshmanan was a name to reckon with in sports administration in the country.

"He was a good administrator, was instrumental in getting AAFI affiliated to the Asian Athletics Federation. He was responsible for putting Railways into the world map," he said.

Balaji and Ramkumar duo moves up

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Sriram Balaji and Ramkumar Ramanathan defeated Fabian Fallert and Piotr Matuszewski 6-2, 6-1 to enter the doubles quarterfinals of the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament

In the ITF men's event in Germany, Manish Sureshkumar reached the quarterfinals with a 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 victory over Matthew Ro-

mios of Australia.

The results: €44,820 Challenger, Mallorca, Spain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sriram Balaji & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Fabian Fallert (Ger) & Piotr Matuszewski (Pol) 6-2, 6-1.

pez, France: Doubles (quarterfinals): Hugo Grenier & Alexandre Muller (Fra) bt Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja 4-6, 6-1, [10-2]. \$15,000 ITF men, Allershausen, Germany: Pre-quarterfi-

€44,820 Challenger, St. Tro-

Matthew Romios (Aus) 6-1, 5-7. 6-3. Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Hazem Naw (Syr) & Yan Sabanin (Rus) bt Tarun Anirudh &

nals: Manish Sureshkumar bt

PC Vignesh 6-1, 7-6(1). \$15,000 ITF women, Monastir. Tunisia: First round: Martina Capurro Taborda (Arg) bt Bhuvana Kalva 5-7, 6-3, 4-0

(retired); Beatrice Ricci (Ita) bt Sravya Shivani 6-1, 6-1; Anchisa Chanta (Tha) bt Y. Sahaja 6-2, 6-0.