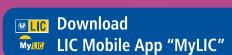
PRINTED AT . CHENNAL . COIMBATORE . BENGALURU . HYDERABAD . MADURAL . NOIDA . VISAKHAPATNAM . THRUVANANTHAPURAM . KOCHI . VIJAYAWADA . MANGALURU . TRUCHIRAPALLI . KOLKATA . HUBBALLI . MOHALI . MALAPPURAM . MUMBAI . TIRUPATI . LUCKNOW . CUTTACK . PATNA



LIC understands your dreams and aspirations. We will help you to realise them. Thank you for your support and patronage.









Har Pal Aapke Saath

Follow us:

CM YK





LIC India Forever

IRDAI Regn No.: 512

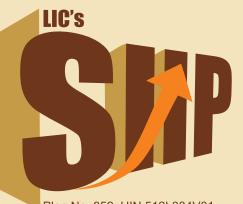
BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

LIC/PRA/2021-22/24/Eng





"In this policy, the investment risk in the investment portfolio is borne by the policyholder"



Plan No: 852 UIN 512L334V01

A Unit Linked, Non-Participating, **Individual Life Insurance Plan**

Freedom to choose:

Saving Amount: Your savings can begin from Rs.4000/- monthly or Rs.40000/- yearly and can be larger for bigger life goals

You can choose from Bond. Secured, Balanced and Growth

Switch freely: You can move your money between fund options freely four times in a year to maximize returns

Withdraw when you need: You can partially withdraw after 5th year onwards*

Policy Benefits:

Life Risk Cover Available Guaranteed Additions: Enjoy guaranteed additions in addition to unit fund value Policy Maturity: Unit Fund Value Refund of Mortality charges

Check your Eligibility: Age at entry: Minimum Age: 90 days Maximum Age: 65 Years

Maturity Age: Minimum Age: 18 years Maximum Age: 85 Years Policy Term: 10 - 25 years

Ek SIIP - Do Fayede

Saving bhi : Suraksha bhi



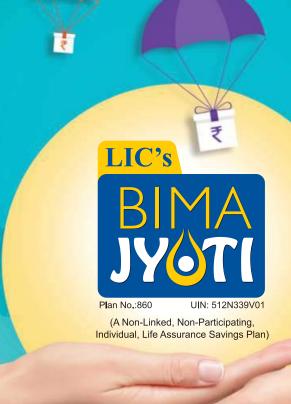
Your key to a bright future **GUARANTEED**

SPECIAL FEATURES:

Life long risk cover till Age 100

Bonus throughout the term

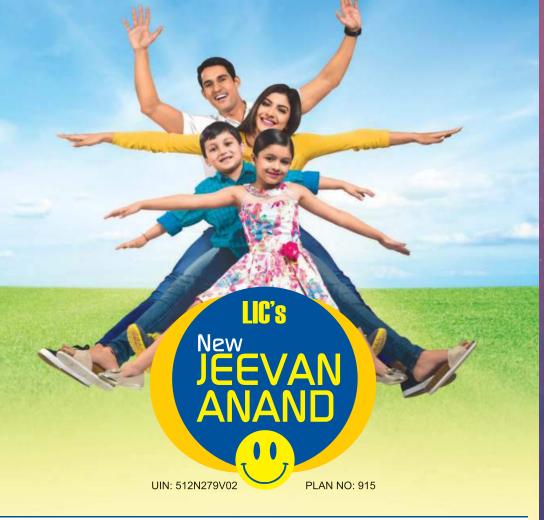
Final additional bonus (if any)



— Get Guaranteed Additions* every year——

- ✓ Age Eligibility: 90 days 60 years
 ✓ Basic Sum Assured: ₹1 Lakh No Limit ✓ Policy Term: 15 to 20 years
 ✓ Premium Paying Term: Policy Term minus 5 years
 - ✓ Loan Available

Khushiyon ki shuruaat aur zindagi bhar ka saath



FULL PAYOUT on maturity & Age eligibility: 18-50 years
Maximum maturity age: 75 years continued LIFELONG COVER • Loan facility available thereafter

Control LIC India Forever

- Enjoy twin benefits of Minimum Basic Sum Assured: ₹1,00,000

 - Accidental Death & Disability Benefit Rider available

Contact your agent / branch or visit our website www.licindia.in or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS, IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale









Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827

IRDAI Regn No.: 512



Har Pal Aapke Saath

Follow us : **f** You Tube

CM YK

FEATURES:

Minimum Basic Sum Assured

Maximum Basic Sum Assured

Premium Paying Term

90 days to 55 years

15, 20, 25 and 30 years (100 minus age at entry) years

16 pages • ₹ 10.00

PRINTED AT . CHENNAL . COIMBATORE . BENGALURU . HYDERABAD . MADURAL . NOIDA . VISAKHAPATNAM . THIRUVANANTHAPURAM . KOCHI . VIJAYAWADA . MANGALURU . TRUCHIRAPALLI . KOLKATA . HUBBALLI . MOHALI . MALAPPURAM . MUMBAL . TIRUPATI . LUCKNOW . CUTTACK . PATNA

Contact your agent/branch or visit our website www.licindia.in

Sabse Pehle



Because even life needs a good strategy

Money Back + Guaranteed Additions during Premium Paying Term + Loyalty Addition, if any + Optional Riders + Loan Facility Available

Har Dal Aapke Saath

For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read the sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

IRDAI Regn No.: 512

www.licindia.in



In a first, nine SC judges take oath in one stroke

NEW DELH Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana read out the oath of allegiance to the Constitution to nine new judges of the Supreme Court on Tuesday. It was for the first time that nine judges were sworn in to the SC in a single stroke.

12 pilgrims from M.P. die in accident in Rajasthan

Twelve persons, eight of them women, were killed and six injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling collided with a trailer truck in Nagaur district of Rajasthan on Tuesday. Eight were killed

on the spot, and the others

died in a hospital in Nokha. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 8



OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 3

UNSC resolution addresses 'key concerns' on Afghanistan: India

P5 members divided; Delhi plays 'active role' to ensure resolution went through

KALLOL BHATTACHERIEE SUHASINI HAIDAR

Despite the abstention of two "P5" countries - Russia and China - from the Indialed United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2593, the Government of India said it was a "matter of satisfaction" that the resolution addressed India's "key concerns" on Afghanistan.

P5 refers to the five permanent members of the UNSC - China, France, Russia, the U.K. and the U.S.

According to official sources, the resolution, which called on the Taliban to keep their commitments on preventing terror groups in Afghanistan and urged them to assist the safe evacuations of all Afghan nationals wishing to leave the country, was the result of a careful coordination and "high-level" official contacts with UNSC members, including a call to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The efforts were overseen by a special new group led by Exter-Affairs Minister



Show of strength: Members of the Taliban Badri 313 military unit taking position at the airport in Kabul. • AFP

Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

"The resolution demands that Afghan territory should not be used to threaten or attack any country or to shelter and train terrorists and plan or finance terrorist attacks. It mentions individuals designated by Resolution 1267, (which includes the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad)," said the sources, explaining why India played an "active role" in ensuring that the resolution went through on Monday, a day before it demitted presidency of the UNSC.

Explaining the split within

the P5, Russia and China said they wanted all the groups, especially the Islamic State and the Uighur East Turkestan Islamic Movement to be named specifically in the

document, and listed a number of objections to the drafting of the resolution. They accused the U.S., the U.K. and France, the sponsors of the resolution, of having rushed it through on a "tight schedule" while seeking to absolve the U.S. of responsibility, and distinguishing between "their and our terrorists".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Envoy meets Taliban leader

In signs that the Government of India has softened its stance on the Taliban, the Ministry of External Affairs said its Ambassador to Qatar, Deepak Mittal, met the head of the Taliban's political office, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, on Tuesday. ▶ PAGE 9

Taliban forces celebrate

The hardline Islamist

Taliban celebrated their total return to power on Tuesday with gunfire and diplomacy, after the last U.S. troops flew out of Afghanistan to end two decades of war. Taliban fighters swept into the airport in Kabul and fired weapons into the sky across the city in jubilation an astonishing return after U.S. forces invaded in 2001 and toppled them. ▶ PAGE 11

Economy grows 20.1% in Q1, lags pre-pandemic level

Gross Value Added during April to June rose 18.8%: NSO

Sharp spike

GDP for quarter

ending June

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 20.1% in the first quarter of 2021-22, compared with the 24.4% contraction recorded in the corresponding quarter a year ago, but economic activity remained well below the pre-pandemic levels, thanks to the second wave of COVID-19. Gross Value Added (GVA)

in the economy during the April to June period rose 18.8%, as per the National Statistical Office (NSO), from a 22.2% dip in the first quarter of 2020-21. GVA from agriculture, forestry and fishing, the only sector to grow amid last year's national lockdown, picked up pace to grow 4.5% in Q1 this year from 3.5% in Q1 2020-21.

Overall GVA in Q1 was still 7.8% lower than the first quarter of 2019-20, at ₹30,47,516 crore, while GDP remained 9.2% lower, indicating that the economy still has some way to go before it returns to activity levels prevalent prior to the pandemic. Electricity, gas, water surged by **20.1%** compared with -24.4% 20 recorded in the corresponding quarter last year. The sharp rise in -10 GDP is primarily -20 due to the low base effect

supply and other utility services, whose GVA grew 14.3% in Q1 of 2021-22, compared with a 9.9% fall last year, was the only sector along with agriculture, forestry and fishing, to recover beyond the pre-pandemic levels of 2019-20.

The government said the NSO numbers reaffirmed its prediction of an "imminent V-shaped recovery" made this time last year, and said the 20.1% rise in GDP "despite the intense second wave in the months of April and May" highlighted the continued economic recovery. However, economists, as well as the NSO, cautioned about reading too much into the record quarterly growth print.

→ 2021-22 Q1

"The spectacular headline number cannot be interpreted as a V-shaped recovery. The fact that the economy has still not recovered to the 2019-20 level, which was in itself seen as a disastrous year for growth. is not good news," said Alok Sheel, the RBI Chair Professor for macroeconomics at ICRIER.

He added that the first quarter GDP was even lower than that of the first quarter of 2018-19.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

⁺ Triple delight for India at Tokyo Paralympics

Mariyappan clinches silver in high jump

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India's tryst with medals at Tokyo Paralympics gained an extra spring as Thangavelu Mariyappan clinched a silver in the men's high jump T63 final. In the same event, Sharad Kumar secured bronze.

Mariyappan, the 26-yearold from Salem in Tamil Nadu, had won a gold in the T42 section during the previous edition at Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Cut to the latest Paralympics, he narrowly missed the glittering medal but his best of 1.86 m helped him seal the silver with Sharad following at 1.83 m. American Sam Grewe topped at 1.88 m to keep the two Indians at bay.

If shooting was a dampener for India in the preceding Olympics, amends have been made during the current Paralympics. Ex-



Thangavelu in action in Tokyo on Tuesday. • REUTERS

tending that vein of form was Singhraj Adhana, who won a bronze in the P1 men's air pistol SH1 category. Singhraj finished with a score of 216.8, which proved adequate. The cumulative effort of

Mariyappan, Sharad and Singhrai boosted India's overall medals tally to 10 inclusive of two golds, five silvers and three bronzes.

WET WEATHER AFFECTED MY

Apex court orders demolition of Supertech's twin towers in Noida with over 1.09 cr. jabs in a day

'Flat buyers suffer impact of unholy builder-planner nexus'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Tuesday condemned the "dubious dealings" of builders and authorities in metropolitan cities that rob ordinary people of their life savings and dream of owning a house.

Ordering the demolition of two unauthorised 40-storey towers of real estate major Supertech Limited in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, a Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah said flat buyers were the ones who suffered the most from these illegal activities.

'Long battle' "Flat buyers suffer the impact of the unholy nexus between builders and planners. Their quality of life is affected the most. Yet, confronted with the economic might of



The 40-storey twin towers in Noida, U.P. ■PTI

developers and the might of legal authority wielded by planning bodies, the few who raise their voices have to pursue a long and expensive battle for rights with little certainty of outcomes... They are denied access to information and are victims of

Chandrachud wrote in a 140 page judgment pronounced.

The court said the case at hand had revealed numerous occasions on which the officials of the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) and Supertech colluded to devise the building of the mammoth and illegal constructions. "The case has revealed a nefarious complicity of the planning authority in the violation by the developer of the provisions of law," Justice Chan-

drachud observed. The court upheld the Allahabad High Court's order to demolish the two towers. It ordered the demolition to be carried out in three months at the cost of Supertech and under the supervision of NOIDA. Supertech should pay the RWA ₹2 crore in costs in a month, the SC directed.

India reaches new milestone

More than 65 crore doses administered so far, says govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India on Tuesday administered more than 1.09 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses. which Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya hailed as a "new vaccination milestone".

More than 65 crore doses have been administered in the country so far, the Union Health Ministry said

India had achieved the one crore mark for the first In a tweet, Mr. Mandaviya

said: "Congratulations, as India administers another one crore COVID-19 vaccinations today. Highest one-day record of 1.09 crore vaccine doses achieved till 6 p.m. and still counting!"

The Ministry noted that more than 64.36 crore doses had been provided to the States and the Union Territories so far through the Central Government's free-ofthe direct procurement

cost channel and through

Unutilised doses

It added that nearly 15 lakh doses (14,94,040) were in the pipeline and more than 5.42 crore (5,42,30,546) balance and unutilised doses were still available with the States and UTs

SCHOOL STAFF TO GET FIRST JAB BEFORE SEPT. 30 ▶ PAGE 10

Kin of militants offered an olive branch

Officers urge the families to convince the youth to lay down their weapons

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Top Army and police officers on Tuesday held a conversation-cum-counselling session with nearly 80 families of militant recruits in south Kashmir in a bid to initiate their safe return to the mainstream.

"We have been providing opportunities [to trapped militants] to surrender during live encounters since the past year. These families whom we met on Tuesday were asked to convince their children [newly-recruited terrorists] to return to the mainstream. We made an earnest appeal to them," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Kumar and the Army's General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps Lt. Gen.



family members of militants on Tuesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Devendra Pratap Pandey interacted with the family members in the volatile Shopian district and exhorted them "to shun the path of violence".

The Army promised to "offer all assistance if the youths intend to lay down their arms". "All assistance will be provided to the misguided youth, in enabling them to surrender and the security forces will work with these youth, to address their concerns and assist them in joining the mainstream," the GOC said.

The Army said the interaction was intended "to instil confidence and convey the intent of the security forces, among the families of active terrorists".

The relatives of the militants were called from the districts of Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian, which have contributed around 60% of the 88 recruitments made by militant outfits this year. The parents of Sumair Ahmad Najar, Umar Ishfaq Malik, Naseer Ahmad Wani, Adil Ahmad Wani, Abid Ramzan Sheikh and Sameer Ahmad Sheikh, all hailing from Shopian, were counselled by top officials of the security forces. According to the police

data, militant recruitment has shown no let-up since the Centre ended Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional position on August 5, 2019. A total of 167 youth were recruited by militants in 2020 and 88 have been recruited this year so far.

24% shortfall recorded in August rain

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

Far from the forecast of a "normal" monsoon in August, India ended the month with a 24% shortfall, according to data from the Met Department. This brings India's over-

all monsoon rainfall deficit to 9%, just a percentagepoint shy of what would be "deficient" considered rainfall. Meteorologists said that because of the shortfall in August, which normally receives the second highest rainfall in the four monsoon months, it was unlikely that rainfall in September, even if substantial, would be enough to wipe out the deficit.

FULL REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 10

Prepare For

Forum IAS

STARTS:

with ForumIAS Self Study & FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

ONLINE / OFFLINE CGP: Cohort 4

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDANCE **PROGRAM 2022**

PRELIMS-CUM-MAINS FOUNDATION PROGRAM FOR FRESHERS BY FORUMIAS

The CGP is a flagship foundation program of ForumIAS for Civil Services Examination. Available in both online and offline mode, it includes Foundation Classes, Benchmark Tests, Mains Test Series and Prelims Test Series - practically everything that you need to crack the exam.

CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASSES 2022 Cover hundreds of important

issues with Crisp notes, content differentiation and a sense of completion with issue-based preparation. STARTS: 17th Sept, 2021

MAINS GUIDANCE PROGRAM 2022

Join India's most trusted and proven Mentor-supported Test Series based program for Mains examination.

STARTS: 12th Sept, 2021 MGP + Current Affairs = The winning combination for Civil Services Examination













ForumIAS Offline Guidance Centre: 2nd Floor, IAPL House, 19 Pusa Road, Opp Metro Pillar - 95, Karol Bagh, New Delhi -110005.

% 9821711605 | 9311740900 👂 9311740900

Man stabbed for playing loud music

STAFF REPORTER

A 28-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly stabbing his neighbour in south Delhi's Kotla Mubarakpur, the police said on Tuesday.

DCP (South) Atul Thakur said Vijay Das from Kidwai Nagar jhuggis committed the crime as the victim was listening to music on high volume. The police said a PCR call was received on Sunday night regarding the crime. On reaching the spot, the police were told that one Mahender had been stabbed by his neighbour. Based on the victim's complaint, a case on charges of attempt to murder was registered.

Next, Vijay was held and the weapon of offence was recovered on the instance, an officer said.

Hate sloganeering case: Hindu Raksha Dal chief surrenders

Bhupinder Tomar reaches police station accompanied by his supporters

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Hindu Raksha Dal chief Bhupinder Tomar alias Pinki Chaudhary, who was accused of raising anti-Muslim inflammatory slogans at a rally in Jantar Mantar on August 8, surrendered before the police on Saturday afternoon.

slogans, Mr. Raising Chaudhary reached Mandir Marg police station along with his supporters on Saturday.

A senior officer said Mr. Chaudhary was present outside the police station and was arrested at 2.30 p.m.

On Monday, Mr. Chaudhary had released a video wherein he had mentioned that he would surrender on



custody on Tuesday.

"I am still firm on my point. Neither I nor any worker of my organisation did anything wrong at Jancourt. I will surrender myself tomorrow [August 31] at 12 p.m. at Connaught Place police station and will cooperate with the police during the probe. I never run from arrest. It is the right of every person to go to court and I did the same. All the allegations against me are false Tiwari. and baseless. My life has been devoted to Hinduism and Hindutva. As long as I breathe, I will continue to

Earlier, eight persons were arrested in connection with the case. The arrested persons include Uttam Upadhyay – who can be seen raising the slogans in a video that went viral - Supreme Court lawyer and

do the work of religion," he

had said in the video.

former Delhi BJP Spokesperson Ashwini Upadhyay, Save India Foundation's Preet Singh alias Sundar Pal, Hindu Force's Deepak Singh, Hindu Raksha Dal's Deepak Kumar, Sudarshan Vahini's Vinod Sharma, Vinit Bajpai, and Sushil

The police had registered a case after a video showing anti-Muslim slogans being raised during the protest was widely circulated on social media.

Earlier, Mr. Chaudhary had sought anticipatory bail but the Delhi High Court on Friday refused to grant him interim protection from arrest, after which raids were being conducted to arrest



Traffic jam due to heavy rain in west Delhi's Mayapuri on Tuesday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAI

Rain lashes city, many complain of water entering their homes

Delhi recorded 10 rainy days in Aug., lowest in seven years: IMD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Heavy rain lashed the Capital on Tuesday with the city recording 84.1 mm of rainfall during the day. The rain led to waterlogging on several roads causing traffic jams across the city.

Many took to social media to share how water had entered their homes and flooded colony roads.

The Public Works Department logged 10 waterlogging complaints every hour between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday.

While there was no waterlogging at Minto Bridge this time, a PWD official said the Pul Prahladpur underpass, as well as the area near the WHO building near ITO, generated multiple water logging complaints.

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta took a potshot at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday saying the CM's dream of providing water to each household in the Capital had been fulfilled.

Centre defends decision to regulate digital news media

It tells HC that fake news on digital media has in the recent past led to deaths of innocent people

The rain led to a fall in the degrees Celsius.

A motorist driving through a waterlogged road in New Delhi

maximum temperature that settled at 28.9 degrees Celsius which was five degrees below normal. The minimum settled at 25.9 degrees Celsius, which was one degree cooler than normal.

on Tuesday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

More rain likely

The weatherman has predicted generally cloudy sky with moderate rain/thundershowers on Wednesday. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be between 29 and 25

Meanwhile, the India Me-

teorological Department said Delhi recorded just 10 rainy days in August, the lowest in seven years, and a cumulative rainfall of 214.5 mm, lower than the average of 247 mm. Nearly twothirds of the total rainfall (138.8 mm) was recorded in a single day, August 21. It was also the highest downpour in a day in August in 14 years. Experts have attributed the uneven distribution of rainfall to climate change.

DU Executive Council approves implementation of FYUP

Four-year undergraduate programme to be instated from 2022-23 session; DUTA protests decision

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi University on Tuesday approved the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), and fouryear undergraduate programme (FYUP) at its Executive Council meeting, according to a senior official.

Registrar Vikas Gupta said the NEP will be implemented from the 2022-23 academic session. He said three members dissented against the implementation. The implementation of the NEP and four-year undergraduate programme were approved by the Standing Committee

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

on Academic Matters and the Academic Council last week.

The Multiple Entry/Exit Scheme (MEES), where students will be able to enter and exit the programme at various stages, and the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) were also approved at the meeting. The EC, which is the highest decision making body of the university, approved the MEES and ABC.

The Delhi University Teachers' Association held an online protest against the implementation of the NEP.

Meanwhile, online registrations for various undergraduate courses in Delhi

University closed on Tuesday. As of 6 p.m., around 4.38 lakh aspirants had registered on DU's portal.

DU admissions

However, senior DU officials said only around 2.6 lakh aspirants have completed the entire procedure.

Only applications of candidates who have completed the entire registration process by paying the registration fees will be considered.

The online registration portal for undergraduate aspirants this year was launched on August 2 and the varsity held several virtual open days to assist aspirants in completing the procedure. In the previous academic year, DU saw over 3 lakh paid applications and the portal remained open for a longer period of time.

The first cut-off list for merit-based undergraduate programmes is likely to be declared on October 1 and admissions against the first list are scheduled to begin from October 4.

Senior officials have clarified that students who are set to take their board exams in September, will be permitted to update their marks on the portal at a later date.

Earlier in the day, the All India Students' Association protested at DU's North Campus, demanding the reopening of college campuses.

The police said around 25 persons were removed from the spot and a case was lodged following violation of COVID-19 rules. Five persons were arrested and later released on bail.

Meanwhile, the ABVP and the DU Students' Union submitted a memorandum to the administration, demanding a 10% increase in the number of seats for the upcoming academic session.

(With inputs from PTI)

Man held for luring girls to send obscene photos

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI A 23-year-old man has been arrested from Lucknow for allegedly posing as a girl and luring minor girls to send their obscene photos and videos, the police said on Tuesday.

DCP (South) Atul Thakur said the accused has been identified as Abdul Samad. The police said the accused's smartphone has been

Approximate

recovered. The case came to the fore on July 27 when a 15year-old girl told her parents that a mysterious girl sent a number of obscene pictures and videos to her and also asked her to do the same. A complaint was lodged and charges of the POCSO Act was registered against an unknown person. During the probe, police sought details

from Instagram following which the man was held.

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH The Centre on Tuesday de-

fended before the Delhi High Court its decision to regulate news and current affairs content on digital media under the new Information Technology (IT) Rules saying that there have been past incidents of disinformation on digital media leading to disturbance of public order.

The Centre's affidavit came in response to a bunch of petitions filed by several online news portals such as The Wire, The News Minute,

Quint Digital Media Ltd., Foundation for Independent Journalism, and the Press Trust Of India over its attempt to regulate digital news media.

"The consequences of fake and misleading audiovisual news on digital media has in the recent past led to deaths of innocent people on false pretexts such as in the case of rumours of child lifters, loss of lives of innocent migrant workers during the pandemic induced lockdown, risk of social strife and communal tensions in the society due to sensationalist reportage of religious congregations in the context of the pandemic, etc.," the affidavit said.

The affidavit, jointly filed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, said the risk of false or misleading information is greater over the Internet as the same can be spread rapidly within society. It stated that "individuals or groups can use digital media with very low barriers of entry or regulation to disseminate false, sensationalist or misleading news online, which can then rapidly among the people".

Code of ethics

The ministries also stressed that "news portals/websites even of organisations having newspapers or TV news channels will be covered under the IT Rules, 2021".

The petitioners had challenged the IT Rules 2021 claiming that it seeks to regulate online news portals by imposing sweeping government oversight and a vaguely worded 'Code of Ethics'.

The pleas argued that the IT Rules will "usher in an era of surveillance and fear, thereby resulting in self-censorship, which results in abridgment/ violation Fundamental Rights as enshrined under Part III of Constitution of India".

The Centre, however, defended the IT Rules saying it "only empower the audience to bring to the notice of the publishers such content which may be violative of the Code of Ethics".

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura

Division, No. 2152/20, Defence Colony, BWSSB Tank Road, Sahakaranagara, BBMP Office, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560092 No.: EE/BTP/BBMP/E-PMT/06/2021-22 Date: 31.08.2021

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (IFT)

SINGLE & TWO COVER TENDER (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender for the following works on item rate basis are invited as Standard Bid Documents KW-1/2/3 & 4 by the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES

or any State Government Organizations.

SI.

SI. No.	Name of the Work	value of work (Rs. in Lakhs
	SINGLE COVER TENDER	
1	Demolition of structure constructed at site No. 83, 9th Cross, 19th Main Road, MCEHS Layout, Sahakaranagara G Black, Bengaluru Ward No. 7. Category: Other	6.00
2	Removal of unauthorized demolition portion structed at site No. 22, Khatha No. 598-22, Amruthalli, Bengaluru-92. Category: Other	2.00
3	Maintenance of UGD Line in Ward No. 06. (Call-2) Category: Other	7.50
	TWO COVER TENDER	
1	Improvements to Balance Roads and drains at Bhuvaneshwarinagara and Maruthi Layout of Dasarahalli Village Surrounding area in Ward No. 06. Thanisandra. (Call-2)	

Category: Other Date of Events: (1) The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website: https:// eproc.karnataka.gov.in. (2) Pre bid meeting will be held on 13.09.2021 at 3:00 p.m. in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, No. 2152/20, Defence Colony, BWSSB Tank Road, Sahakaranagara, BBMP Office, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560092. (3) Last date for uploading the filled tender document is 15.09.2021 upto 4:00 p.m. (4) Technical bids will be opened on the website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in in the Office of the Executive Engineer 16.09.2021 at 4:05 p.m. if possible. (5) Date of opening of Financial bid is on: 17.09.2021 at 11:00 a.m. if possible (for Two Cover System). Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, BBMP

Wear Mask

IN BRIEF

Man held for sexually assaulting minor

A four-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by a 28-year-old man in central Delhi, police said on Tuesday. The accused has been arrested and sent to judicial custody. The incident took place on Thursday and was reported on Friday after which a case was lodged. The accused was

'Police have failed to keep women safe'

known to the victim.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Citing the alleged rape and murder of a 21-year-old woman in Sangam Vihar, AAP on Tuesday said Delhi Police has failed completely in protecting women, and asked the Centre to transfer jurisdiction over the police to the Delhi government if

they cannot run it properly. 'The kind of security that has been deployed in Delhi makes it evident that the Centre is incapable of running Delhi Police. Every other day we hear about an incident of rape or murder in Delhi. Such incidents have heightened the sense of fear in the mind of every woman living in the Capital," AAP MLA Rakhi Birla said.

She said the recent rape case portrays the "unbothered attitude" of the BJP and the Centre towards the women in Delhi.



A worker sanitises a classroom in a Delhi government school on Tuesday. Schools are set to reopen for students of Classes IX-XII from Wednesday. Authorities have issued detailed guidelines for schools to ensure the safety of children, including staggered timings, thermal screening at gates and maximum 50% occupancy in classrooms. • R.V. MOORTHY

Citizens' groups object to waste-to-energy plant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

Around 200 people, including members of various citizens' groups from Gurugram, Faridabad and villages near the Bandhwari landfill. attended the public hearing by the Haryana State Pollution Control Board on Tuesday seeking objections to the setting up of a 25MW wasteto-energy plant.

Among the citizens' groups, the members of Aravalli Bachao, Citizens for Clean Air and NCR Waste Matters Citizens Action and Awareness Group were present and spoke at the public hearing. The members of the Aravalli Bachao group de-

manded that the public hearing be declared null and void as it was in violation of the rules since the copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment report was not made public 30 days before the hearing as required by

Aravallis Bacho Citizens' Group, in an eight-point objection to the project argued that site for the proposed plant was a wildlife-rich zone and was in the eco-sensitive Aravali belt which sustains life in the National Capital Region. It said that the site was close to Mangar Bani, the NCR's last remaining patch of original Aravali na-

HC to hear plea against Asthana appointment today

NGO says petition a verbatim copy of plea in apex court

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday posted the hearing on a petition challenging the appointment of Gujaratcadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner and an intervention application filed in the matter by an NGO for Wednesday.

On August 25, the Supreme Court had asked the HC to decide within two weeks the plea pending before it against the appointment of the senior IPS officer as Commissioner.

The Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), which filed the impleadment application, argued that the petition before the HC, filed by Sadre Alam, was a "copypaste" of its plea before the Supreme Court.

Advocate Prashant Bhushtition as quoted by media, as an, appearing for CPIL, said: "We have filed an intervention on behalf of CPIL. The petition is a copy-paste. The court may list it tomorrow or whenever. See the kind of abuse of process of law that

The NGO stated that it got to know about the filing of Mr. Alam's petition before the High Court from media reports and "was surprised to see some of the paragraphs of the instant writ pe-

the same appeared to be copy-pasted from the applicant's writ petition filed before the Supreme Court prior in time." The NGO claimed that the

precise purpose of filing the petition by Mr Alam "seems to be only to defeat public interest by scuttling the genuine, bona fide and well -researched and deliberated PIL filed by the applicant (NGO) before the Supreme Court."

Alam has contended that the 1984-batch IPS officer, serving as the Director General of Border Security Force, was appointed Delhi Police Commissioner on July 27, just four days before his superannuation on July 31. He argued that the decision of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Appointments Committee of Cabinet in appointing Mr. Asthana for the post was "completely illegal on multiple grounds".

The petition filed by Mr.



Limited Premium Endowment Plan UIN No.: 512N304V02 Plan No.: 936

Life Cover with attractive returns





or more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read the sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

IRDAI Regn No.: 512

www.licindia.in

NCRPB defers decision on Regional Plan-2041

It proposes high-rise development, new greenfield townships

max min

Delhi Palam Today 32°C A pleasant and hazy

morning turns warm day Night

remains comfortable. Spell of

rain and thundershower to

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 01 RISE 06:00 SET 18:43

THURSDAY, SEP. 02

FRIDAY, SEP. 03

Delhi Weather

Delhi City

RISE 00:19 SET 14:47

RISE 06:00 SET 18:42

RISE 01:08 SET 15:39

RISE 06:01 SET 18:41

RISE 02:01 SET 16:28

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 33°C A warm and humid weather to continue. Night will be slight warm and humid. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur © Copyright Skymet Weather 2019 All rights reserved.

Delhi reports one death, 28 fresh cases

STAFF REPORTER

The Capital reported only one new COVID-19 death in 24 hours and the total number of deaths stood at 25,082, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Tuesday.

Also, 28 new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14,37,764. A total of 55,371 tests were done in a day and that test positivity rate was 0.05%. Of the total cases, there are only 349 active cases. The vaccine stock of the city on Tuesday morning would last for five days, as per the bulletin.

The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) on Tuesday deferred its decision on the draft NCR Regional Plan-2041, which proposes high-rise development and five to eight new greenfield townships, sources said. The draft had been sent to

the NCR constituent States -Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan - in January and comments from all of them had been received, an official said. However, during Tuesday's meeting chaired by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal sought more time for submissions, the official said. The States were then given one month for additional comments, with a special meeting to consider the plan likely to be held in October, the official said.

The draft plan, which would take over from the existing Regional Plan-2021, proposes that NCR cities and towns should be "planned with optimum high-rise and high density norms"; the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) norms should be similar to international standards; mixed land-use of residential, commercial and institutional should be allowed "both vertically and horizontally" in the older areas of



The NCR constituent States have been given one more month for additional comments, with a special meeting likely to be held in October, an official said. • FILE РНОТО

the NCR; and private landowners should have the authority to cut or replace trees planted on their land.

The draft plan says the elements under the Natural Conservation Zones in the RP-2021 will remain, but there would be a distinction between "forests and green cover" and areas currently categorised as 'forests' will continue to be conserved in RP-2041.

The meeting was attended by Rajasthan Urban Development and Housing Minister Shanti Kumar Dhariwal, Delhi Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain and U.P. Minister Sidharth Nath Singh, apart from Mr. Puri, Mr. Manohar Lal and HUA Ministry officials.

In a statement, the HUA Ministry said the Combined Reciprocal Common Transport Agreement for Stage Carriage and Contract Carriage between Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and U.P. was launched during the meeting. This would enable single-point taxation for all taxis, auto-rickshaws and buses,

Web geo-portal

A web geo-portal for the NCR covering land use, transport, water, power etc was also launched.

"The Draft Regional Plan-2041 was discussed wherein Chairman had a view that DRP-2041 needs to be put in public domain for feedback and comments at the earliest so that the Plan is finalised soon. The chairman asked States to submit their comments which will be taken up in next meeting of NCRPB. The chairman also directed to convene Board Meeting to discuss Draft Regional Plan-2041 exclusively

Activists raise red flag over draft plan

'Important provisions regarding forest cover, riverbeds have been dropped'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The draft Regional Plan-2041 for the National Capital Region has dropped or amended several environmental safeguards present in the current plan (Regional Plan-2021) with a possible long-term disastrous implications for the Natural Conservation Zone in the region.

The 40th meeting of the National Capital Region Planning Board was held through videoconference on Tuesday, but the draft report could not be approved after the Haryana government sought more time for submitting its comments.

Though the draft plan says that the components under Natural Conservation Zones (NCZ) as in RP-2021 shall remain and be continued to be conserved, it categorises these as "forest" and "green cover" areas and makes the conservation of "green cover" optional.

New categorisation

Demanding that the distinction between the "forests" and the "green cover" be dropped, the environmentalists have expressed apprehensions that large areas of Aravalis not categorised as forest will lose their mandatory conservation status under the new provision.

The draft plan, in another major amendment, said that the "0.5% to total area under NCZ is allowed for related compatible development which could be either at one place or at multiple locations, subject to other ap-

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Provisions in the Regional Plan-2021 that have been dropped in the draft Regional Plan-2041 for the National Capital Region

• Bring more areas under forest so as to

maintain the ecological balance in this

region. All wastelands identified in the

existing Land Use 1999 and proposed

brought under forest cover

provals, Acts of different

This, said environmental-

ists, could have serious im-

plications as the State go-

vernments could use the

entire quota of 0.5% in one

or few concentrated loca-

tions, thus, effectively

breaching the limit of 0.5%

per plot, that was there ear-

lier. The Regional Plan-2021

allowed regional recreation-

al activities with no con-

struction exceeding 0.5% of

the area with the permission

of the competent authority.

sions with regards to the for-

est cover and conservation

of monuments, man-made

heritage sites and riverbeds

have also been dropped

Several important provi-

States...".

Land Use Plan 2021, are proposed to be

• Total forest cover should be 10% of the total

area of the region

• In the flood-prone areas/riverbeds/banks, no construction or habitation activities be permitted

conservation plans be prepared for areas shown as Natural Area Conversation Zone in the Land Use Plan 2021

The monuments/man-made heritage

Detailed

Zone (NCZ) in draft Regional Plan-2041 for The NCZ has

Amendments

with regards

Conservation

to Natural

been split into "forest" and "green cover and conservation of "green zone" made optional • The 0.5%

of total area under the NCZ is allowed for related compatible development multiple locations

sites and conservation heritage areas be identified in the master/zonal which could plans of each town and detailed be either at conservation plans be prepared for one place or at their protection and conservation The Regional

UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD

Employment Notification No. UH/Rectt./NT/2021-03 dated 12.08.2021

pplications are invited from Indian citizens for Group 'A' and Group 'E Non-Teaching Positions on Deputation basis / Short-Term contract basis

Inviting applications from young

working professionals for the post of

Probationary Officers

Not more than 28 years

from a recognized University

Graduation with minimum 50% marks

2 years' service in Officer cadre in

any Scheduled Commercial Bank/

Subsidiary/Urban Co-operative Bank

(Excluding Primary Credit Society)

Small Finance Bank/Banking

(under 10+2+3/4 scheme) regular course

Scale of Appointment | Scale I (IBA Scale)

Minimum Educational

Qualification

Minimum

Location

Work Experience

(A Central University established in 1974 by an Act P.O. Central University, Prof. C.R. Rao Road, Gachibowli,

real estate out of the Aravalis of the NCR

making them prone to con-

LT. COL. (RETD.) SARVADAMAN OBEROI

Plan-2021 with its

construction plays a

key role in keeping

restrictions on

The RP-2021 said in view of very low existing forest cover (4.02%) in the NCR, more areas be brought under forest to maintain ecological balance, all wastelands be identified and brought under forest cover and added that the total forest cover be 10% of the total area of the region. But this

has now been dropped in the new draft plan.

Similarly, the mandate to keep waterbodies free from any encroachment/development to allow free flow of water and prevent construction and habitation activities in the flood-prone areas/river beds/banks has been dropped.

Lt. Col. (retd.) Sarvadaman Oberoi, an environmentalist, said the Regional Plan-2021 with its restrictions on construction plays a key role in keeping real estate out of the Aravalis of the NCR. He expressed hope that the dilutions proposed in the draft Regional Plan-2041 would be rolled

Call for green corridors, floating water drones

NCR Board directs environmental monitoring be carried out regularly

A draft Regional Plan-2041 for the National Capital Region has made several recommendations towards protecting the environment, including improved monitoring, increasing flow of water in the Yamuna, green corridors along roads and floating water drones to clean rivers among others.

The recommendations are on ambient air quality, noise pollution, surface water quality, waste management and forest and biodiversity.

Biogas plants

The draft report said that for better utilisation of crop residue generated in the NCR. biogas plants for managing

adopted. "It is estimated that largescale industrial biogas plants can generate about 5.000 cubic metre of biogas per day and a small familytype biogas plant can generate 1 to 10 cubic metre biogas per day," the report said. It also said that green cor-

ridors or tree barriers should be developed wherever possible along roads to act as a buffer and enable reducing air and noise pollution impacts, especially in residential and institutional

"It also directed to ensure that environmental monitoring is being carried out regularly and adequate number of well-equipped laboratory for air, water, noise quality analysis are set up across ur-

crop residue should be ban and rural areas," the report said.

> The report said that States should take initiatives to change harvesting technology and encourage farmers to use environment-friendly harvesting techniques.

Yamuna pollution

About reducing pollution in the Yamuna, the report said, "For maintaining requisite environmental flow in the river downstream of barrage at Hathnikund in Harvana and at Okhla in Delhi, States should follow recommendations of 2014 report of Principal Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary Water Resources, GoI, which was also considered by the NGT in 2015, so that there is

enough fresh water flowing

in the river till Agra for restoration of the river's ecological functions and can help in preservation and reiuvenation of the Yamuna floodplains in NCT-Delhi, along with adjoining tracts in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. These recommendations may also be followed for Hindon and other rivers, as applicable."

"Use of floating water drones/robot technology should be promoted for cleaning and collecting garbage from rivers and waterbodies. Autonomous drones technology like wastesharks/ aqua drones which work similar to vacuum cleaners should be adopted for cleaning of rivers/ channels and waterbodies and to help in reducing water pollu-

GENERAL



Make your potential



BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED

Posts Employment Fixed Term Sr. Asst. Engineer / E-I 11 30,000-3% - 1,20,000/for 3 years For detailed advertisement visit our web-site www.bel-india.in (careers recruitment).

READ EVERY FORTNIGHT.

PAN India

For more details and application procedure, please visit

'Careers' page in our website 'www.southindianbank.com

Toll Free (India): 1800-102-9408, 1800-425-1809 (BSNL),

Email: customercare@sib.co.in, CIN: L65191KL1929PLC001017

www.southindianbank.com

'NCR should move towards smart mobility'

Draft plan says Delhi should be connected to other cities through superfast trains

JATIN ANAND NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region (NCR) should move towards being a "smart connected region" where goods can move smoothly with Delhi, at the centre, being accessible within 30 minutes through superfast trains, the draft Regional Plan-2041 for the National Capital Region States.

In addition to zero fatality road corridors, differential parking rates based on time of day and duration, heavy penalties for parking violations and, given the future requirements in this regard, air policing, aerial e-commerce and surveys, parking areas for aerial vehicles like drones at administration offices under governments are also among the recommen-

Minimise journey time It is necessary, the report

dations of the draft report.

stated, to minimise journey time across NCR and make travel times across the NCR's limits below 30 minutes by superfast trains and heli-taxies, within 60 minutes by other trains and two to three hours by car. Delhi should, it stated, have 30-minute connectivity through superfast trains with major cities in the

UAVs or drones, helipads and UAV launch and parking areas should be established at all district headquarters by 2026 to meet requirements of future air policing, e-com-

merce, aerial surveys, it said. In addition to advocating a need to review taxes imposed on commercial passenger vehicles in NCR States transport, municipal authorities and local bodies in order to encourage a modal shift from private to public mobility, the plan advocated a sub-urban passenger transport being developed as an integrated system with other transit networks to create a seamlessly connected network of networks.

Mobility Options App

An integrated Mobility Options App should be created for the entire NCR so as to provide all available options across various modes for a given origin and destination. All routes of metros, buses etc. should be digitised and software should support a wide variety of services, the

Delhi, according to the draft report, needed "more streamlined" road manage-

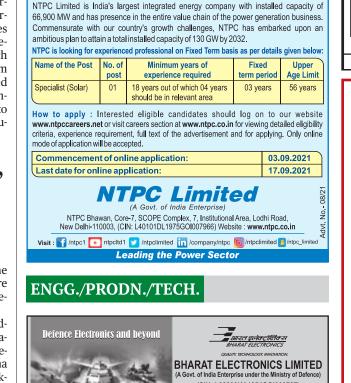
ment.

While all high-rise buildings could explore the creation of helipads, all multispecialty hospitals, trauma centres and multilevel parking facilities across the NCR, the report stated, should be equipped with on-site helipads for 24 hours air ambulance medical emergency services and from the point of view of disaster manage-

All railway lines, the report stated, should have four tracks by 2030 and six tracks by 2040, 100% electrified, broad gauge and of high speed with the latest safety systems

THEMAHINDU

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY





be posted at Bangalore, Gawahati, Wadsar, Jodhpur, New Delhi, Chandigarh Siliguri, Leh, Jorhat, North-East Regions and customer locations across India. No. of Pay scale Post/Grade

TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Group Editorial Officer: Krishna Prasad. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act) Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 11 • No. 208

Weekend shutdown lifted, curbs eased in Odisha

However, restrictions on religious, cultural, social and political gatherings to continue

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Tuesday revoked weekend shutdown, which was in force in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri, following improvement in the pandemic situation.

The government, however, decided to continue with restrictions on religious, cultural, social and political gatherings to avoid crowding. Exhibition and trade fairs will not be allowed

during September.

Night curfew has been imposed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m in all urban centres. All business establishments or private officers can now function till 10 p.m. Libraries have been allowed to function.

Malls, cinema halls and other big commercial complexes will also operate normally. Responsibility has been fixed on the manager of the respective complexes on avoiding large

gatherings.

The government has also allowed meetings in auditoriums and conference halls of educational institutes and government offices with guidelines.

Numbers increased

Henceforth, 250 people can participate in weddings and funeral rites as against 50 and 20 participants respectively so far.

Collectors, Municipal Commissioners and Commissioners

of Police for Bhubaneswar and Cuttack have been given freedom to impose additional restrictions keeping the health emergency in mind.

The government is, however, silent on resumption of educational institutions. At present, classes above Class IX, X and XII have been opened. The fresh guidelines would remain in force till October 1.

The State on Tuesday reported 638 new cases.

Haryana Cong. leaders seek probe into Karnal incident

'Lathicharge on protesting farmers on August 28 was a planned act'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Haryana Congress leaders on Tuesday met Governor Bandaru Dattatreya here, seeking a judicial inquiry into the lathicharge on a group of farmers in Karnal on August 28. The farmers were protesting against the visit of Chief Minister Manohar Lal and other BJP

Congress MLAs, led by Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda, submitted a memorandum to the Governor, stating that the lathicharge against the farmers in Karnal was a

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Concerned over excess

usages of chemical fertil-

izers in the farms over the

years, Punjab's Ropar-

based Indian Institute of

Technology (IIT) and Mas-

sachusetts Institute of

Technology (MIT), USA,

have come together to de-

velop portable optical

sensors to provide rapid,

actionable data that will

allow small holdings

farmers to manage their

CHANDIGARH

"planned" act. They demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident by a sitting judge of the High Court or a retired judge.

Plea to Governor "We also requested the Go-

vernor not to give his assent to the new Land Acquisition Bill passed in the monsoon session and, instead, send it back to the Assembly for reconsideration under Article 200 of the Constitution. This Bill is anti-farmer and undemocratic. The Bill was passed hurriedly without a detailed discussion in the

IIT-MIT to develop portable sensors

Move for better management of fertilizers used in crops

House," said Mr. Hooda. Separately, a delegation

of Congress leaders led by Haryana in-charge Vivek Bansal met the National **Human Rights Commission** (NHRC) in New Delhi on the lathicharge incident. Mr. Bansal was accom-

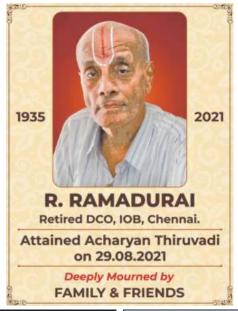
panied by Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee president Kumari Selja; Congress Working Committee's special invitee member and MP Deepender Singh Hooda; MLA and former leader of the Haryana Congress Legislature Party Kiran Choudhry.

Mr. Bansal said Prime

Minister Narendra Modi was using the slogan "atmanirbhar [self-reliant]" on one hand, but the government was resorting to "lathi-charges" on the farmers who had actually made the country self-reliant.

"Farmers have been agitating on the streets for the last nine months, but the government is not listening to them. At the behest of the BJP government, atrocities are being committed continuously on them. In Karnal, farmers were brutally lathi-charged and many were hurt," he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE



OBITUARY

Mr. PUVI MANOHAR 06-11-1964 to 30-08-2021,

our dear brother and uncle has left us bereft on Monday, August 30, 2021; But to meet us in

the new paradisic world as our Heavenly Father Jehovah God has promised & as Jesus said:

"Do not be amazed at this, for

the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice." - John 5:28 Ravi, Thuthi, Mavi Manohar & Aryana (niece)

announcements in this

between 10a.m. and 8p.m. New Delhi: 011-43579797 Rate for New Delhi:

Extra Line - Rs.160/-) (B/W Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cm (Clr Display): Rs. 70/Per Sq. cn

(Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines

www.thehinduads.com For Placing Advertisements

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 45 Yrs., Height: 5'6", Sex: Male, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Brown Shirt and Without Trouser. Place of Recovery: Found near Mahatama Gandhi Road, Shanti Van Red Light, Daryaganj in accident condition and declared dead by doctor during treatment.

In this regard FIR/DD No. 337/21, 279/304A IPC, Dated 27.08.2021 has been lodged at Police Station. Daryaganj, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi DP/966/CD/2021 Ph.: 011-23274683, 28741443 & 9829355048

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Naznin D/o Shahnaz Begam R/o H. No. 1248, C/o Suresh ka Makan, Gali No. 12, Kapashera, New Delhi Aged-19 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 14.08.2021 from Kapashera vide DD No.41A Dated 23.08.2021 registered at Police Station Kapashera, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



Thin, Clothing: Yellow coloured suit and salwar & red and

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Kapashera, New Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in

Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 FAX No.: 011-24368639 DP/806/SW/2021

SHO, Kapashera, New Delhi Mob.: 7065036226

A Business Initiative

crops in an efficient man-

Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5", Face: Round, Built: black coloured sandal in feet.

Tel.: 011-25063758, 25060042

EASTERN RAILWAY

ender Notice No. : 222-S/1/W-II, dated 30.08.2021. Following e-tender is invited online by Divisional Railway Manager Eastern Railway, Sealdah for the following work: Tender No.: TN-89-21-22. Name of the Work: Construction of Officers' Rest House at CPOH/Track Machine Shed a KPA along with other ancillary works in the urisdiction of Sr. AEN/II/KPA. Tender Value : ₹ 1,59,59,885.48. EMD : 0.00. Date Time of Closing of tender: 30.09.202 upto 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening of tender: 30.09.2021 at 15.30 hrs. Tender document & other details are at www reps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is o be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. SDAH-76/2021-22

On account of excess usages of chemical fertilizers, humans are exposed to the harmful chemicals through the ecosystem, which eventually affects their health, in this backdrop for scientific use of fertilizers, IIT Ropar and MIT has collaborated under the project "Accurate Optical Sensing for Efficient Fertilizer Use and Increased Yield in Small Farms."

Dr. Rajeev Ram of the

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT and Dr. Rajesh Kumar, an assistant professor of Biomedical Engineering at IIT-Ropar, are working on

portable optical sensors. "The research will explore the potential for spectroscopic 'fingerprinting' of the nitrogen uptake to better guide management of fertilizer use in field crops that are economically important," said Dr. Rajesh Kumar.

SHO removed for inaction on complaint

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUZAFFARNAGAR

A station house officer here has been withdrawn from duty over alleged inaction on a woman's complaint against her husband for circulating an obscene video of her on social media, officials said Tuesday.

The 25-year-old woman, who was divorced three months ago through triple talaq, committed suicide on August 28.

नोडल पदाधिकारी

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

FIITJEE unfurls its new COVID policy Head, Haryana Branch Office stressed

under it's CSR responsibility FIITJEE - The one name in the education world that has proved to be the True Custodian of the students. From the past three decades, we have helped thousands of students in realising their dream of becoming an IITian. We believe in reaching out to each & every student having a strong determination and potential to make it to the IITs. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the institute did not take a step back but walked extra miles to give students a seamless online learning experience through its effective & powerful online classes.FIITJEE has remained socially responsible and has been voluntarily undertaking various corporate social responsibility initiatives. We are pained to see the plight of hundreds & thousands of children who have lost their parents to the COVID-19 pandemic. In consonance with our vision that talents should not go unnoticed, we have tried to make a small contribution for the benefit of such students and the society at large. FIITJEE unfurls its new COVID policy to ensure that no student compromises with his/her ultimate academic goal due to the adverse circumstances in their personal lives. It has come up with the benefits of Fee Waiver/ COVID Scholarship to the students who have lost either one or both the parents due to COVID-19 Pandemic. The new policy states that the already enrolled students who have lost one parent(the only earning member), but the other parent being still alive, will be given upto 100% fee waiver on all future payments of tuition fees, study material fees and test series fees. On the other hand, it also has benefits for the new enrolments as the students who have lost both parents due to COVID-19 after March 2020 will be offered upto100% fee waiver on all tuition fees, study material fees and test series fees. The policy is in length and includes all the possible conditions in which students may have been affected by the pandemic.

Bureau of Indian Standards organizes Industrial Meet

Training/industrial

meetings industrialists/consumers are organized by Bureau of Indian Standards from time to time. In the same series, an industrial meeting was organized by the North Regional Office of Bureau of Indian Standards (Haryana Branch Office) on 25-08-121 with reference to "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - India @ 75" at Hotel Pallavi, Sector-5, Panchkula (Haryana). The program was inaugurated by Shri Rajiv Sharma, Deputy Director General, Northern Regional Office. Shri D.K Singla, Scientist E & Head, Haryana Branch Office welcomed the participants and explained the objectives of the programme. Shri Sahil Khatri, Scientist 'C' briefed about the activities of Bureau of Indian Standards, Indian Standards and online facilities available on e-BIS platform and BIS Care App of Bureau of Indian Standards. Shri Harsh Sonkar, Scientist 'B' apprised

upon the ideology that Self-reliance is directly related to quality. It is widely accepted that developed nations are able to dominate the global markets because of their innovative products and their quality. It is clear that we want India to not only reduce its dependence on imported goods, but also to have good demand of its goods globally, keeping India among the world's leading exporters. Be it human resource or any other stuff, the competition is always centered around quality. Substandard quality does not impact any customer while high quality products are demanded even at high prices. At the end of the program he expressed his gratitude to all. The participants appreciated the program organized by the Bureau and described it as beneficial. They requested that such programs should be organized in future also. More than 100 industrialists/ consumers participated in the program.

Hydro Development Corporation India Limited successfully raises Corporate Bonds through E-Bidding

THDC India Limited has issued Secured Corporate Bonds Series -V with a base size of Rs 400 Cr with green shoe option of Rs 800 Cr with total issue size amounting to Rs. 1200 Cr having a tenor of 10 years. The bond proceeds shall be used to partly meet debt requirement of ongoing and under construction projects. The bidding for the above issue was done on 23rd August 2021 at THDCIL's NCR office Ghaziabad in the presence of Shri J. Behera, Director (Finance), Shri A.B Goel, GM (Finance), Ms. Rashmi Sharma, Company Secretary and Ms. Hemlata Agarwal, BSE representative. Shri J. Behera, Director (Finance) thanked investors for reposing tremendous trust on company's Operational and Financial performance and future growth prospects. THDC is a Category-1 Mini Ratna Class -A CPSU having operational portfolio of 1587 MW consisting of Hydro. Wind and Solar power and another 2764 MW under construction. The coupon rate discovered through Bombay stock Exchange - Electronic Bidding Platform is 7.39% for Rs 1200 Cr. Credit rating of AA "Stable" was assigned to these bonds by CARE and India ratings The bidding was grand success with over subscription of about 9 times of Base issue size. The company received Bids for Rs 3574 Cr against total issue size of Rs 1200 Cr from various Investors and Arrangers which is considerably high.

IRCTC surprises passengers on Tejas Express with gifts

Just a few days back, IRCTC had provided cashback offer to its women passengers during Rakshabandhan. This time IRCTC has introduced another surprise for the passengers of Tejas Express. IRCTC will give surprise gifts to its passengers through lucky draw for the journeys between 27.8.2021 to 6th September 2021. Passengers in both the about the mandatory BIS certification classes, Executive AC Chair Car and AC on conformity assessment and quality. Chair Car will get these surprises during control orders. Shri D.K Singla, Sc.E & their journey and will be given gifts on ER.

the train itself. One surprise gift will be given per PNR drawn in this lucky draw. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC Limited) is all set to welcome passengers on board its Teias Express train on the Ahmedabad-Mumbai-Ahmedabad (Train No. 82901/02) route. The company recently resumed the operation of Tejas Express train from August 7, 2021, following all health and safety protocols. IRCTC, at present, is operating Tejas train with weekly frequency of four days i.e. Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday With the upcoming festive season, the company is planning more attractive travel offers for the passengers of its premium passenger trains, which will be launched later.

ONGC & M/o petroleum & natural gas jointly felicitate 75 eminent citizens

As part of the ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. a Government of India's initiative to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, Hon'ble ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Labour and Employment, honored 75 eminent citizens of Sivasagar, Jorhat and Golaghat districts of Assam in ONGC office premises, Nazira on August 25th, 2021, There are several programmes lined up to commemorate this important of year of India Independence. The eminent persons who have contributed in various spheres of development of the nation includes Freedom-fighters, Agriculture, Science, Sports, Education and Social Service and were felicitated on the occasion. ONGC Director (Onshore) observed that these soldiers of India's development are the icons and worthy of emulation by the rest. Mr R K Sharma thanked the Minister of State and Government for giving the great opportunity of felicitating the towering personalities belonging to the operational areas of ONGC. The recipients were presented a Gamosha and a memento.

Shri Naveen Kumar takes over charge of Sr Dy.GM- North Central

Shri Naveen Kumar has taken over the charge of Sr. Dy. General Manager, North Central Railway. Senior Dy. General Manager is the head of vigilance organisation of zonal Railway. Shri Naveen Kumar, is an officer of 1988 batch of Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineering. Before coming to NCR, Shri Kumar was working as DRM/Adra, South Eastern Railway. After completing his B.Tech (Electrical) Degree in 1988 from IIT, Kanpur. Shri Naveen Kumar joined the Indian Railways in the year 1991. He has worked in important key posts of India Railways viz Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer /OP/ DHANBAD, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/G/DHANBAD, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer TRD/Mughalsarai, Add. CPM/Electrical/ DFCCIL as Mughalsarai on deputation, Chief Project Director, RE, Kolkata, CELE/

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

झारखण्ड सरकार ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, राँची

ई-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमत्रण सूचना

ई–अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 19/RI/2021-22/RWD/GIRIDIH दिनाक :- 31.08.2021 मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

आईडेन्टी फिकेशन टेण्डर कार्य का नाम समाप्ति संख्या / पैकेज संख्या अक्षर में जी०टी० रोड प्रतापपुर से असना एक करोड़ बारह लाख RWD/ GIRIDIH/ सिंघा टंडिया भाया केन्द्रआ तक छियानवे हजार तीन सौ अठासी रू० मात्र 1,12,96,388.00 पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (ल– 4. द्वितीय 09/ 2020-21

राँची झारखण्ड पिन— 834001

ई—निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0— 0651—2207818 इ—ानपन अभाष्य के पूरानाप राज्य में अवस्थित भारतीय स्टेट बैंक /अन्य राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निविदाकार के नाम/अकाउट से ही निर्गत बैंक ड्रापट के क्तप में कार्यपालक अभियता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, **गिरिडीह** के पक्ष में एवं **गिरिडीह** में मुगतेय होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है

PR 252407 Rural Work Department(21-22).D

ई-प्रोक्युर्मन्ट सेल

RESEARCH DESIGNS & STANDARDS ORGANISATION, LUCKNOW AMENDED FOR Last date of submission 07-10-2021 (Thursday) 16-08-2021 (Monday of tender and other modifications as per tender documents and uploading of pre-bid minutes. Description TIMS (Track Inspection and Monitoring System) For latest details and tender conditions and Corrigendum issued in tender, please visit IREPS website Pr. Executive Director/Stores/RDSO/Luckno

NTPC Limited

NTPC - Vindhyachal **Post-** Vindhyanagar, **Distt.** Singrauli, MP – 486885

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Applications are invited from interested and potential private partners fo installation of C.T. scan Unit in the premises of NTPC Vindhyachal Hospital, under Public Private Partnership (PPP Model). Interested agencies may refer to detailed EOI at www.ntpctender.com Applications should be submitted in the office of CMO-Vindhyachal latest by

Sin case of clarification, you may contact on Phone No. 9406942363/ 9650994596 or email ids ashokkurkanji@ntpc.co.in / bcchaturvedi@ntpc.co.in. Applicants please note: Further amendment in EOI shall be published in ₹ ebsite only

Leading the Power Sector



A GREETING TO REMEMBER

Be it an anniversary, a birthday, an academic accomplishment or even a promotion. Now you can surprise your loved ones by wishing them on

CLASSIFIEDS

Contact Toll Free Number: 180030700404 or Placing Advertisements Online, Log on to www.thehind

THEMOHINDU DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT_LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/fliable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL BHARTI CONCEPT SSC-CGL-T2 (Mains) New Online batch starts on 3 Sept. 2021 by S.S. Bharti Time: 4 pm to 5 pm 8 pm to 9:30 pm

Join Free Demo Classes on Bharti Learning APP Mob.: 8802203388, 9250291082

CLEAR PRELIMS 2022 Visit our Website: BestCurrentAffairs.com Download 200 Pages PDF Free 82 Ques in Prelims 2020 PHONE 9463838383

PUBLIC NOTICE Public Notice

Kapil Multispeciality Hospital is going to destroy Medical Records of their Patients till 31st December 2017 if anyone wants to get their Medical Records Plz Contact within 30 Days.

Contact: Medical Director, Kapil Multispeciality Hospital Burari, Delhi-110 084

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mr.Kushal Supta S/o Late Sh.Sangeet Gupta R/o A-25, Tagore Market, Krift Nagar, New Delih-110015 has applied or transfer of ownership of Unit no WF-129.DUPLEX, 8. customer ID No- KWF-00034 Apartment TDI city, Kundil, Sonepat Haryana in his name claiming him agif the leval heir of dereased Late Sh. Sangel

self the legal heir of deceased Late. Sh. Sangee Gupta s/o Late Sh.Prem Prakash Gupta as per doc ument, dated 23/04/2013 in records of company i.e TDI INFRACORP (INDIA) LTD. Having its office /andana building.11. Tolstoy Marg New Delhi-11000 Vandana building,11, lostoy Marg New Delih-110001.
Any person having any objection for transfer of the said flat in favour of Mr. Kushal Gupta Slo Late,Sh. Sangeet Gupta may send at the above noted office of company with supporting documents or through email customer.care@idtiinfracorp.com within 15 days of the publication of this notice otherwise it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the pronosed transfer of the said flat in his name.

the proposed transfer of the said flat in his nam

After that company shall not be liable for an

claim whatsoever after 15 days

PUBLIC NOTICE The public at large is hereby informed that late Anil Madan slo B.S. Madan rio D-86 GF, late Anii Madan s/o B.S. Madan r/o D-86 G/, Marg 9, Saket was having commercial property in your project Unit # 1313, Vatika Business Park B and measuring 750 Sq Ft. Which his legal heirs Niithi Madan, Asmita Madan Chhibber, Anvita Madan Bahel and Saarthak Chhibber requested the company to be transferred to Niidhi Madan, his wife & Anvita Madan Bahel, his daughter. Anv person having any objection on this Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company office details as under within 15 days after which

VATIKA LIMITED, Unit No A-002, GF, Block A

Get it all for your family



Zindagi ke saath bhi, Zindagi ke baad bhi

or more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read the sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

IRDAI Regn No.: 512

www.licindia.in

IN BRIEF



booked in Belagavi

The Karnataka police have registered a case against All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen leader Asaduddin Owaisi and 300 of his party workers and followers for violating COVID-19 protocol while campaigning for the party candidates in Belagavi on Monday.

Assembly ruckus: court order on pleas on Sept. 6

The chief judicial magistrate court, Thiruvananthapruam, will pronounce its order on the petitions seeking intervention in the Assembly ruckus discharge case on September 6. Mr. Sivankutty, former Minister K.T. Jaleel and four other LDF leaders stand accused in the case for causing damage to public

Why 84-day gap for those willing to pay: HC

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday asked the Centre why it cannot allow a willing person to take a paid second dose of Covishield vaccine before the completion of the 84-day gap, especially when the government has allowed those travelling abroad to take the second shot within 28 days of the first jab.

Murder accused Jolly's husband seeks divorce

The husband of Jolly Joseph, prime accused in the Koodathayi killings, has filed a divorce petition before the Kozhikode Family Court, Shaiu Zacharias filed the petition citing cruelty as grounds for divorce. The Koodathayi case relates to Jolly killing members of two branches of the Ponnamattom family a period of 14 years.

HC for portal to help students get gadgets

Court asks Kerala government to inform it of its feasibility

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday directed the State government to look into the prospect of setting up a website, with the assistance of the Kerala State IT Mission, where needy school students can register so that individuals/companies/Non-Resident Indians/non-governmental organisations could contribute to the purchase of mobiles and digital gadgets or supply them.

Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan directed the State government to inform the court of the possibility.

The directive was issued on a writ petition filed by primary school students who said that they did not have digital facilities at their homes to pursue online edu-



Online test: A Plus One student appearing for model exam at her residence in Palakkad on Tuesday. • K.K. MUSTAFAH

cation. They said thousands of students like them, belonging to economically weaker sections and disadvantaged groups, did not have access to smartphones, laptops, or Internet connection to effectively attend online classes.

The court also directed the State government to take steps to ensure that the petitioners were not sidelined by the digital divide and that they were able to pursue

Kerala airports to screen for new virus strain

RT-PCR tests, vaccination ramped up

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With the emergence of a new "C.1.2 lineage" of SARS-CoV-2, first detected in some provinces in South Africa in May and now in all South African provinces, Kerala will make special arrangements at its four international airports for disease surveillance.

Travellers coming from countries where the C.1.2 lineage has been reported -South Africa and seven other countries spanning Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceania – will have to undergo RT-PCR tests at the airports and go into quarantine, it was decided at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan here on Tuesday.

The C.1.2 lineage is in focus now because it possesses mutations within the genome similar to those seen in Delta variant, as well as some additional mutations

Mr. Vijayan directed all local bodies to speed up the vaccination to cover all over 60 years as early as possible.

It was decided that testing be done using only RT-PCR kits in the three districts of Wayanad, Pathanamthitta and Ernakulam, where first dose vaccination has exceeded 80%, as well as the districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Idukki and Kasaragod, which are nearing 80% coverage.

The RT-PCR testing will be increased in all districts.

Mr. Vijayan directed that priority be given in vaccine distribution to districts where vaccination had not been progressing fast. The districts should also get the vaccination statistics from all local bodies.

WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17 Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Hary ana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

Agartala	34.026.8	Kozhikode	24	32.4	24.
Ahmedabad	5.931.025.3	Kurnool	7	32.0	23.8
Aizawl	1329.021.4	Lucknow	61	33.7	24.0
Allahabad	34.326.6	Madurai		38.0	25.4
Bengaluru	0.629.319.7	Mangaluru	9.5	29.6	22.
Bhopal	1.629.924.4	Mumbai	49	26.0	23.0
Bhubaneswar	0.633.625.5	Mysuru		30.0	21.4
Chandigarh	336.923.5	New Delhi		28.9	25.4
Chennai	0.435.126.0	Patna	0.2	34.2	26.4
Coimbatore	32.923.2	Port Blair	9	30.1	24.
Dehradun	31.522.2	Puducherry		35.0	24.0
Gangtok	0.621.617.1	Pune	3.3	25.8	21.
30a	2930.724.0	Raipur		32.7	24.4
Guwahati	2233.925.9	Ranchi	0.4	30.2	23.
Hubballi	29.021.0	Shillong	42	24.0	16.
Hyderabad	326.622.1	Shimla		26.3	17.0
mphal	331.021.7	Srinagar	8.2	30.8	14.
laipur	33.831.825.5	Thiruvananthapuram	1	31.2	24.
(ochi	30.024.4	Tiruchi		36.5	26.0
Kohima	1826.2 17.7	Vijayawada	8	29.4	25.
Kolkata	534.327.2	Visakhapatnam		31.8	25.

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) **SO2:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues

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

Not mandatory to attend school: Telangana govt.

New order comes after HC directive

MARRI RAMU HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Tuesday had to partially amend its earlier decision to reopen all government and private schools from Wednesday, with the Telangana High Court passing interim directions in a PIL petition over reopening of schools.

Earlier, it was decided to reopen all government and private schools and conduct physical classes for students unconditionally. However, with the HC passing interim directions, the government announced that "no child should be compelled by any

school management to physically attend classes if his or her parent was not inclined to send the child to

The interim instructions were passed by a bench of Acting Chief Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao and Justice T. Vinod Kumar after hearing a PIL plea challenging government's decision to reopen schools. The petitioner, Mandapati Bala Krishna, had requested the HC to declare physical classes for students of all pre-primary and primary schools arbitrary and decision.

Hosur MLA's son and six others killed in car crash in Bengaluru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Seven people - three women and four men, among them the son of DMK Hosur MLA Y. Prakash – were killed when their speeding SUV climbed the footpath and rammed the compound wall of a bank at Koramangala early on Tuesday morning.

According to the police, the MLA's son, Karunaa Sagar, 25, who was behind the wheel, lost control of the vehicle on 80ft Road. He was reportedly driving towards Forum Mall Junction when the accident took place around 1.30 a.m.

"The SUV hit the wall



Fatal hit: The wreckage of the car that rammed the compound wall of a bank at Koramangala on Tuesday. •PTI

with such intensity that it was completely wrecked," said a senior police officer. "Though it was a five-seater, there were seven people in the car. Our preliminary investigation revealed that

rash and negligent driving led to the accident." None of the passengers was wearing seat belt, and the airbags did not activate.



Rainy day: A group of youngsters enjoying the heavy rain on the Marine Drive promenade in

Heavy rain in Mumbai after a break, brings in usual woes

Reports of waterlogging in city; landslide in Aurangabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The southwest monsoon become active in Mumbai after a long gap on Tuesday, bringing heavy rain to the city and neighbouring areas and causing a landslide leaving several people injured, according to officials.

Several low-lying areas were inundated following heavy overnight showers.

Since Monday night, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane and other adjoining areas received rainfall in the range of 20 mm to 70 mm, a report of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)

The IMD's observatory in Santacruz (representative of suburbs) recorded 49 mm rain while the Colaba observatory received 29.8 mm rain in the 24-hour period ending Tuesday morning, the MeT department said.

The incessant showers led to landslide in Mumbai's Asalpha area, injuring some people. There were reports of waterlogging in Andheri, Parel, Bhandup and some other areas, slowing down movement of traffic.

Ghat road damaged

Heavy rains also left many areas in Kannad taluka of Maharashtra's Aurangabad district inundated.

The incessant rainfall triggered a landslide which blocked the Autram ghat bordering Aurangabad and Jalgaon districts, officials

By the evening, the traffic congestion in the ghat was cleared while the road clearing work is underway on a war footing, an official said.

Of the eight circles in Kannad taluka, seven have received excess rainfall of over 65 mm in the last 24 hours. Crops losses have been re-

ported at Naagad and Saygavhan villages, while rainwater entered houses in Pishor circle, an official said.

People have the right to celebrate their festivals: Raj Thackeray

MVA partners of using COVID-19 situation for their benefit, alleges MNS chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Launching a frontal attack on the Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra government for not easing restrictions to allow people to celebrate Dahi Handi and other upcoming festivals, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Tuesday alleged that the three ruling parties were "using" the COVID-19 situation to their benefit.

Speaking to reporters, the MNS chief also accused the government of "selectively' relaxing COVID-19 rules for some people.

"The actions of the Maharashtra government can be summed up in the words of veteran journalist P. Sainath who wrote a book *Everybody* Loves a Good Drought. The current actions of the State



government are like 'everybody loves a good lockdown'," the MNS president said after several party workers defied the ban to celebrate the Dahi Handi festival earlier in the day.

ise Jan Ashirwad Yatras. Sena

A group of boys climbing a ladder to break the dahi handi as a

symbolic celebration in Mumbai on Tuesday. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

"BJP ministers can organ-

MLA Bhaskar Jadhav's son can perform pooja in a temple in Ratnagiri. These incidents mean the State governis conveniently relaxing COVID-19 norms. There are different sets of rules for different people," he alleged.

MNS workers celebrated Dahi Handi festival in Thane and the neighbouring Palghar district, even though celebrations have been banned due to the pandemic.

The Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and Congress are partners in the MVA government led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the estranged cousin of Raj Thackeray.

"Had the Shiv Sena been in opposition, I don't think it would have acted like this. The three parties are using the COVID-19 situation for their benefit. People have the right to celebrate their festivals," he said.

Mr. Thackeray also alleged that the State government is creating (the bogey of) the first, second and now the third wave of the pandemic.

Gujarat and Saurashtra re-

gions are likely to witness

active wet spell after more

than a month as August re-

mained mostly dry, causing a

deficit of more than 50%

since the beginning of the

southwest monsoon in mid

The State is witnessing the

heavy rain till next Sunday.

4.196 new COVID-19 cases reported in Maharashtra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Maharashtra on Tuesday reported 4,196 fresh CO-VID-19 cases and 104 fatalities, including the highest 43 in the Pune region. while 4,688 patients recovered, a health department official said.

The new additions pushed the case tally to 64,64,876, the death toll to 1,37,313 and the number of recoveries so far to 62,72,800, leaving the State with 51,238 active cases, the official said.

Maharashtra's case recovery rate now stands at 97.03 per cent while the fatality rate is 2.12 per cent, he said.

Pune region reported 1,789 new cases and Mumbai region 705 fresh cases, the official said.

Relief to farmers, government as rain lashes Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a major relief to the farmers and the government, heavy rain lashed parts of Gujarat as 126 taluks received moderate to heavy rain, causing inundation in a few areas in South Gujarat region on Tuesday.

As per the data shared

by the State emergency res-

ponse centre, 126 taluks in a dozen districts received significant rain that led to fresh waters in several rivers and

The districts that have received showers include Valsad, Banaskantha, Gandhinagar, Kheda, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha, Gir Somnath, Navsari and others.

The India Meteorological

"The State is expected to witness significant showers in the next five days."

Department (IMD) has said,

At a review meeting on Tuesday evening, the State government has decided to deploy seven teams of the NDRF in various parts after the prediction of heavy rain.

The IMD predicted that the coastal areas of South "We only have three weeks to recover from the monsoon deficit as it hardly rained in August and while June and July saw significant drop in rain days," an official said.

He said Gujarat needs 3-4 spells in September for normal monsoon. So far, 31 of the 33 districts have recorded below normal monsoon.

M ND-NDE

Pyrrhic victory

Religious extremism, militancy in Afghanistan will be counterproductive for Pakistan

akistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan was the first world leader who wholeheartedly welcomed the Taliban's capture of Kabul on August 15 – before its fall, Pakistan had maintained that it had little leverage on the Taliban to force them to accept a ceasefire and that it backed a political solution in Afghanistan. However, on August 16, he said Afghans have "broken the shackles of slavery", leaving little doubt on where Pakistan stands on the Taliban's return. This is hardly surprising. Pakistan not only played a central role in the Taliban's rise to power in the 1990s but was also one of the three countries to have had formal diplomatic ties with them. Pakistan continued to support the Taliban even after they were driven out of power by the U.S. in 2001. Its strategic calculus was that a stable Afghanistan backed by the U.S. and India would harm its core interests. It hosted the Taliban leadership in Quetta, Balochistan, and allowed their militants to regroup and resume insurgency in Afghanistan. In that sense, the Taliban's capture of Kabul can be seen as the success of a long-term strategy Pakistan's military establishment had adopted. But it is too early to begin celebrations.

The geopolitical implications of the Taliban's victory are still unclear. But, irrespective of what kind of a government they will establish, the resurgence of a Sunni radical jihadist group could embolden similar outfits elsewhere. Pakistan has a problem with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, the ideological twin of the Taliban, that has carried out deadly attacks inside Pakistan. Also, the August 26 Kabul blasts are a warning of what is awaiting Afghanistan. The country is still chaotic and lawless where groups such as the Islamic State Khorasan Province (IS-K), the IS affiliate that has claimed responsibility for the blasts, would seek to flourish. Without order, the country could fall into a multi-directional, civil war between the Taliban, the IS-K, and the remnants of the old regime. The question is whether Pakistan, overwhelmed by the Taliban's success, sees the possible dangers the triumph of hardline Islamism now poses. Religious extremism and militancy can help one country tactically but will be counterproductive in the long term. When the U.S. backed the Mujahideen in the 1980s, it might never have imagined that the Taliban would rise from the Mujahideen and host the al Qaeda that would carry out the deadliest attack on America since the Second World War. Similarly, a chaotic Afghanistan ruled by extremist Islamists is as much a geopolitical victory as a security and strategic challenge to Pakistan. During the insurgency, Pakistan refused to use its leverage over the Taliban for peace. It should do so at least now because a stable Afghanistan which treats its people with dignity and does not provide safe havens to transnational terrorist organisations is in the best interests of all regional powers, including Pakistan.

For the record

Djokovic could script history if he completes the calendar Grand Slam at the US Open

In a megapolis teeming with skyscrapers, Novak Djokovic wants to be the tallest of them all. History Lbeckons the Serbian tennis legend at the US Open currently progressing in New York. At present, Djokovic has drawn level with the other members of tennis royalty from the men's side: Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. The 'Big Three' have won 20 Grand Slams each and Djokovic has a chance to move ahead and perhaps stay there unchallenged. His acclaimed and relatively older rivals have skipped their annual tryst with the Flushing Meadows, formally called the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Federer is recuperating from a knee surgery while Nadal is coping with a foot injury and it leaves the field marginally clear for the 34-yearold Djokovic, who is also chasing a calendar year Grand Slam after having won the Australian and French Opens besides the iconic Wimbledon. If Djokovic could lord over a year, he would become the first man to do that since the great Rod Laver's clean sweep back in 1969. Among women, Steffi Graff was the last to achieve this feat in 1988. However, a record-busting quest is never easy. Djokovic is acutely conscious of that after having blown a chance to pocket a Golden Slam as he crashed out of the recent Tokyo Olympics, failing to even win a

bronze. Federer and Nadal's contrasting styles, much akin to lyrical poetry and magnetic prose, may have colonised fans' hearts but Djokovic has shown that unerring consistency has an enduring charm. The Serb has often roared back into contention, covering the court, closing out the angles and digging into vast reserves of physical and mental strength. Off the turf, he may not be the ideal hero, expressing reservations against COVID-19 vaccines, but on court, despite the odd petulant bouts reserved for his racquet, Djokovic has reigned. There is also the need to make amends at the US Open as last year he accidentally struck a line judge while taking a swipe at the ball and was suspended. Austrian Dominic Thiem won the championship then but he is missing now due to a wrist injury. Among the other young turks, Alexander Zverev, who defeated Djokovic at the Tokyo Olympic semifinals, Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas get another opportunity to show their mettle. Meanwhile the women's section will miss an injured Serena Williams and in a fluid set-up, Australian Ashleigh Barty holds the edge. Defending champion Naomi Osaka is on a comeback trail after she stepped aside citing mental issues during the French Open. Osaka has struggled on her return and lost in the third round of the Tokyo Olympics. She will draw attention just like a history-chasing Djokovic.

The next step in democratic evolution is overdue

India must change, from a darkening elected authoritarianism to building institutions for citizens' inclusion in governance



ARUN MAIRA

The human body, like a nation, is composed of structures and processes. A bony skeleton holds it together. Processes such as breathing, blood circulation and the formation of new cells give the body life. When vital processes become weak, the body becomes unhealthy even if the frame is strong. And when they cease, overpowered by infection, life ceases, and the bones remain to be buried.

Elements of a democracy

A democratic nation, or any nation, is also composed of structures - its constitution and laws. What distinguishes democratic nations from authoritarian ones is the liveliness of citizens' participation in the governance of their nation. In healthy democracies, citizens participate effectively in the shaping of the policies and laws by which they are governed. Democratic constitutions provide elected assemblies for citizens' representatives to shape new policies and pass laws.

Open-minded deliberation in these forums is necessary to meet the requirements of democracy. It is also essential for finding good solutions for systemic problems which must be considered from many perspectives. When these forums become chambers for close-minded partisan politics, they cannot find solutions to the complex, systemic problems that all nations must address in the 21st century: climate change, historical inequities, increasing economic inequalities, and violence brewing

with discontents within. The U.S. houses of Congress seem hamstrung by party politics; debates in the Indian Parliament have degenerated into floor battles with missiles; and, citizens of many European democracies are dismayed by the performance of their elected institutions.

Constitutions, elections, and assemblies are not all that a democracy needs to function. Though this is what the simplistic U.S. vimocracies - on the heels of its armed interventions in many nations - seems to suggest. Democracies have life from what happens outside the elected chambers and what happens between elections. People who belong to different political factions, practise different religions, and have different histories within the history of their nation, must listen to each other. and learn to live democratically together every day of their lives. Therefore, what healthy democracies need most of all are processes of democratic deliberations among citizens themselves.

Widening fissures

Sadly, the cracks in the Indian nation dividing 'people like us' from 'people not like us', are widening in institutions at the top as well as in relationships on the ground. Majoritarian electoral systems of democracy will harden these divisions in India, as they are in the United States. Therefore, stronger processes are urgently required democratic discourses amongst citizens themselves to bind the national fabric before it fravs further.

The media, which used to provide space for diverse perspectives to be heard, is divided along partisan lines. And social media, touted as a saviour of democracy by enabling citizens to freely listen to many points of view, has turned out to be a hardener of divisions.

sion of converting nations to de- \(\bar{L} \) Smart algorithms have created echo chambers of people who like each other, and who do not listen to those in other chambers, and lob hate bombs at each other across the walls.

Discussions of India's chronic problems that cry for new solutions have descended into debates about whether the origins of the problems were in the times of the National Democratic Alliance or the times of the United Progressive Alliance. It seems that in any discussion about what ails the country, whether in Parliament, the media, or social gatherings, one must be seen to either support the political dispensation in power, or its opposition. There is little room for thoughtful, non-partisan deliberations among citizens.

Taking a new step

It is time for the next step in the evolution of democratic institutions. Kalypso Nicolaidis of the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, says, "Consent of the governed is about more than periodic elections or referenda. The process of deepening the reach of democracy remains the same as it has been for the last 200 years: a struggle to expand the franchise. This time around, it is a franchise that does not necessarily express itself through the right to vote in periodic elections, but rather through widespread inclusion in the political process in all

its forms." A civil society movement, Citizens for Europe, has proposed a solution: a European Citizens' Assembly – a permanent transnational forum for citizens' participation and deliberation.

Words of caution though. Citizens for Europe explains the drawbacks of purely online methods, which civil society groups in Europe have tried, viz., "the risk of accentuating ideological cleavages and excluding groups affected by the digital divide". Online forums must be supplemented by real meetings. On the other hand, merely putting people together into a room does not create conditions for thoughtful deliberation. Elected assemblies everywhere are cleaved along partisan lines. James Madison, a framer of the U.S. Constitution, had anticipated this. He wrote in Federalist paper No.55, "Had every Athenian citizen been a Socrates, every Athenian assembly would still have been a mob." It is not just the quality of the people in the room that matters. Citizens' meetings, online or offline, must be properly designed and professionally facilitated to enable all points-of-view to be listened to for new insights to

I return to the analogy of the human body. The human body is a complex system composed of many complex organs and processes - the heart, the brain, the liver, digestion, respiration, self-healing, etc. Breathing is a very simple process – it is the first one that a baby learns as soon as it emerges from its mother's womb. Yet, we forget how to breathe well as we grow up. Yoga teaches us that learning to breathe well can tone up all the complex systems of the body and mind.

The missing dialogues

Human societies are also complex systems, composed of many formal institutions, and many pro-

cesses of interactions among people. Listening like breathing is a basic process.

We have forgotten how to listen well, especially to "People Not Like Us". In schools we are taught how to speak well and win elocution contests and debates. There are no lessons in how to listen well, and no prizes for the best listeners. We listen only to "what" others say; we do not listen to understand "why" they believe what they do. Often, we stop listening even while another is speaking, mentally preparing our ripostes to win a debate. Dialogues to understand are not debates to win. They are explorations of complex issues by combining the knowledge of diverse people.

Monocultures of thought can be as sterile as monocultures in Nature. Diversity in the composition of the participants is essential for ensuring that complex issues are fully understood and new insights can emerge. However, diversity of opinions can create cacophonies unless the deliberations are managed well.

The time has come to learn to listen well, not just speak well; and to conduct dialogues, not debates. The assemblies Emperors Ashoka and Akbar conducted centuries ago in India provide some role models. Technologies of democratic deliberation have advanced since the times of the Athenians, Ashoka, and Akbar, as James Fishkin explains in When the People Speak: Deliberative Democracy and Public Consultation. The soft power of India, the world's most richly diverse nation perhaps, will increase when it returns from the presently darkening elected authoritarianism to lead in the evolution of institutions for citizens' participation in democratic governance.

Arun Maira is the author of Listening for

Making out a case for propping up the middle class

Leaving out a shrinking middle class in policy to handle the deep economic impact of COVID-19 will hamper recovery



FURQAN QAMAR & TAUFEEQUE AHMAD SIDDIQUI

obel laureate (2017) Richard H. Thaler segregates the and "Humans". Short for 'Homo Economicus', 'Econs' seldom defy economic assumptions of rationality and are flawless decision makers - akin to a preprogrammed machine. But they exist in economic literature only figuratively and are conspicuous by their absence in real life. In contrast, a vast majority of people fall under the category of 'Humans'. They rarely behave rationally and are, thus, credulously susceptible to a wide variety of behavioural biases in their decisions.

Planners and issues What is true for the vast populace is equally applicable to policy planners. Their education, professional training, varied experiences and grass-roots connect notwithstanding, they remain 'Humans' than 'Econs'. Even when their decisions have far-reaching consequences, they are scarcely immune to the 'present bias' and entrust greater weight to the payoffs that are closer to the present time, thus favouring 'instant ambitions' over 'enduring economic gains'. Similarly, they could be amenable to 'overconfidence', 'optimism' and 'framing effects' and get swayed by the way infor-

mation is presented to them. Their thought processes may al-

so be hinged on the 'confirmation bias' tempting them to search, interpret, and recall information which support or validate their predisposition. Even as they mean no malice, they might be manoeuvred by 'group reinforce-'inter-group opposition'.

Cognitive distortion such as 'availability heuristic' may, concurrently impel them to believe sily is likely to be a far more accurate reflection of reality. What gives them further confidence is the 'illusion of control' leading to overestimating their ability to control events or to take mid-course correction if the designed policy fails to deliver the desired result.

The 'present bias'

Let us examine these phenomena in the context of handling the economic impact of COVID-19 and policies to revive the economy. The stimulus packages announced so far to mitigate the impact of the novel coronavirus and to revive the economy have included the poorest sections of the society, and the major thrust has been on the supply side. This reflects the penchant for procrastinating the immediate cost activities and preproperating the immediate reward activities. In the process, the middle class has simply been left to fend for itself.

This is juxtaposed with the obvious policy option of directing attention to long-lasting benefits focusing on the larger picture rather than being reactive to instantaneous ambitions. This simply vindicates Richard Thaler's view that 'humans' tend to be myopic and Ted O'Donoghue and Matthew Rabin's proposition that decisions in-



variably suffer from the 'present

A segment with influence

Many studies, notably, a decadeold Asian Development Bank study covering 72 countries on 'The Role of the Middle-Class in Economic Development: What Do Cross-Country Data Show?' (ADB Economics Working Paper Series 245, January https://bit.ly/3t59Eom) established that the middle class fosters innovation. Their "values also encourage the accumulation of human capital (via education) and savings (that can then be used for productive investment in the economy)". Ubiquitously, "policies that factor in the welfare of the middle-class and nurture their growth may be more effective in [the] long-term". These findings confirm what Nobel Prize winners (2019) Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo have been arguing: that the middle class has a constructive influence on the economy and socie-

Closer home, it may be recalled that a 20-time increase in the middle class during the post-reform period had laid a strong foundation for high economic growth. Even as of now, the middle class constitutes close to a fourth of the

population but accounts for a fourfifths of the taxpayers' base. Censoriously, it accounts for threefourths of the total consumer spending leading to the demand for consumer durables.

The pandemic's impact Going by a Pew Research Center

report, that the middle class in the ic, their numbers may have further withered subsequent to the second wave, which was all the more devastating. During the past year or so, rural as well as urban unemployment rates have been high. At 8.13% on August 30, 2021, it is still quite high to impact the middle class adversely. Further, out of the total non-farm jobs losses since January 2021, the middle class comprising salaried employees and entrepreneurs has been as high as 13.7 million. Only in July, 3.2 million salaried people lost their jobs.

Rising petrol and diesel prices, and edible oil and retail inflation hovering at 32.5% and 5.6%, respectively, have been further eroding their disposable income. Explicably, a hike in food prices reduces consumers' income which could have been spent elsewhere to generate demand and thus boost the economy. The plight of the middle class can be understood by the fact that they are selling their family silver and gold jewellery to pay hospital bills, school fees and shop rent, particularly during the last four months, which may lead to further suppression of demand.

In Thaler's taxonomy, 'Econs' are only imaginary; the populace as a whole, irrespective of their position in the society, are only

'humans'. So are the middle class. Herbert A Simon, yet another Nobel laureate (1978), in his theory of — 'bounded rationality', argues that individuals with their limited attention span do not follow complete rationality. The temperament of their brain limits their ability to recognise pertinent stimuli and get vacillated by the excountry shrunk by a third or over cessive information presented by 32 million following the first wave the media, publicity, or

Despite their deteriorating condition, the middle class have neither been reactive nor have found a collective voice. Concurrently, they have become quite risk averse, which is evident from the fact that bank deposits have increased by 11.4% in 2020-21, even though interest rates have declined as their inclination to spend has subsided. This further leads to a fall in the demand. The verity is also substantiated by Reserve Bank of India's consumer confidence index. For July 2021, the index stood at 48.6 points which is just about record low.

A shrinking middle class never augurs well for the economy anywhere in the world. They need to be propped up to bring dynamism in the economy, and thus rapidly revive growth by enthusing, among other things, consumer confidence and sentiments.

Furqan Qamar, a Professor in finance at Jamia Millia Islamia, is a former Secretary General of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and also a former Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh and the University of Rajasthan. Taufeeque Ahmad Siddiqui is an Assistant Professor in finance at Jamia Millia Islamia. The views expressed are

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.

It's 'denationalisation'

The use of the word "Monetisation" by the Narendra Modi government is nothing but a euphemism for undoing the process of nationalisation, or in other words, 'denationalisation'. The long cherished goal of socialism, first included as a part in the Directive Principles, following a resolution by the Indian National Congress at its Avadi session in 1955, and later incorporated through the 42nd amendment to the Constitution in 1976, to strive towards the

establishment of a sovereign, socialist, secular democratic republic, is being buried. It is in moments like these that the Indian electorate wonders why there is no strong political Opposition. SESHAGIRI ROW KARRY,

Grow oil palm plan Going in for a non-native

plant species is asking for trouble, especially if the plan is to cultivate it on a large scale. Yes, the oil palm plan is a recipe for an environmental disaster

(Page 1, August 30). The uncontrolled growth of 'Seemai karuvelam' trees in the plains of Tamil Nadu became a nightmare in many districts. At another level, plantation cash crops have caused havoc in the High Ranges. The so-called commercial benefits of the oil palm should not make us lose sight of the larger picture. P. DAVID BALASINGH,

■ The Centre's proposal will result in the destruction of rainforests, one of nature's

best 'carbon sinks'. Rainforests, especially in areas where the Centre plans to cultivate oil palm – the north-east and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands – will face grave danger. There is sure to be the use of fertilizers and pesticides which will bring in their own set of problems. Why cannot there be a plan to help our farmers grow indigenous and sustainable oilseed varieties? A detail in the report is cause for suspicion – the allegation by Congress leader and former Union Environment

Minister that the plan is

designed to "benefit Patanjali and Adani, both corporates with interests in edible oil expansion". M. DEEPIKA, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

■ The apprehensions of activists about the ill-effects that the introduction of oil palm will have in the north-east and the Andaman have basis. That oil palm is an extremely water intensive plant (an estimated 300 litres per plant) is a matter of concern. In case the plan

moves ahead, sustainable

production is essential. The

to be chosen with great care. DIBAKAR MITRA, Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

sites for the plantations have

Haul of medals

The medal rain for India at the on-going Tokyo Paralympics is a shining example of 'Yes, they can'. There is ability in disability also. The athletes have demonstrated that they can change the word and the world for us. R. SAMPATH, Chennai

It's time to build BRICS better

The grouping succeeded up to a point but it now confronts multiple challenges



The 13th BRICS summit is set to be held on September 9 in digital format under India's chairmanship. This plurilateral grouping comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa is chaired by turn. India held the chair in 2012 and 2016 too. The preparatory meeting of Foreign Ministers in June and dialogue at the BRICS Academic Forum in early August offered an important opportunity to present an objective assessment of the grouping's record amid differing views of believers and sceptics. The importance of BRICS is selfevident: it represents 42% of the world's population, 30% of the land area, 24% of global GDP and 16% of international trade.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, noting that BRICS was 15 years old, recently portrayed it as a young adult, equipped with "thoughts shaped and a worldview concretised, and with a growing sense of responsibilities." Others tend to view it as caught up in angst and confusion typical of a teenager.

Still, member states have been carrying BRICS forward in an era of complex geopolitics. They have bravely continued holding dozens of meetings and summits, even as China's aggression in eastern Ladakh last year brought India-China relations to their lowest point in several decades. There is also the reality of the strained relations of China and Russia with the West, and of serious internal challenges preoccupying both Brazil and South Africa. On the other hand, a potential bond emerged due to the battle against CO-VID-19. In this backdrop, does BRICS truly matter?

Four priorities

Launched by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2006 and riding on the political synergy created by regular summits since 2009, BRIC turned itself into BRICS in 2010, with the entry of South Africa. The grouping has gone through a reasonably produc-



(L-R): South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro at the BRICS summit in Brasilia, Brazil, in 2019. ■REUTERS

tive journey. It strove to serve as a bridge between the Global North and Global South. It developed a common perspective on a wide range of global and regional issues; established the New Development Bank; created a financial stability net in the form of Contingency Reserve Arrangement; and is on the verge of setting up a Vaccine Research and Development Virtual Center.

What are its immediate goals now? As the current chair, India has outlined four priorities. The first is to pursue reform of multilateral institutions ranging from the United Nations, World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to the World Trade Organization and now even the World Health Organization. This is not a new goal. BRICS has had very little success so far, although strengthening multilateralism serves as a strong bond as well as a beacon. Reform needs global consensus which is hardly feasible in the current climate of strategic contestation between the U.S. and China and the devastation caused by COVID-19 to health, lives and livelihoods. Nevertheless, Indian officials rightly remind us that BRICS emerged from the desire to challenge dominance (by the U.S.) in the early years of the century, and it remains committed to the goal of counter-dominance (by

China) now. Mr. Jaishankar observed that the "counter-dominance instinct and principled commitment to multipolarity in all forms" is "written into the DNA of BRICS."

The second is the resolve to combat terrorism. Terrorism is an international phenomenon affecting Europe, Africa, Asia and other parts of the world. Tragic developments concerning Afghanistan have helped to focus attention sharply on this overarching theme, stressing the need to bridge the gap between rhetoric and action. China, for example, feels little hesitation in supporting clear-cut denunciations of terrorist groups, even as its backing of Pakistan, which is heavily enmeshed with a host of international terrorist groups, remains steadfast.

In this context, BRICS is attempting to pragmatically shape its counter-terrorism strategy by crafting the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan containing specific measures to fight radicalisation, terrorist financing and misuse of the Internet by terrorist groups. This plan is expected to be a key deliverable at the forthcoming summit and may hopefully bring some change.

Promoting technological and digital solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals and expanding people-to-people cooperation are the

other two BRICS priorities. Digital tools have helped a world adversely hit by the pandemic, and India has been in the forefront of using new technological tools to improve governance. But enhancing people-to-people cooperation will have to wait for international travel to revive. Interactions through digital means are a poor substitute.

Among other concerns, BRICS has been busy deepening trade and investment ties among its member states. The difficulty stems from China's centrality and dominance of intra-BRICS trade flows. How to create a better internal balance remains a challenge, reinforced by the urgent need for diversification and strengthening of regional value chains, all exposed during the pandemic. Policymakers have been encouraging an increase in intra-BRICS cooperation in diverse areas like agriculture, disaster resilience, digital health, traditional medicine and customs cooperation.

Takeaways

The idea of BRICS - a common pursuit of shared interests by the five emerging economies from four continents - is fundamentally sound and relevant. The governments have invested huge political capital in pushing the BRICS experiment forward, and its institutionalisation has created its own momentum.

The five-power combine has succeeded, albeit up to a point. But it now confronts multiple challenges: China's economic rise has created a serious imbalance within BRICS; Beijing's aggressive policy, especially against India, puts BRICS solidarity under exceptional strain; and BRICS countries have not done enough to assist the Global South to win their optimal support for their agenda. It is necessary for leaders, officials and academics of this grouping to undertake serious soul-searching and find way out of the present predicament.

A parting thought: BRICS negotiators need to master the art of brevity and tight drafting. When they do so, they will realise that unduly lengthy communiqués are an index to the grouping's weakness, not strength.

Rajiv Bhatia is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House and a former High Commissioner to South Africa

Making the Paralympics count

This is a chance to improve the conditions for the disabled pursuing sports and to refresh the way we view disability



August 30 was a big day for India at the Paralympics. The country won five medals, including two gold, bettering the Rio 2016 contingent's haul in just a day. Indians with disabilities, like all Indians, are proud of these achievements. This presents an opportune moment to reflect on how we can make the Paralympics truly count for India.

The Paralympics is a unique opportunity to empower the disabled. It offers everyone the chance to watch disabled bodies in action and to find commonality with them in the shared desire for national success. Sustained media attention ensures that athletes with disabilities capture the public imagination in an unprecedented way.

Discourse around the disabled

In India, persons with disabilities find it extraordinarily difficult to live a life of equal productivity and dignity as their able-bodied counterparts. The discourse around their status as Divyang - persons with divine bodies - fuels their alienation. Instead of viewing the disabled as ordinary individuals who require additional support to meet their unique needs, this language places them on a different pedestal and presents them as being endowed with supernatural powers. Rather than engaging with them in meaningful, constructive ways, many people either make a person's disability their focal point, stripping away their multi-layered identity, or ignore their additional challenges altogether. Stereotypes and unfounded biases about the disabled's incompetence, inability to make informed choices and asexuality, among others, are still alive and kicking.

It is no surprise, then, that engaging in recreational activities like sports is rarely on the minds of disabled people. Even those disabled persons who wish to undertake such activities face formidable obstacles. Mainstream schools, parks, colleges and swimming pools do not provide a conducive environment for them. Arguments about complications and causing inconvenience to others are commonly made to deny access. As a blind person myself, I remember being turned down by a swimming pool in Delhi when I approached them with a wish to pursue swimming classes. The reason? They had received complaints from female swimmers about unsolicited contact in the pool and felt

that having a blind person in the pool could get them into trouble. One doesn't have to be a Paralympian to enjoy the benefits of sports. Recreational sports can help build identity, confidence and a healthy relationship with one's own body. This is what many disabled people miss out on.

Disabled people with more ambitious sporting aspirations often enter into exploitative coaching relationships and navigate a complicated and unfriendly sports governance framework. This state of affairs is particularly troubling as Section 30 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, requires appropriate governments and sporting authorities to take measures to improve access to meaningful sporting opportunities for the disabled. These include redesigning infrastructural facilities and providing multisensory essentials and features in all sporting activities to make them more accessible.

For India, the success in these Paralympics will be truly meaningful only if it prompts introspection and reorientation. At the systemic level, this has to cover governance reforms in the Paralympic Committee of India. The Committee is now headed by a medal-winning former Paralympian, Deepa Malik. The Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs brought parity to the cash rewards structure for medal-winning Paralympians placing them on equal footing with their able-bodied counterparts at the Olympics. These are steps in the right direction.

An opportunity for everyone

To deliver the value of sport more inclusively, satellite television providers and sports broadcasters must take steps that enable the disabled to watch and participate in sporting activities. Further, pictures of the Paralympics in electronic media and on social media must be accompanied by image descriptions for the visually challenged. At the individual level, everyone can view athletes with disabilities in a holistic sense while also acknowledging their additional challenges and striving to create more opportunities for the disabled people in our lives so they can participate in all walks of life.

It is easy to admire the courage of our para-athletes from afar. It is much harder to use these Games as an opportunity to do our bit to change things, to ensure that we are regularly surrounded by such competent and driven disabled people who are given the additional support they need to thrive. With intent, resolve and action, we can make the Paralympics count for India not just on the medal table but in the everyday.

Rahul Bajaj, a Rhodes Scholar, is a Senior Resident Fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

Managing natural resources

A project in Meghalaya empowers communities to take informed action pertaining to their environment

PAMU SAMPATH KUMAR & ABHISHEK SRIVASTAVA

Iust about 50 km from Meghalava's capital Shillong is Umdohbyrthih village. It was once known for its rocky terrains, streams, springs and verdant valleys. In recent years, however, its forest cover and natural resources have rapidly deteriorated.

Accessibility to knowledge

Many villages are facing a similar crisis. The State, known to have spots designated as the 'wettest places' on earth, is now facing a severe water crisis. Natural resource management becomes critical in this context. This is not a new concept, especially in Meghalaya where traditional practices on sustainable use of natural resources have been passed down from one generation to another. This indigenous knowledge began to slowly fade, however, owing to population growth, the quest for unsustainable developmental activities and indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources, among other factors.

Another roadblock to natural resource management was of knowledge inaccessibility among rural communities. When free access to information on an issue is not made available to communities, they begin to rely on external agencies for solving their local problems. The government wanted to see if, when provided with correct knowledge, solutions to problems can be devised and even implemented by community members themselves, with proper facilitation support. Reactivating the community's connection to natural resources and enabling them to tackle the resource crisis became a priority for the State.

We got an opportunity to do this through the World Bank-supported Meghalaya Community-Led Landscape Management Project. We set up a cross-functional team with diverse expertise. The team worked with many facilitators and empowered them with digital infrastructure. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme became the main scheme channelising resources to impact poor households so that there was systematic convergence of all line de-

partments such as agriculture, horticulture, soil and water conservation. The programme leverages technology and the youth population.

Leveraging technology, more than 2,000 village community facilitators have already been trained and are working towards climate change reversal. These facilitators take informed action pertaining to their environment. The idea is to bring at least 14,000-18,000 community facilitators (three from each village) to the fore. This has been made possible with the help of digital applications like Participant Digital Attestation. This app allows community cadres to record their attendance by scanning QR codes. It provides them content, training sessions and digital certification. These tools help create a free flow of knowledge without hierarchy and empower communities to overcome knowledge barriers.

To build autonomy, we use simple tools. They have been designed keeping in mind many things: creating community agency, building the capacities of all persons in the programme, and ensuring frequent interactions among them. Technology empowers us with real-time data, which in turn results in better programme governance, transparency and accountability. Communities are now able to articulate the complexities of their problems through a scientific lens and create their own natural resource management plans.

A one-stop centre

To carry forward this momentum, we are launching a Centre of Excellence in Meghalaya, a one-stop centre for natural resources management. Its mandate is to build leadership capabilities to enable close cooperation among departments, democratise access to knowledge, and continue with research and development on every aspect of natural resource management. Through our work, we intend to empower thousands of village community facilita-

Pamu Sampath Kumar, IAS, is Commissioner and Secretary to the Chief Minister and Abhishek Srivastava is Senior Manager of Arghyam, a public charitable Bengaluru-based foundation

DATA POINT

Cracks in the glass ceiling

Three of the nine new judges sworn into the Supreme Court (SC) of India on Tuesday are women. The elevation of the three women judges is significant as the share of women has always remained poor in the judiciary. The first-ever woman judge in the SC was appointed in 1989, 39 years after the apex court came into existence. Since then, only 10 women, including those sworn in on Tuesday, have become SC judges in the apex court. Representation at the High Courts (HC) has been no better, with only 11% of the judges being women. The lower judiciary fares slightly better.

By Sumant Sen, Jasmin Nihalani and Vignesh Radhakrishnan



1969 1971

1974

1978 1979

1997 1998 1999

2000 2001 2002

TIT

Ш

.....

2016

2018

2019 2021

. <mark>.</mark>

woman Chief Justice of India in 2027, was elevated as a judge in 2008

in SC

Representation

The chart shows

women judges

Chief Justices

to their year of

the SC according

appointment as of

August 31. Only 11

of the 256 judges

served/ are serving at

the apex court were/

out of the 33 judges

serving are women

Justice M. Fathima Beevi

Justice Sujata V. Manohar

Justice Gyan Sudha Misra

Justice R. Banumathi

Justice Indu Malhotra

Justice Indira Banerjee

Latest 3 appointments

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, VIDHI CENTRE FOR

LEGAL POLICY

Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai

Justice Ruma Pal

(4.2%) who have

are women. Four

(12%) currently

the serving women judges ____, retired

serving men judges/

Chief Justices and

retired men judges/



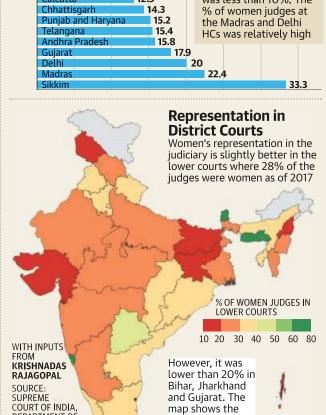
former Chief Justice High Court, was elevated to the Delhi liah Court Bench in

Manipur



became the first from the Gujarat HC She was elevated to the Gujarat HC Bench in 2011 Representation

Meghalaya in High Courts Patna Tripura The share of women Uttarakhand judges in HCs is no 4.3 Rajasthan better. The chart depicts the share of women among all HC judges as of August 1, 7.7 2021. Overall, women judges account for only I1% of HC judges. In five HCs, no woman 10.6 10.8 served as a judge, while in six others, their share was less than 10%. The % of women judges at 15.2 the Madras and Delhi 15.4 HCs was relatively high 33.3 Representation in **District Courts** Women's representation in the judiciary is slightly better in the



State-wise % of

women judges in

the lower courts

Mrs. Gandhi calls for halt to bandhs

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1, 1971

The Man Trindu.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi today deprecated bandhs and stressed the need for eradicating violence and maintaining communal harmony at a series of meetings with leaders of youth organisations, political parties and the INTUC here [Calcutta, Aug. 31]. She told a six-member deputation of the State INTUC led by its President Mr. Kali Mukherji that the bandhs tended to paralyse national economy and cripple the State administration. At this juncture it had also the effect of hampering relief to the millions of Bangla Desh refugees and floodstricken people. She gave the assurance that the Union Labour Minister, Mr. R.K. Khadilkar was looking into the grievances of labour and they would be remedied early. Mrs. Gandhi arrived here from Cooch-Behar by an I.A.F. plane after visiting two refugee camps there and making an aerial survey of the flood-stricken areas of North Bengal. She told a large gathering of refugees at Betaguri camp that India fully supported the freedom struggle in Bangla Desh.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1, 1921

Misuse of power

Since writing our leading article we have received a report of Lord Willingdon's action indicting the Madras Legislative Council from discussing the matter which is causing great anxiety in many homes in the city. At the commencement of the proceedings leave was given by the Council to discuss the motion brought forward by Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar. At a later stage Lord Willingdon has intervened to disallow the discussion and to gag the Council preventing it from voicing the opinion of the people in a matter of burning public importance. The public are bound to feel the deepest resentment at so obvious an abuse of power as Lord Willingdon has committed in this matter. He addressed the Council in the beginning of the day's proceedings with a speech of a most proactive character laying the deed for the misdeeds of his administration upon the wrong shoulders. Public opinion holds his administration responsible for the miserable condition of Malabar, and of the Madras City at the present time, and he has by exercising a power which was intended to be used most sparingly and for righteous purposes, shut out the only avenue that exists under the socalled Reformed constitution for ventilating a popular grievance of great magnitude and pressing importance.

FROM PAGE ONE

'UNSC resolution addresses key concerns'

"Perhaps, if we had had more time, the results of the vote would have been different," said Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia during the explanation of vote, adding that Russia "sees attempts to shift responsibility for the failure of the 20year-long presence of the United States and its allies in Afghanistan to the Taliban movement and to the states of the region that will have to deal with the effects of this prolonged campaign". Russia has also cautioned against "freezing Afghan financial assets", a clause that was not included in the

Not balanced: China

China's U.N. Ambassador Gueng Shang also complained that the resolution was not "balanced" and had been "forcefully pushed" through. Even so, neither country vetoed the resolu-

According to sources, another resolution in September, as the situation in Afghanistan becomes clearer and after the Irish Ambassador takes over, the presidency is expected to be debated as well.

India is expected to chair the 1988 Sanctions committee that looks at Taliban sanctions next and participate in the decision to extend the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), where it will also have to balance competing demands from the U.S., the U.K. and France bloc ranged against Russia and China.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's travel plans in September will be watched closely, as he has been invited to attend the SCO summit in Dushanbe,

of countries including Russia, China, Pakistan and Central Asian states on September 16-17, as well as the Quad summit in Washington, including the U.S., Australia and Japan, expected to be held on September 26-

Evacuation ongoing

Sources said that a high-level group, consisting of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and senior officials, set up by Mr. Modi is now focused on developments in Afghanistan, ensuring the evacuation of stranded Indians and also airlifting Afghan nationals, especially those belonging "religious groups" from Kabul.

"The group has also been monitoring the ground situation in Afghanistan and international reactions," said a source familiar with the government's response to the evolving crisis in Afghanistan.

Calling out terror

Representing India at the UNSC, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, highlighted the role of the LeT and the IeM.

He said that these outfits should be "called out and condemned", but didn't specifically refer to the Haqqani Network, which has been responsible for attacks on the Indian Embassy and consulates in Afghanistan in

"The adoption of the resolution is a strong signal from the Security Council and the international community on its expectations in respect of Afghanistan," Mr. Shringla told reporters after the resolution was

and other services such as

education, health and re-

"This is a clear indication

that the government has

been far too cautious in in-

creasing its expenditures to

contain the fiscal deficit,"

noted M. Govinda Rao, chief

economic advisor at Brick-

struction were the key driv-

ers of the pickup in GVA

growth in Q1, whereas on

the expenditure side, priv-

ate consumption and invest-

ment powered the turna-

performance," Ms. Nayar

Krishnamurthy Subrama-

nian said growth for the full

year is likely to remain

around the 'ballpark' of 11%

as projected by the Econom-

ic Survey. India is poised for

stronger growth, driven by

structural reforms, the go-

vernment's push for capital

expenditure to enable priv-

ate investment and a rapid

COVID-19 vaccination drive,

However, economists were

worried about a decline in

public capital and revenue

spending in July indicated

by data released by sepa-

rately by the Controller Gen-

State-wise restrictions, reve-

nue and capital spending

contracted by 23% and 28%,

respectively, in July 2021,"

The Reserve Bank of In-

dia and the International

Monetary Fund had revised

their growth projections for

the year to 9.5%. CARE Rat-

ings revised its GDP growth

estimate for the year to 9.1%

from 9.2%, following Tues-

day's data, as it expects

growth rates in the next

three quarters to be pro-

gressively lower with the

"Despite the lifting of

Spending lagging

eral of Accounts.

Ms. Nayar said.

Chief Economic Advisor

the

"Manufacturing and con-

work Ratings

pre-pandemic level.

+ Economy grows 20.1% in Q1, lags pre-COVID level

"The share of consumption blic administration, defence in GDP was lower this time which indicates that the second wave and lockdowns creation grew 5.8% but reimpacted households more mained 5% lower than the than the first wave," CARE Ratings chief economist Madan Sabnavis noted.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Navar said the low base of last year's stringent nationwide lockdown had ended up concealing the impact of the second wave of CO-VID-19 on the economy and the sharp year-on-year expansion in Q1 is analytically misleading, as it marks a sequential slowdown of 16.9% over the last quarter of 2020-21.

Masking the impact

"The growth rates in 2021-22 in some cases are unduly high due to the low base," the NSO pointed out as a caveat for interpreting the GDP estimates that show all major industries rebounding from sharp contractions in the first quarter of last

Construction and Manufacturing GVA recorded a 68.3% and 49.6% uptick between April and June this year, compared to a 49.5% and 36% contraction, respectively, last year.

GVA from Trade, Hotels. Transport, Communication & Services related to Broadcasting recorded a 34.3% jump after dipping 48.1% in the same quarter last year. However, this employmentand contact-intensive services sector was still 30.2% below 2019-20 levels, suggesting a contraction of ₹2.1 lakh crore, said EY India chief policy advisor D.K. Srivastava.

"The main disappointment comes from the contribution of the government sector, both from the demand and output sides," he said, pointing to government final consumption expenditure (GFCE) contracting by 4.8% in Q1 this year – the only demand segment to show a fall.

On the output front, pu-

Two years since NRC draft, lakhs still in limbo

Aadhaar enrolment of 27.43 lakh people has been on hold with no signs of update exercise being taken forward soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

More than 19 lakh of the 3.3 crore applicants were left out of the complete draft of Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) published on August 31, 2019. But the stalling of the updating exercise has cast a cloud of uncertainty over 8.37 lakh more people across the State. This is because the biometric details of 27,43,396 people collected before the publication of the draft continue to be

Increasing trauma

"The NRC process should have been taken to its logical conclusion or continued within the schedule. But the suspension of the exercise has denied documents such as Aadhaar card to many while thousands are being deprived of ration cards and other government benefits," senior advocate Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Choudhury said.

The trauma for the excluded people is increasing with the time taken for the exercise to resume, he said.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) had collected the biometric details of 27.43 lakh people who had been delisted from the initial complete draft published on December 31, 2018. Some 8.37 lakh of them made it to the NRC compete draft published eight months

The collection of biometrics followed a Supreme Court-approved standard operating procedure (SOP) in November 2018. Fingerprints, retina scan and other details were collected during the hearing of claims for the excluded people to be included in the NRC and objections to the inclusion of people who may have figured in the citizens' list erroneously or through alleged manipula-These hearings were con-

ducted from January 1 to a few weeks before the publi-There are several factors

Fear of exclusion: Residents checking the names of family members in National Register of Citizenship online. •PTI

why the biometrics are fro-

The Registrar General of India (RGI) has not yet issued a notification on the NRC, which questions the legality of the list.

The Supreme Court, which supervised the exercise from 2013, has not heard nuary 2020. And the BJP government in the State wants the NRC reverified for a "corrected" list.

In February 2020, NRC State Coordinator Hitesh Dev Goswami wrote to the Assam government advising the unlocking of the biometric details of the 8.37 lakh people who made it back to the list.

The State's Home and Political Department said the Centre had accordingly been sounded.

Officials at the UIDAI's regional office in Guwahati said the Aadhaar numbers of people with the "NRC cloud" could not be issued until a clarification from the RGI reached the authority via the department.

Rejection slips

Without the RGI's notification, the NRC authority cannot issue rejection slips to the 19.06 lakh people excluded from the register. Such a slip outlines the reasons for a person left out of the list.

According to the SOP, each excluded person was to have been issued a rejection slip for appealing to a Foreigners' Tribunal within 120 days of receiving the slip. The tribunals would then hear their cases for inclusion in the register or exclusion for good.

Apart from those who were delisted for faulty or lack of proper documents, the excluded include the DF, DV and PFT – acronyms for "declared "doubtful voter" and "pending in Foreigners' Tribunal".

A majority of those excluded are Bengali-speaking Muslims and Hindus suspected to have come illegally from Bangladesh. About a lakh are 'DV' Gurkhas, who are expected to make it to the NRC automatically after the Assam government had through a recent notification exempted the community from cases in Foreigners' Tribunals.

Pending cases were also ordered to be withdrawn and the DV tag on community members in the electoral rolls was asked to be removed.

"If the notification is implemented timely in letter and spirit, Gurkhas excluded from the NRC due to DV and PFT tag will be included in the final register," Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangh leader Nanda Kirati Dewan said.

12 pilgrims from M.P. die in accident in Rajasthan

Their vehicle collides with truck in Nagaur district

MOHAMMED IQBAL

Twelve persons, eight of them women, were killed and six injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling in collided with a trailer truck in Nagaur district of Rajasthan on Tuesday. Eight were killed on the spot, and the others died in a hospital in Nokha town.

The injured have been admitted to a government hospital in Bikaner.

The victims, belonging to Uiiain district in Madhya Pradesh, were returning home after visiting the Karni Mata temple in Deshnok near Bikaner.

The accident took place in the Shribalaji area on the Bikaner-Jodhpur highway.

The victims had come to

Amarinder,

Rahul differ

NEW DELHI

over memorial



Rajasthan, on Tuesday. •PTI

Rajasthan to pay obeisance at the religious site of Ramdevra in Jaisalmer district, famous for the shrine of saint Baba Ramdey Pir.

The vehicle, which was overloaded with passengers,

first proposed in its manifes-

to for the 2019 Lok Sabha

The Nyay-Nyuntam Ayay

Yojana guaranteed a cash

transfer of ₹72,000 a year to

five crore families who con-

stitute the poorest 20% of In-

dia. The Congress manifesto

had said the scheme had

been crafted to help the

poor without in "anyway af-

fecting the goal of fiscal pru-

However, the party has

Nyay in the original form as

election.

dence".

was badly mangled in the accident and the victims were extricated with difficulty.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot expressed grief over the accident and prayed for the recovery of the injured.

NC will emerge largest party, says Farooq

'Party will make a sweep in fair polls'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah said here on Tuesday that his party "will sweep the upcoming election in J&K and emerge as the largest party". "If there are fair elections in J&K, our party will sweep and win it. I am saying it with authority. The NC will emerge as the biggest party," he said.

Dr. Abdullah made the remarks on the sidelines of a function chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Mr. Birla is in the Valley as a part of the parliamentary outreach programme for the empowerment of panchayati raj institutions.

Referring to his party's boycott of the panchayat polls in 2018, Dr. Abdullah said, "I regret it. The NC should have participated in

elected government since 2018, when the BJP pulled out of the alliance with the Peoples Democratic Party. The Election Commission, which awaits the J&K delimitation commission report, is yet to announce any dates for polls in the Union Territory. Dr. Åbdullah, Srinagar

the polls." J&K is without an

MP, highlighted the security issues of the sarpanchs and panchs. "We still face militancy

and one of the most important things that we need to look after is the security of panchayat members," he said.

On the occasion, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his August 15 speech, made it clear that elections would follow the delimitation.



Trinamool Congress

Biswajit Das (left in photo),

BJP MLA from Bagda in the North 24 Parganas district, joined the Trinamool Congress on Tuesday. Mr. Das is the third MLA to defect to the ruling party. Only a day ago, Bishnupur MLA Tanmoy Ghosh switched sides and returned to the TMC. Mr. Das told journalists at the Trinamool headquarters that regular infighting and differences of opinion in the State BJP had prompted him to return to the Trinamool.

Odisha to ready contingency crop plan BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday directed the Agriculture and Farmer **Empower Department to** implement contingency crop plan with possible drought looming over 68% blocks of drought condition here, Mr. Patnaik said, "As of now 213 of 314 blocks have recorded scanty rainfall. The department must monitor the situation on daily basis."

MNS chief threatens accused hawker

A day after a north Indian hawker attacked an officer in the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) cutting her two fingers, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Rai Thackeray on Tuesday warned that the hawker will be beaten up by his party workers once he is released from police custody. "This can never be tolerated and we will not let this pass. They [hawkers] must know that they will not escape," he said.

CBI files 10 more Bengal post-poll violence cases

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered 10 more cases in connection with the post-poll violence in West Bengal, taking the total to 31. Similar cases were earlier registered at various police stations in the State. In one of the new cases, a body was found in the fields in the iurisdiction of Nalhati police station in Birbhum on May 14. Another murder was reported in South 24 Parganas Ramnagar on May 29.

Four held for grenade attack in Baramulla

Four militants were arrested for alleged involvement in a grenade attack on the house of a sarpanch at Baramulla in Kashmir on August 22, the police said on Tuesday. The police said the investigation found that Mohammad Saleem Khan and Saiad Ahmed Mir were involved in the attack. They were working as overground workers of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, a spokesman said.

Nyay to be Cong. pivot in Uttarakhand

Minimum income scheme to have State-specific features, say party leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and Punjab Chief Minister Capt (Retd) Amarinder Singh on Tuesday took contradictory positions over the renovated Jalianwala Bagh memorial that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week.

While Mr Gandhi called the inauguration event "an insult to martyrs", the Punjab Chief Minister said the renovated memorial "looked very nice".

Captain Amarinder's remarks come in the middle of a turf war with Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, who was appointed by the Gandhis despite his stiff opposition.

"Such an insult to the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh can only be done by those who do not know the meaning of martyrdom. I am the son of a martyr – I will not tolerate the insult of martyrs at any cost. We are against this indecent cruelty," Mr. Gandhi tweeted in Hindi.

Several Opposition leaders criticised the memorial makeover including the laser show during the inaugural event, and called it "scandalous". "Insulting our martyrs. Only those who stayed away from the epic freedom struggle can scandalise thus," CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury tweeted.

CPI's D. Raja said, "It's an irony that the RSS and its offshoots that never participated in the freedom movement are now rewriting history."

promised in its 2019 manifesto in any of the Congress-

The Congress campaign in ruled States. Sources said in Uttarakthe upcoming Uttarakhand Assembly election will hand, too, the scheme will centre on "Nyay", the minibe adjusted according to the mum income guarantee profiscal health of the State. "We are still working out gramme that the party had

the details but the form and contours of the State-specific NYAY scheme will not be the same as the 2019 one. It could have different components like an unemployment allowance or a minimum income for women," a senior Congress leader in the State

The Congress's social media campaign in the State will be based on two slogans "Nyay Sangh Samruddh Uttarakhand" and "Shuru been unable to implement Hoga Vikas Ka Naya Adhyay, Har Uttarakhandi Ko

Milega Nyay".

On September 3, the party's State unit has planned a massive Parivartan Yatra. The party has also started its social media outreach.

"We have managed to rope in 1,000 volunteers who shall amplify the Conmessage through WhatsApp groups in each district," the party's social media in-charge, Rohan Gupta, said. The work on the social media campaign started about a month back and a control room has been set up in Dehradun. In the next few months, the party aims to have such control rooms in every zone in the State.

While Nyay will be the central theme, Mr. Gupta said that the rest of the manifesto will be framed by the

voters themselves. "Our volunteers will reach out to people and get direct feedback on the shortcomings of the BJP government and their expectations from us. Our manifesto will be based on this exercise," he said.

On July 3, Pushkar Singh Dhami was sworn in as the fourth chief minister in this term of the BJP government. The Congress is banking on the disarray in the BJP along with the strong resentment against the State government for its inept handling of the COVID pandemic. The tourism industry, which is the mainstay for the people of the stay has collapsed because of the pandemic induced travel restrictions leading to high unemploy-

'Discipline' lawmakers, says Venkaiah

He urges voters to identify the 'disruptors' and name and shame them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday exhorted voters to discipline the 5,000 elected representatives in Parliament, Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils by naming and shaming "disruptors".

Disrupted and dysfunctional legislatures can disrupt the lives of the people and the dreams of the nation, Mr. Naidu said while delivering the first Pranab Mukherjee Memorial Lecture, organised by the Pranab Mukherjee Legacy Foundation on the occasion of the first death anniversary of the Disrupted and dysfunctional legislatures can disrupt the lives of the people and the dreams of the nation

former President. Calling the campaign 'Mis-

sion 5000', Mr. Naidu also prescribed the possible action that the public can take. "Various elements of this

campaign could be to identify the disruptors and raise the same when such lawmakers visit respective constituencies and areas; to

launch Mission 5000 social media handles constituency or State-wise and post the names of disruptors with comments," he said in his

lecture delivered online. Vice-President's speech has to be seen in context of the recent monsoon session which was washed out because of impasse bet-

the session, Opposition protests turned violent in Rajya Sabha as contentious bills like the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Bill were Amendment passed ignoring demands for scrutiny by a Parliamentary Committee. Mr. Naidu is considering taking serious disciplinary action against many opposition members.

ween the government and

the Opposition on holding a

debate on Pegasus cyberat-

tack. On the last two days of

The "common Indian", he said, has been the hero of India's democratic project, who sometimes even forgoes daily wages to vote.

base effect wearing off.

India envoy in Doha meets Taliban leader Concerns over Afghanistan's

Discussions focused on safety, security and return of Indian nationals in Afghanistan, says govt.

NEW DELHI

In signs that the Government of India has softened its stance on the Taliban, the Ministry of External Affairs announced that its Ambassador to Qatar Deepak Mittal met with the head of the Taliban's political office, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, on Tuesday.

While Indian security officials and diplomats are understood to have engaged with Taliban representatives for several months, this is the first time that the government has publicly acknowledged such a meeting, which, the Ministry said, came at the request of the Taliban. Officials told The *Hindu* that the request came as Taliban leaders have been keen to receive some "acceptability", and that India remained "cautious" about its

approach to the group.

"Discussions focused on safety, security and early return of Indian nationals stranded in Afghanistan. The travel of Afghan nationals, especially minorities, who wish to visit to India also came up," a statement issued by the Ministry said, adding that Mr. Mittal said India's concern was that "Afghanistan's soil should not be used for anti-Indian activities and terrorism in any manner".

About 140 Indians and members of the Sikh minority still remain in Kabul, and need to be brought back. India has thus far transported 565 persons, including 112 Afghan nationals, to Delhi.

According to the Ministry's statement, the Taliban leader assured the Indian Ambassador that all the issues would be "positively addressed". Mr. Stanekzai, who



Uncertain times: Taliban fighters patrolling the streets on a vehicle in Kabul on Tuesday. • AFP

trained and graduated out of the Indian Military Academy at Dehradun, made a statement on Saturday calling for India to continue its political and trade ties with Afghanis-

The meeting and the statements came after signals from New Delhi that it was recalibrating its earlier position on the Taliban as a terroghanistan, and, according to sources, Indian officials have met with Taliban representatives in Doha. After the Taliban takeover of Kabul, when India decided to pull out all Embassy staff, they were stopped from leaving for the airport by gunmen guarding the city, and the government had to open its channels to the Taliban to secure their According to sources, the

rious stakeholders" in Af-

Embassy in Kabul worked its communications to the Taliban through other countries, and eventually received permission after some money changed hands. As a result, it remains to

be seen whether the Modi government will agree to reestablish its diplomatic presence in the country and to recognise a Taliban government, once it is formed.

membership in SAARC arise

Nature of new govt. in Kabul key to continued engagement

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE NEW DELHI

With uncertainty hanging over the international representation of Afghanistan under the Taliban, a question has risen over its membership in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which is scheduled to meet next in Islamabad. Veteran diplomats here observed that the fate of Afghanistan's membership, and even the future of SAARC to some extent, depends on the Taliban creating an inclusive government.

The responsibility of inviting the member countries lies with the host, which in this case is Pakistan. After Tuesday's meeting in Doha between Indian Ambassador Deepak Mittal and Taliban's Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, it appears that the South Block is not averse to revising its policy. Ultimately, it depends on what kind of an inclusive government the Taliban can create in Kabul," said former Indian Ambassador K.P. Fabian.

Despite the Indo-Pakistan political problems that created a hurdle in the smooth functioning of the SAARC in recent years, the organisation's members have maintained coordination in dealing with the pandemic. Pakistan, though not a beneficiary of India's vaccine diplomacy, has participated in discussions on the pan-

The question on representation of Afghanistan at the SAARC has come up es-

demic at virtual events.

pecially since a similar issue is yet to be addressed by the United Nations. Given the Taliban's past of human rights violations and violent methods, there are concerns about granting it a seat at the world platform. India's main challenge may arise if Pakistan insists on an unreformed Taliban representing Kabul at the SAARC summit. A major disagreement on this line may even splinter the SAARC, said an expert.

Afghanistan was admitted into the SAARC as the eighth member in 2007 when the country was led by President Hamid Karzai.

Over the years, it has found representation in many SAARC projects covering education and sustainable

In a first, nine SC judges take oath in one stroke

This reduces the vacancies in the top court to just one

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Tuesday read out the oath of allegiance to the Constitution to nine new judges of the Supreme Court, reducing the vacancies in the court to just The occasion was historic

on several fronts. It was the first time as many as nine judges were sworn in to the Supreme Court in a single stroke. Three of them are women judges. One of them, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, is slated to be CJI in 2027. With the new appointments, the number of women judges in the Supreme Court has gone up to four from the existing one, Justice Indira Banerjee. This is the highest number of women judges ever in the Supreme Court.

It was also the first time the court allowed a live telecast of the ceremony.

Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka took oath as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court on May 10, 2019. As Chief Justice, he led the Bench that passed a slew of directions to monitor CO-VID-19 management in the State.

Justice Vikram Nath took oath as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court on

One for the books: CJI N.V. Ramana administering the oath to Justice Hima Kohli in New Delhi on Tuesday. • PTI

September 10, 2019. He has championed personal liberty in preventive detention cases. He has highlighted need for transparency in CO-VID-19 data. He is in line to

Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari was the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court and the Sikkim High Court before his appointment to the Supreme Court.

Justice Hima Kohli was the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court. She played a vital role in ensuring that people were not denied medical treatment during the pandemic.

Justice Nagarathna was a judge at the Karnataka High Court before her appointment as a Supreme Court judge. She is a vocal champion of women's rights.

Justice C.T. Ravikumar was a judge in the Kerala High Court before his elevation as Supreme Court judge. He famously said "law is long but life is short" in the context of the need for speedy justice while splitting the trial in the SNC Lavalin

Justice M.M. Sundresh was a judge of the Madras High Court before his elevation to the Supreme Court.

Justice Bela M. Trivedi is the first woman judge from the Gujarat High Court to be elevated to the Supreme Court.

Justice P.S. Narasimha was a senior advocate before his appointment as judge of the Supreme Court. He is the ninth lawyer to be directly appointed from the Supreme Court Bar. He was the Additional Solicitor-General.

G-23 debates possibility of Kishor joining Cong.

There are certainly grave apprehensions about outsourcing the party, says a member of the group

VARGHESE K. GEORGE SANDEEP PHUKAN

rist group. In particular, In-

dia has had concerns about

the Haqqani Group, which is

a part of the Taliban, and Ta-

liban deputy leader Sirajud-

din Haqqani, who were res-

ponsible for the attacks on

the Indian Embassy in 2008-

In the past few months,

however, the Ministry had

said it was in touch with "va-

Janmashtami celebrations at Congress leader Kapil Sibal's residence on Monday provided the perfect setting for the G-23, or the group of 23 dissenting leaders, to deliberate the state of affairs in the party, including the possibility of election strategist Prashant Kishor joining it.

Some of them are said to be strongly opposed to the idea of Mr. Kishor's lateral entry, but the group is likely to adopt a "wait and watch" policy. The "informal get-together" comes a year after the G-23 had written to party chief Sonia Gandhi about revamping the organisation.

Among those who assembled at Mr. Sibal's house were Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor, Mukul Wasnik, Vivek Tankha and Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

A few senior leaders, who are said to be backing Mr. Kishor's induction, are learnt to have joined the discussions virtually. "There are certainly grave

apprehensions about outsourcing the party. It does not reflect well on the leadership since the Congress has a lot of talented people. But it won't become a flash-



Prashant Kishor

point as we are adopting a wait and watch policy for now," a member of the G-23 told The Hindu. "Eventually, it is the Congress Working Committee [CWC] and not the G-23 that will take a call," he said.

Senior leaders A.K. Antony and Ambika Soni had been asked to take the feedback of the CWC members. Accordingly, discussions were held among CWC members in separate groups.

vided over making Mr. Kishor a general secretary and a CWC member straight away.

vear-old institution and not a start-up where someone comes in with fancy ideas and takes over. Without leaders like West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin or Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, his strategy won't be much. We have seen his effectiveness in the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election when he worked for the Congress-SP alliance," a leader said. The G-23 leaders are said

Opinion, however, is dito have discussed the party's "The Congress is a 135-

handling of the Puniab and Chhattisgarh crises and the debacle in the Assembly elections in Kerala, Assam and West Bengal. "The report of the committee that went into the reasons for the debacle in these States has neither been discussed at the CWC nor among the leaders. Like the A.K. Antony report [that examined the 2014 Lok Sabha poll results], this report, too, may be buried," said a third leader.

Congress in Assam snaps ties with AIUDF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI The Congress in Assam has

ejected the minority-based All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) from the 'Mahajot' or Opposition grand sembly election to prevent from the 'Mahajot'.

the BJP from returning to

The Bodoland People's Front (BPF), the third major entity in the alliance that had 10 political parties, also indicated gravitating back to alliance that was formed the BJP, although it has not ahead of the 2021 State As- announced its departure

'No action to extradite drug smugglers' SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Puniab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday questioned his party's government in the State on the "inaction" against those

involved in drug trafficking. Mr. Sidhu, in a statement, said mothers who had lost their children due to the drug menace in the State by ment's "inaction", Mr. Sidhu Singh of running away from

for the report of the Special Task Force (STF) surrounding the drugs trade. In February 2018, the STF filed a status report in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Later, the government filed before the court an opinion-

ter was still in the court. Questioning the governthe drug mafia were waiting said despite the court's di-

cum-status report. The mat-

rections, nothing had been done to extradite the 13 drug smugglers, who peddled drugs into Punjab and smuggled drugs to some countries, back to India.

Meanwhile, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), at its legislative party meeting held here, accused Mr. Sidhu and Chief Minister Amarinder

Department of Mines & Geology

#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-01. E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

No.: DMG-17012/5/2021/2021-22

C. No. 558708 Date: 31.08.2021

NOTIFICATION AND NOTICE INVITING TENDER "Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for iron ore mines"

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and amendments notified thereunder, and also the Supreme Court Judgments, and orders in Samaia Parivarthana Samudaya and Ors v/s. State of Karnataka and Others W.P. (C) 562 of 2009, the Government of Karnataka has identified five (05) Category 'C' iron ore mines for electronic auction for grant of Mining Lease.

Name of the mine Mineral Concession resources (in Ha.) (in MMT) M/s. Srinivasalu ML No. 2631 Iron ore 75.14 9.88 Ramgad Mines & Minerals Pvt. Ltd. ML No. 2451 Iron ore 24.04 2.137 M/s Thangavelu & Others. ML No. 2585 Iron ore 60.92 3.303 B.R Yogendranath Singh. ML No. 2186 2.84 15.89 Iron ore Sri. Allum Veerabhadrappa. ML No. 2436 Iron ore & 24.53 Fe - 3.645Mn - 0.93Manganese

Only the end-users engaged in production of sponge iron and/or pig iron and/or steel and/or pellets will be eligible to take part in the auction. Consortium of end users are not eligible to participate in the auction. The end user will also include Public Sector Undertakings.

Technical and financial bids for the above listed mines are invited online. Apart from the online Technical Bids, bidders will have to submit duly executed original physical copies of their Technical Bids to the Tender Inviting Authority i.e., Director, Department of Mines and Geology,

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp).

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves at the above website. On successful registration, bidders will obtain login ID and password, which are necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and summary of the mine shall be available free of cost at the website of MSTC Limited (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ mlcl/index.jsp). For participating in the bidding process, the registered bidders will have to purchase the mine specific tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd by paying Rs 2,00,000/- (Rs. Two Lakhs Only) + GST.

The sale of tender document shall commence from 31.08.2021. Last date for sale of tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd is 07.10.2021. Last date for submission of Technical Bids plus the Initial Price Offers at the website of MSTC Ltd is 17:00 hours IST on 16.10.2021. Physical copies of the Technical Bids must reach the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka on or prior to 17:00 hours IST

Sd/- DIRECTOR

CAD-1048

STATE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Department, Govt. of West Bengal) ILGUS Bhavan, HC-Block, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700106

Notice for Pre-Tender Conference SUDA invites prospective bidders to participate in a pre-tende

conference scheduled on 15th September 2021 from 2:00 P.M through a Video Conference to explore on a model RFP for engagement of agencies to transport segregated municipal solid waste across 100 odd To assist in planning for this session. SUDA requests interested

bidders to submit the following RSVP form to confirm their attendance Completed RSVP Forms and queries if any should be submitted via email to the Director, State Urban Development Agency at sbm.wbsuda@gmail.com on or before 12 noon on 10th September 2021. The link for the VC shall be shared on receipt of a request for

I	Interested	Bonafide bidd	ers are reques	ted to visit http	s://wbsuda.org/ Director, SUDA
I	Firm Name	Attendee Name	Title/Position	Mobile No.	Email Address
I	participation	on from the int	erested bidders	3.	

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMC) In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III,

Bhubaneswar-751 007 Tel.:(0674) 2380608; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in Notification No. 8246 / EQP-OSMCL/2021 Date: 31.08.2021

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF ACT MACHINE FOR CTVS DEPARTMENT OF SCBMCH-CUTTACK AND CARDIAC CARE HOSPITAL JHARSUGUD, Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for "Supply, installation & commissioning of ACT Machine

as per the particulars mentioned below Bid **Bid Document** Reference No. Item Name Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.) "Supply, installation & commissioning of ACT machine for CTVS Department of OSMCL/2021-22 5.600/-EQP-ACT / 07

	EQF-ACT / U/			are			
SI. No.		culars	Date and time				
1.	Date & time of re	elease of bid	31.08.202	21, 5 PM			
2.	2. Date & time of Pre-bid meeting		neeting O4.09.2021, 3 PM Venue: Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar				
3.	Date & time submission	of Online bid	Start Date & Time 05.09.2021, 11 AM	End Date & Time 20.09.2021, 5 PM			
4.	Date & time of or Opening	nline Technical Bid					
5.	Date of opening	of Price Bid	To be informed to the tec	hnically qualified bidders			

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in . OSMCL reserves the right to reject or modify any conditions of the tender or cancel the tender or cancel the issued purchase order at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

> sd/- Managing Director, OSMCL OIPR-10112/11/0049/2122

Government of Kerala TENDER FOREST & WILD LIFE DEPARTMENT

Window No: iprd 21/e 152•E-auction No.B1-8788/20 •Divisional Forest Officer, South Wayanad Division, Pinangode road. Kalpatta, Wayanad-673121, Phone -04936203428•E-auction/Re e- auction sale of timbers collected from chedleth range of South Wayanad Division on 08/09,22/09& 29/09/21,07/10,20/10&28/10/21,11/11,19/11,25/11,03/11/21,03/12,16/12,27/ 12,10/12/2021•EMD: 50000/- •PAC: 1.4 Crore
Window No: iprd 21/e 153•E-auction No.KNC1-3800/21 •Divisional For-

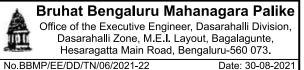
Window No: 1prd 21/e 1358E-auction No.KNC1-3809/21 *DIVISIONAL FORTH OF THE NO. TO STATE TH

सेन्टर फॉर मेटिरियल्स फॉर इलेक्टॉनिक्स टेक्नोलाजी (सी-मेट)
CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR
ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (C-MET)
(Scientific Society, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India)
IDA Phase III, Cherlapally, HCL (PO), HYDERABAD 500 051
Phone: +91-40-27265587, 27267006 Fax: +91-40-27261658 Web: www.cmet.gov.in REQUEST FOR QUOTE (RFQ)

A Request For Quote (RFQ) from Indian OEM or its authorized Indian Distributor i invited under Two Bid System (Part I – TECHNICAL BID & Part II – COMMERCIAL BID) at C-MET, Hyderabad for the supply, installation, commissioning and training of the following item/equipment:

SI.No.	Name of the Position	RFQ No.
1	Laser Raman Spectrometer	C-MET/HD/SP-41/ LRS/38/2020-21
2	Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometer (ICP-OES)	C-MET/HD/SP-41/ICP- OES/49/2021-22
3	Mask Aligner	HD/PUR/CC-ADM/MAL/149/2020-21

For other details and RFQ Document, please visit our website



POSTPONEMENT OF TENDER NOTIFICATION **Sub:** Regarding Postponement of Tender Notification Ref: E-Procurement portal tender notification No BBMP/EE/

DD/Ten/06/2021-22 Dated 16-08-2021 With reference to the above mentioned subject the tender Notification invited through E- Procurement portal, the submission of bids has been postponed due to technical reasons and the rescheduled dates are detailed below.

Revised Time Schedule: (1) Pre-Bid meeting at Chief Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, on 08-09-2021 or before 11:00 a.m. (2) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on 13-09-2021 or before 4:00 p.m. (3) Technical Bids will be opened on after 14-09-2021 after 4:30 p.m.(4) Financial Bids will be opened on or after

15-09-2021 at 4:30 p.m. Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BBMP.

M ND-NDE



IMD forecast foiled by 24% rain shortfall PM calls Himanta as floods

It is unlikely that good rainfall in September will wipe out the deficit, say meteorologists

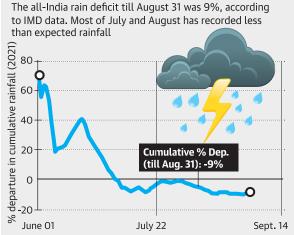
Far from the forecast of a "normal" monsoon in August, India ended the month with a 24% shortfall, according to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

This brings India's overall monsoon rainfall deficit to 9%, just a percentage-point shy of what would be considered "deficient" rainfall.

Meteorologists said that because of the shortfall in August, which normally receives the second highest rainfall in the four monsoon months, it was unlikely that rainfall in September, even if substantial, would be enough to wipe out the deficit, and India could well end up with "below normal" rainfall, which is characterised by rainfall between 90% and 96% of the long period average of 88 cm.

In June, the IMD, as part of





its forecast, said that rainfall in northwest, south, east and central India would be "normal" or within an 8% error window of their historical average. This forecast too has been significantly off the mark, with northwest India and central India registering a 14% shortfall.

The key reason for the August monsoon failure has been an extended break in rainfall from August 8 to 18. "We expected it to last three or four days, but a week or a 10-day break is quite difficult

to recover from," said Ma-

hesh Palawat, meteorologist

at Skymet, a private weather

forecasting company. It too, as the IMD, expected August rain to be "normal".

M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, declined to comment to The Hindu, saying that the organisation would be addressing the forecasting failure at a press conference shortly.

Depressions on decline Given the influence of the

ocean surface temperatures on the monsoon, meteorological forecasts in June were of "neutral conditions" in the central Pacific, implying that these would not have a bearing on the monsoon. The Indian Ocean too was not expected to contribute. Wind-bearing depressions in the Bay of Bengal, coupled with moisture from the Arabian Sea, usually inject surges of rain over central India. But this did not happen and did not salvage the break-like conditions, according to Mr. Palawat. He said that September, though contributing only 17 cm of rainfall unlike 25 cm in August, would see a few more depressions.

Other meteorologists said that large effects of global warming were impacting monsoon rainfall. The number of rain-bearing depressions in the Bay of Bengal was declining and pre-monsoon cyclones, such as Tauktae that veered very close to Mumbai, possibly altered heat distribution patterns over the landmass, influencing moisture distribution and thereby causing erratic rainfall, said Roxy Mathew Koll, climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune.

isn't climate change, but the predicted pattern of long dry spells with bursts of heavy rain is one of the consequences of warming," he told The Hindu

"A single month's failure

hit 5.74 lakh people in Assam

Toll reaches three in two days with death of a child

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called up Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday as floods forced 5.74 lakh people out of their homes in 22 of the State's 34 districts.

"Spoke to Assam CM Shri @himantabiswa and took stock of the flood situation in parts of the State. Assured all possible support from the Centre to help mitigate the situation. I pray for the safety and well-being of those living in the affected areas," the PM tweeted.

According to an update by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), a child died on Tuesday, taking the death toll to three in two days.

Several rivers, including the Brahmaputra, were flow-

Treacherous currents: Villagers crossing the flood waters in Morigaon district of Assam on Monday. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

ing above the danger level.

The ASDMA data said 1,278 villages in 61 revenue circles have been affected. Crops across 39,831 hectares have been affected was in areas.

Of the 5,73,938 affected people, 1,91,821 were women and 1,44,582 children. The authorities set up 105 re-

lief camps where 4,009 of the displaced people were taking shelter. Roads and infrastructure were damaged in several districts.

The rising water of the Brahmaputra inundated more than 70% of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. So far, nine ani-

IN BRIEF



Rajya Sabha gets new Secretary-General

Parasaram Pattabhi Kesava Ramacharyulu, 63, is the new Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha. He had been working as Secretary in the Rajya Sabha since 2018. He replaces Desh Dipak Verma. Mr. Ramacharvulu is the first insider to rise from the ranks of the Secretariat as its head in about 70 years since it came into being in 1952.

Plea against Tejpal's acquittal due on Sept. 20

The Bombay High Court in Goa said on Tuesday that it will hear on September 20 the appeal filed by Goa government challenging journalist Tarun Tejpal's acquittal in a case filed by his former colleague of raping and sexually harassing her. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta had earlier said, "The system expects sensitivity over jurisprudence. We owe it to our girls".

FIR against priest for 'derogatory' comments

GHAZIABAD The police in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh have lodged an FIR against Dasna Devi temple priest Swami Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Hindu women, a senior officer said on Tuesday. A purported video clip of the priest circulating on social media shows him sitting inside the temple premises and making comments on the relationship of Hindu women with the people of another religion, SP (Rural), Ghaziabad, Iraj Raja said. PTI

Bombay HC warns of COVID-19 resurgence

'Learn from last year's experience'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday said if the situation in Mumbai was not controlled or restricted with respect to overcrowding at public places then the city would again face a surge in cases like it did last year.

A full Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta along with Justices A.A. Sayed, K.K. Tated and P.B. Varale said everyone from the government to the citizens need to learn from last year's experience.

Chief Justice Datta said, "In our meeting of the administrative committee of the High Court, lawyers and other experts held on August 30, Rahul Pandit, an expert, who heads the Special Task Force appointed by the Supreme Court, informed us that the third wave of the pandemic is knocking at our doors."

"Dr. Pandit was of the view that at least till April 2022, the nation may not get rid of COVID-19." he added. The Bench took note of

photographs published in various newspapers showing large crowds at Juhu Beach and Marine Drive. Meanwhile, the Bench said, "We are of the opinion

that the interest of justice would be served if the protective interim orders are

School staff to get first jab before Sept. 30

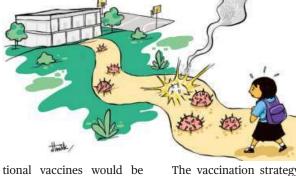
Initial comprehensive assessment of vaccination will be available by Friday, says official

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

States have been given a month's time to ensure all school staff get at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, School Education Secretary Anita Karwal said after a meeting with State Education Departments on Tuesday.

An initial comprehensive assessment of the current levels of vaccination among teachers and non-teaching staff will be available by Friday, according to a senior official. States will then contiupdate the nue to information on a weekly

This comes a week after the Health Ministry announced that two crore addi-



sent to States by August 31 to vaccinate all teachers and non-teaching staff. Most States have reopened school buildings and started in-person classes for high school students or will do so next month. [NOTE: that is, in

The vaccination strategy was discussed at a virtual meeting chaired by Ms. Karwal on the implementation

of the school safety guide-

lines issued by the National

Disaster Management Auth-

ority. She advised all States

and Union Territories to

complete the first dose dur-

ing September, adding that there must be rigorous follow up for the second dose.

Joint road map

"States and UTs will jointly design a road map at the district level for vaccination of all teaching and non-teaching staff," Ms. Karwal said, according to an official statement. .

Most States have launched priority vaccination drives for school staff, with some making it mandatory for teachers to get at least one dose. On Tuesday, Tamil Nadu Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Povvamozhi said 95% of teaching and non teaching staff have been vaccinated. Over 98% of Delhi government school teachers have received at least one

Chhattisgarh's Principal Secretary for school education Alok Shukla told The *Hindu* that though the State had prioritised teachers as frontline workers requiring vaccination, it did not have a sufficient supply of vaccine doses

"We have used all the doses we have been given, and have not received any additional doses for teachers as was promised," said Dr. Shukla, adding that whatever was available needed to be used for the second dose of those who had already got a first dose. "The Centre can only give deadlines, but they are not giving us vaccines,'

40 die of suspected dengue in Firozabad

Classes in schools suspended till September 6 as most of the dead are children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Firozabad District Magistrate Chandra Vijay Singh has ordered closure of all schools for classes 1 to 8 till September 6 following the death of around 40 persons, mostly children, due to suspected dengue in the past few days.

The District Magistrate, in his order issued on Monday night, said it will be applicable to all government and non-government schools as well as coaching institutions.

He warned of strict action against anyone disobeying

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who had visited some dengue pa-



Government Medical College, Firozabad, on Monday. • PTI

We are digital now. Come solve online.

tients in the district on Monday, said 32 children and seven adults have died till now.

He had said that teams would be formed to ascertain the cause of the deaths.

However, Firozabad MLA Manish Asija had told PTI on Sunday that more than 40 children have died due to dengue in the district since

SCAN TO PLAY

The Chief Minister said that the first case was detected on August 18 and family members of patients started their treatment in private hospitals and clinics.

Testing samples

He had also said that samples from some patients should be sent to King George's Medical University in Lucknow and National Institute of Virology in Pune.

The Chief Minister had directed officials to ensure proper sanitation in the district.

He had also visited the 100-bed ward of the government hospital to meet the children affected by dengue.

Punjab terror attack thwarted, claims DGP

'Highly radicalised operative arrested'

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta on Tuesday said a terrorist attack has been thwarted with the arrest of Saroop Singh, a highly radicalised operative, linked to foreign-based terrorist entities. "The accused was apprehended by the Tarn Taran police on suspicion at a checkpoint on the Amritsar-Harike road on Monday. Two live Chinese-made P-86 mark hand grenades were reco-

vered from him," he said. The development came at a time when Punjab has been witnessing a huge in-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT flux of grenades and RDX-laden tiffin boxes and other arms and ammunition, signalling attempts made by terrorist leaders and anti-national elements based abroad to disturb peace and

communal harmony in the

On August 8, the Amritsar rural police recovered five hand grenades of similar mark along with a tiffin box bomb from Daleke village in Lopoke, while the State Special Operation Cell, Amritsar, on August 16, recovered two hand grenades of same make and model (P-86), from Am-

ritpal Singh and Shammi.

Google in July SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

6.7 lakh items

removed by

Google India removed 95,680 pieces of content from its social media platforms last July, following 36,934 complaints received from individual users in India, according to a transparency report released by the technology giant on Tuesday. Additionally, it took removal actions on 576,892 pieces of content as a result of automated detection

July saw the highest number of content removal following user complaints since April last.

processes.

TH CROSSWORD+ 13341

15 King's heart hurt on the inside (6) 17 Tells class in Indian school (7)



19 Silence! Retain mother (4,3)

22 Chant Ram, while returning, and carrying book with note (6) 24 Confused Savoy rep gives too much money (8)

26 Husband gives up belt with a bit of hesitation. Twice! It's a secret! (4-4)

28 Lad chasing vehicle gets container (6)

30 Give Chinese dumpling in the beginning (4)

31 Gasps, "Cookware model shows at first" (5) 32 Love Ottoman governor and follow instructions (4)

DOWN

1 Drink containing egg broth (4)

2 Meet horribly evil state tax officer (4,4)

3 Outlaw group of musicians with sex appeal (6)

4 Hint: Ria danced and disappeared into this? (4,3) 5 Guess I am residing in large property (8)

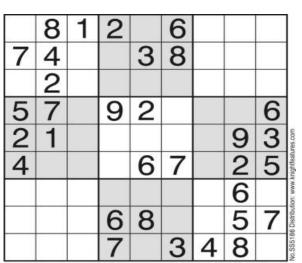
6 Animal having red chest? (6)

16 Uncle's extra-ordinary interest (5)

18 A cup meal spilled? I'm guilty (3,5) 20 Person who may deliver this puzzle to you (8)

25 Old cue's broken. Pardon... (6)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13340 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★公公公公

					•																•		
		S	U	S	U	R	R	Α	Т	ı	0	Ν			4	R	3	5	1	6	7	2	9
Α		Κ		-		Е		┙		S		С		Е	-4	U	U	J		U	-	~	J
Ρ	R	Α	W	z		О	8	ш	ш	L	I	Ν	G	S	1	7	5	8	2	9	3	6	4
Α		Η		Ι		Ι		8		П		Z		С	0	^	0	7	A	0	0	-	4
С	R	Ε	М	Α	Т	0	R	Т	Α		F	Ε	Т	Α	6	2	9	1	4	3	8	5	1
Η				ш		Т		F				R		Р	2	3	a	6	5	1	a	1	7
Е	R	Α	S	Е			О	ш	F	1	Z	_	Τ	Е	~	J	U	U	J	7	J	1	1
		Ν		s						z		Ε			9	5	4	1	7	2	6	3	8
М	Α	С	Κ	Ε	R	Е	L			0	Ν	S	Е	Т	-	4	0	^	0	0	-	4	0
Е		Н				z		Ξ		R				U	/		0	9	3	Ø	5	4	2
Ζ	0	0	Ν		S	O	0	\subset	Z	О	R	П	г	S	5	a	2	1	6	7	1	Q	3
Α		٧		С		L		М		Е		Х		Κ	J	J	~	4	U	1		O	J
С	Н	1	z	Α	8	Α	R	ш		R	Α	ī	S	Е	8	4	1	3	9	5	2	7	6
Е		Ε		R		ī		R		Т		Т		R	~		-	~	0	-	-	6	=
		S	כ	Ρ	Е	R	>	-	s	0	R	S			3	6	1	2	8	1	4	9	5

FAITH

Personal equation with God

For most of us, generally, God is the omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent Supreme Force that the scriptures refer to as Brahman. But it is also accepted that it is impossible to describe the nature of Brahman fully. Yet, from the lives of Sivan Adiyars chronicled in the Periyapuranam, it is possible for the common man to understand that God can be realised as personal experience through the path of bhakti they exemplify, pointed out Sri Sa Saravanan in a discourse. The uniqueness of bhakti is that they are able to forge a kind of one-to-one equation with God. To them He is very much in their midst and, if only one is sensitive, one can experience His boundless grace, kindness and benevolence towards all beings in creation.

For instance, Kannappan Nayanar approaches God with a kind of wild devotion in keeping with his life experience as a hunter. Karaikal Ammaiyar could make the Lord listen to her wishes. Her request is that she should be a witness to His cosmic dance. When Thirunavukkarasar is tortured, he appeals to God to save His name by coming to his rescue. Through Sundarar's hymns one can see God in a new light and understand Him better, for herein God is shown to

come down to the human level. We can be sure of His promise to rid us of all our chronic faults. All of us are born again and again in this world to experience the fruits of our acts good and bad. God is shown as one who pardons the faults. But Sundarar also shows that just because we know God pardons our faults and puts up with our weaknesses, which are an endless list, there is no justification on our part to continue with wrong acts knowingly. He rightly says then that we are overlooking the disrepute that such an act will bring to Him.

11 Attach program with last part (6)

ACROSS 8 Try buying ice-cream, for starters, in desert (4)

10 Attack god with documentary proof of identity (4)

12 U.S. canine can be a pest (8) 13 Indian bread produced by guy at half time (8)

9 Musketeer throwing a shot (5)

7 Muezzin carefully stores metal (4) 14 North American following lady-bird makes colouring agent (5)

21/23 What the innocent nudist had? (7,2,4)

27 State: "A hut is built" (4) 29 Frank's open (4)

After U.S. exit, Taliban celebrate victory

Celebratory gunfire erupts over Kabul; under 200 U.S. citizens remain in the country, says Blinken

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The hardline Islamist Taliban celebrated their total return to power on Tuesday with gunfire and diplomacy, after the last U.S. troops flew out of Afghanistan to end two decades of war.

The U.S.' longest military conflict drew to a close on Monday night when its forces abandoned Kabul airport. where it had overseen a frenzied airlift that saw more than 1,23,000 people flee.

Taliban fighters then swept into the airport and fired weapons into the sky across the city in jubilation an astonishing return after U.S. forces invaded in 2001, weeks after the September 11 attacks, and toppled them for supporting al-Qaeda.

"Congratulations to Afghanistan... this victory belongs to us all," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told reporters hours later on the runway of the airport.

Mujahid said the Taliban's

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

When Ezmarai Ahmadi re-

turned home from work on

Sunday evening in Kabul,

the usual gaggle of squeal-

ing children were waiting to

greet him - his sons and

daughters, and a slew of

His brother, Aimal Ahma-

di, said Mr. Ezmarai pulled

his car into the driveway of a

modest house in Kwaja Bur-

ga, and handed the keys to

his eldest son to park.

Youngsters quickly piled in-

mal, a missile came and hit

the car, obliterating the lives

of 10 people in an instant.

Then, according to Mr. Ai-

to the vehicle.

nieces and nephews.



In control: Taliban supporters marching on the streets of Kandahar; and a militant, right, sitting in the cockpit of an Afghan Air Force aircraft at the airport in Kabul on Tuesday. • AFP

victory was a "lesson for other invaders".

Many Afghans are terrified of a repeat of the Taliban's initial rule from 1996-2001, which was infamous for their treatment of girls and women, as well as a brutal justice system.

The Taliban have repeatedly promised a more tolerant brand of rule compared with their first stint in power, and Mujahid continued that theme. "We want to have good relations with the U.S.

The U.S. said on Sunday it

had destroyed an explosive-

laden vehicle in an air

strike, thwarting a bid by

the Islamic State to detonate

a car bomb at Kabul airport.

said he had lost 10 members

of his family in the strike, in-

cluding his own daughter

and five other children.

"The rocket came and hit

the car full of kids inside our

"It killed all of them."

When an AFP journalist

visited the scene on Mon-

day, Mr. Aimal was impa-

tiently waiting for other re-

latives to arrive to help him

organise burials for most of

house," he said.

On Monday, Mr. Aimal

and the world. We welcome good diplomatic relations with them all," he said.

Mujahid also insisted Taliban security forces would "be gentle and nice".

Aid crisis

The Taliban face a daunting challenge of transforming from an insurgent group to a government, in war-ravaged nation dependent on foreign aid. The United Nations has warned of a humanitarian catastrophe, with food

stocks running low because of disruptions caused by conflict as well as a severe

Some Afghans appealed to the Islamist movement to keep their promise of a softer rule.

Fawzia Koofi, a rights activist who has twice survived assassination attempts, called on the Taliban via Twitter to include all Afghans as they turn to govern-

"Taliban, hear us out: we

must rebuild together!" she wrote. "This land belongs to

Other activists struggled to find hope amid the gloom.

"If I let my thoughts linger on what we have lost, I will lose my mind," Muska Dastageer, who lectured at the American University of Afghanistan, wrote on Twitter.

The withdrawal came just before the August 31 deadline set by President Joe Biden to end the war - one that claimed the lives of more than tens of thousands of Afghans and over 2,400 American service members.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said a small number of U.S. citizens remained in the country - "under 200" but likely closer to just 100, and Britain said the number of U.K. nationals inside was in the "low hundreds."

Many thousands of Afghans who had worked with the U.S.-backed government over the years and fear retribution also want to get out.

China opens first road-rail transport link to Indian Ocean

It connects the logistics lines of Singapore, Myanmar, China

Trade Corridor

Bangladesh

rectly to the port, but the

progress there has been

by unrest

Chinese planners have al-

so looked at the Gwadar port

in Pakistan as another key

outlet to the Indian Ocean

that will bypass the Malacca

Straits. Gwadar is being de-

veloped as part of the China

Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) to the far western

Xinjiang region, but has

been slow to take off amid

concerns over security. The

costs and logistics through

CPEC are also less favoura-

ble than the Myanmar route

with the opening of the rail

transport channel from the

Myanmar border right to

western China's biggest

commercial hub, Chengdu.

stalled

Myanmar.

ANANTH KRISHNAN

The first shipments on a newly-launched railway line from the Myanmar border to the key commercial hub of Chengdu in western China, that provides China a new road-rail transportation channel to the Indian Ocean, were delivered last week, state media reported on Tuesday

A "test cargo" through what is being called the China-Myanmar New Passage arrived at the Chengdu rail port in Sichuan province on August 27, the official China News Service reported.

The transport corridor involves a sea-road-rail link. Goods from Singapore reached Yangon Port, arriving by ship through the Andaman Sea of the northeastern Indian Ocean, and were then transported by road to Lincang on the Chinese side of the Myanmar-China border in Yunnan province. The new railway line that runs from the border town of Lincang to Chengdu, a key trade hub in western China, com-

pletes the corridor. "This passage connects the logistics lines of Singapore, Myanmar and China, and is currently the most convenient land and sea channel linking the Indian Ocean with southwest China," the China News Service said, adding that "the oneway journey saves 20 to 22

Thailand China also has plans to de-Transportation time on the velop another port in Kyaukrailway line from the Myanphyu in the Rakhine state, mar border to Chengdu including a proposed railtakes three days. way line from Yunnan di-

The Irrawaddy website that focuses on Myanmar news said the route is "the first to link western China with the Indian Ocean".

The railway line currently ends in Lincang on the Chinese side opposite the Myanmar border trade town of Chin Shwe Haw. Plans are underway to develop Chin Shwe Haw as a "border economic cooperation zone" under the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Irrawaddy said the route goes through Mandalay, Lashio and Hsenwi on the Myanmar side and "is expected to become the lifeblood of international trade for China and Myanmar, while providing a source of income for Myanmar's mili-

U.S. drone strike wiped In Pashtun heartland, crowd out family, says brother hails creation of 'Islamic Emirate'

Taliban supporters pour on to Kandahar streets to celebrate

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KANDAHAR

Thousands of Taliban supporters on Tuesday poured on to the streets of Kandahar, the spiritual birthplace of the Islamist movement, waving flags and shouting "God is greatest", celebrating the momentous U.S. exit from Afghanistan.

A chorus of car horns filled the main square of Afghanistan's second-biggest city as a joyous crowd hailed the withdrawal of the last American troops after a 20-

Volleys of "Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) rang out across Shaheedan Square, which was awash with men and boys in traditional clothing, many waving the black-and-white

Kandahar is in Pashtun heartland of the Taliban, where the group was founded and from where it rose to power in 1996.

Taliban standard.

In a video clip from Shaheedan Square, posted on social media, a man named Abdullah said: "Today is the independence day of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. We congratulate all the Muslim brothers and the entire Afghan nation.

'We have raised the flag of Prophet Muhammed and we will raise this flag over the entire world."

"We have defeated the superpower! Afghanistan is the graveyard of superpowers!" a few supporters shouted from pick-up trucks.

One fighter said: "The Islamic Emirate has now been established in Afghanistan, and there will be no chaos at

ELSEWHERE



'3,80,000 affected by flooding in South Sudan'

Heavy flooding has affected about 3,80,000 people in South Sudan, with overflowing rivers submerging homes and displacing families in the impoverished country, the UN's humanitarian agency OCHA said on Tuesday. Nearly three-quarters of those affected are in Unity and Jonglei States. AFP

UAE, Turkey leaders discuss bilateral ties

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held talks on Monday, UAE State media reported, as relations improve between their two countries.

The phone call between the two leaders marks the highest-level interaction in years, after a rare visit earlier this month to Ankara by a United Arab Emirates delegation.

The two sides have

backed opposing sides in the Libyan conflict and sparred on other regional

issues.

Sheikh Mohammed, UAE's de facto ruler, and Mr. Erdogan "reviewed the prospects of reinforcing relations between the two nations in a way that serves their common interests and their two peoples", the official WAM news agency said.

Mr. Erdogan has made efforts to reach out to a range of regional rivals as he tries to break out of a growing diplomatic isolation.

Ramon Magsaysay award

A Bangladeshi vaccine scientist and a microfinance pioneer from Pakistan were among the five recipients of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award – regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize – announced on Tuesday.

University, U.K., joined International Centre For Diarthe award citation said.

Vaccine pioneer wins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Apart from Dr. Firdausi Qadri from Bangladesh and Muhammad Amjad Saqib from Pakistan, the other winners are Filipino fisher and community environmentalist Roberto Ballon,

American Steven Muncy for humanitarian work and refugee assistance and Indonesian torch bearer for in vestigative journalism, Watchdoc.

Dr. Qadri, 70, who has a doctorate from Liverpool rhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, (an international health research institute based in Dhaka) in 1988. She was recognised for "her passion and life-long devotion to the scientific profession,"

Six in Bangladesh sentenced to death for killing gay activists

Convicts belong to a terrorist group inspired by al-Qaeda

REUTERS

Six members of an Islamist militant group were sentenced to death on Tuesday by a court in Bangladesh for the brutal killing of two gay rights campaigners five vears ago.

Xulhaz Mannan, 35, the editor of Bangladesh's first magazine for gay, bisexual, transgender and (LGBTQ+) people Roopbaan, and actor Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy, 25, were hacked to death in Mannan's apartment in the capital

tack claimed by Ansar Al Islam, the regional arm of al-Qaeda.

Dhaka in April 2016 in an at-

The killings were part of a series of attacks on atheist bloggers, academics and minorities shocked the South Asian nation of 170 million and led many to go into hiding or flee abroad.

Of the eight defendants in the case, six were found guilty of murder and sentenced to death, public prosecutor Golam Sarwar Khan said.

The Special Anti-Terro-

rism Tribunal also convicted the six of belonging to a terrorist organisation, the al Qaeda-inspired domestic militant organisation Ansar Ullah Bangla Team, Mr. Khan said, a group that police believe is responsible for the murders of over a dozen activists and bloggers.

The Tribunal acquitted two other defendants, who are on the run and were tried in absentia, Mr. Khan said. Of the six men sentenced to death, two are also on the run and were tried in absentia.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE Office No. 3123 / Dated, 27.08.2021

In pursuance to the tender call notice, invited vide this office letter No.2922 dt.17.08.21(NCB-299) this is to notify that the same is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore.

Department of Mines & Geology No. 49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001.

e-Mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

No. DMG-17012/4/2021/2021-22/C.No.558698

Ltd by paying Rs.5,00,000/- (Rs. Five Lakhs Only) + GST.

Date: 31.08.2021

NOTIFICATION AND NOTICE INVITING TENDER "Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for Limestone Blocks"

n exercise of the powers conferred under Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and amendments notified thereunder, the Government of Karnataka is conducting auction of mining lease for the following limestone blocks.

SI No.	Name of the Block	Mineral	Concession Area (in Ha.)	Estimated resource (in MMT)
1.	Bommanalli limestone block	Limestone	500	463.925
2.	Chittapura South Limestone Block	Limestone	360	317.20
•				

Any person, firm or company who satisfies the eligibility criteria can participate in the auction. Technical and financial bids for the above listed blocks are invited online. Apart from the online Technical Bids, bidders will have to submit duly executed original physical copies of their Technical Bids to the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka.

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp). Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves at the above website. On successfu registration, bidders will obtain login ID and password, which are necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and summary of the block shall be available free of cost at the website of MSTC Limited (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/ auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp). For participating in the bidding process, the registered bidders will have to purchase the block specific tender document at the website of MSTC

The sale of tender document shall commence from 31st August 2021. Last date for sale of tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd is 07th October 2021. Last date for submission of Technical Bids plus the Initial Price Offers at the website of MSTC Ltd is 17:00 hours IST on 16th October 2021. Physical copies of the Technical Bids must reach the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka on or prior to 17:00 hours IST on 16th October 2021.

> Sd/-DIRECTOR

Do you add fibre regularly to your diet?

Tell us about your fibre consumption and win exciting prizes.



email - ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com

Letter No.3485, dt.24.08.2021

. No of the work

2. Estimated cost 3. Period of completion

document in the portal

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid

5. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :- 16.00 Hours of 20.09.2021 6. Date of opening of Bid from Portal 7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :-

:- 02 Nos. Building Work

:- Rs.400.14 Lakhs & 662.91 Lakhs :- 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months & 18 (Eighteen) Calender Months.

:- From 11.00 Hours of 03.09.2021 to 16.00 Hours of 20.09.2021.

:- 12.00 Hours on 21.09.2021 Chief Construction Engineer,

Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.



भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR

श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आ.प्र./ SRIHARIKOTA - 524124 सक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

सं. शारः सीएमजी सिविलः अनुर्क्षणः ई—निविदा / No: SHAR: CMG CIVIL: MAINT:E-PT-03/21-22 तिथि/ Dt. 30.08.2021 भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, पी3/पी4 रडार क्षेत्र (टी/सी-21-013), "पिनाकिनी नगर आवासीय कालोनी" (टी/सी-21-014), "पुलीकट नगर आवासीय कालोनी" (टी/सी-21-015) में ₹ 7.23 लाख फ..₹ 68.25 लाख फ. ₹ 53.55 लाख रू., की अनुमानित लागत में छत रिसाव को रोकने के कार्य, पुलिकाट नगर कॉलोनी में खाली पड़े क्वार्टरों" (टी/सी-21-016) हेतु ₹ 37.84 लाख रू. की अनुमानित लगत में सिविल मरम्मत कार्य, ₹16.28 लाख रू. की अनुमानित लागत में सुरक्षा निगरानी टावर के निर्माण कार्य" (टी/सी-21-017) हेतु मद दर निविदाए ऑनलाइन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज 17-09-2021 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोंड किए जा सकते हैं। इच्छुक

निविदाकार विस्तृत सूचना हेतु हमारी वेबसाइट <u>www.isro.gov.in</u> or <u>www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO</u> पर जाऐ । On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Arresting roof leakages at P3/P4 Radar area" (T/C-21-013), "PNN Housing colony" (T/C-21-014), "PCN Housing colony" (T/C-21-015) with estimated costs ₹7.23 Lakhs, ₹68.25 Lakhs, ₹53.55 Lakhs, "Civil Repair Works for Vacant Quarters at PCN Colony" (T/C-21-016) at an estimated cost of ₹ 37.84 Lakhs, "Construction of Security watch tower" (T/C-21-017) at an estimated cost of ₹ 16.28 Lakhs. Tender documents can be downloaded upto 17.09.2021, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details. Sd/- ग्रुप प्रधान, सीएमजी, एसडीएससी शार / Group Head, CMG, SDSC SHAR

> **ORISSA WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD** 3rd FLOOR, UNNATI BHAWAN, SATYANAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-7.

e-mail: ce.septage@gmail.com

	Invitation For Bids (IFB) Dtd.25.08.2021										
SI. No.	Name of work	Bid Reference No.	Estimated Cost excluding GST (Rs. in Lakh)								
1	Construction, Testing, Commissioning & Trial Run of Septage Treatment Facility (20 KLD) capacity each at Burla Town and Hirakud town of Sambalpur District,	06/CESEPTAGE/20 21-22 Dt 25.08.2021	514.23								

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

Period of Completion for works: Construction: 06 Months, Trial Run and 0&M: 1 Month. Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding: From dt.02.09.2021 (10.00 Hrs) to dt.17.09.2021 (17.00 Hrs)

Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid: - Chief Engineer(Septage), OWSSB, 3rd Floor, Unnati

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal: https://www.tendersodisha.gov.ir Corrigendum, Clarification, if any for the above works shall be uploaded in the website only. Intending Bidders are urged to visit the above website regularly to keep themselves updated.

Bhawan, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-7. Email: ce.septage@gmail.com

Chief Engineer (Septage)

OIPR-13007/11/0006/2122

MARKET WATCH

	31-08-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	57,552	1.16
US Dollar	73.00	0.39
Gold	46,272	-0.25
Brent oil	73.01	0.66

NIFTY 50		
		CHANG
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank	786.50	2.4!
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv	17148.75	588.3
Bajaj Finance	7524.50	359.00
Bharti Airtel	664.05	43.60
BPCL	471.65.	0.90
Britannia Ind	3997.50.	11.1
Cipla	947.80	13.10
Coal India		
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech		
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	19467.75	274.5
NTPC	115.95	1.0
ONGC	120.55.	0.4
PowerGrid Corp	175.35	0.1
Reliance Ind	2258.15	12.1
SBI Life		
State Bank	426.05	3.3
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma		
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	864 95	44
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan		
UltraTech Cement UPL		
LIPE	/41.25.	U.8
Wipro	C 4 0 C 5	0.5

EXCITATIOE IXA	LLJ							
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 31								
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELI						
US Dollar	72.80	73.12						
Euro	86.14	86.53						
British Pound	100.23	100.70						
Japanese Yen (100)	66.22	66.51						
Chinese Yuan	11.26	11.32						
Swiss Franc	79.67	80.02						
Singapore Dollar	54.17	54.42						
Canadian Dollar	57.84	58.10						
Malaysian Ringitt	17.51	17.61						
Source:Indian Bank								



VW's Polo, Vento cars to be costlier from today

Volkswagen (VW) Passenger Cars India said the prices of Polo and Vento models will increase by 3% and 2% respectively effective September 1 on account of rising input costs. Customers who had booked vehicles by August 31 were protected from this price hike, it added.

Dr. Reddy's introduces copy of ulcer drug in U.S.

HYDERABAD Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has introduced Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride and Clidinium Bromide capsules USP (5 mg/2.5 mg), a therapeutic equivalent generic version of Librax, in the U.S. market. This follows U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval for the product indicated in gastrointestinal disorders. The U.S. sales of the brand and generic was about \$105.9 million MAT for the most recent 12 months ending July, the firm said.

Core sector logs 9.4% growth

July's expansion at the eight key industries led by a 21.8% jump in cement output

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Output from India's eight core sectors grew by 9.4% in July from a year earlier, a marginal uptick from June's 9.3% pace. Crude oil was the sole sector to register a decline, with output shrinking 3.2%, official data showed.

Cement production expanded the fastest in July, surging 21.8%, while fertilizer output clocked the slowest pace of growth at 0.5%. Production of natural gas grew by 18.9%, that of coal rose 18.7%, while steel and electricity saw output expand by 9.3% and 9%, respectively.

CARE Ratings chief economist Madan Sabnavis attributed the 9.4% growth in the core sector, which accounts for a little over 40% of the In-



Girding growth: Steel and electricity saw production expand by 9.3% and 9%, respectively, in July. • REUTERS

dex of Industrial Production (IIP) to a combination of two factors – the base effect from last July, when output contracted 7.6%, and some affirmative action by the governon infrastructure spending.

"Sequentially, the core sector output recorded a broad-based 5.4% rise in July

formance," she wrote in a note on the data release.

However, the overall Index of Eight Core industries in the first four months of 2021-22 remained below the pre-pandemic level, 1.5% lower than the April-July 2019 period.

While Mr. Sabnavis expects the IIP to register 12%-14% growth in July, Ms. Nayar reckons the expansion would be in a 13%-15% range.

The Office of Economic Adviser in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade also revised the provisional indices for recent months.

"Final growth rate of Index of Eight Core Industries for April 2021 is revised to 62.6% from its provisional level 56.1%," the DPIIT economic adviser's office said.

Maruti sees chip shortage cutting Sept. output by 60%

Carmaker sees production hit at plants in Haryana, Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Maruti Suzuki on Tuesday said it expects production in September to slump to about 40% of the normal level as a result of a global semiconductor shortage that has impacted the supply of electronic components.

"Owing to a supply constraint of electronic components due to the semiconductor shortage situation, the company is expecting an adverse impact on vehicle production in the month of September in both Haryana and its contract manufacturing company, Suzuki Motor Gujarat Pvt. Ltd. (SMG) in Gujarat," India's largest carmaker said in a regulatory



filing to the stock exchanges. "Though the situation is quite dynamic, it is currently estimated that the total vehicle production volume across both locations could be around 40% of normal production," it added. In August too, the company had announced that SMG's production would be partially

impacted during the month due to issues related to the semiconductor shortage.

Supply chain disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in a worldwide shortage of semiconductors that have become an integral part of the contemporary automobile. Electronic components are used widely in cars, from engine management systems to improve fuel efficiency to assisted emergency braking.

As per Maruti's data, the company produced a total of 1,70,719 vehicles in July, including 1,05,345 passenger vehicles and 2,342 light commercial vehicles. Total sales during the month, including exports, was 1,62,462 units.

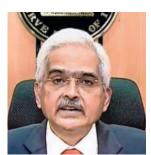
Overseas settlement of G-sec deals on anvil: Das

'Move will help expand investor base'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is planning to enable international settlement of transactions in government securities (G-secs) through International Central Securities Depositories (ICSDs), to help expand the investor base for the G-secs market, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Tuesday.

"Once operationalised, this will enhance access of non-residents to the G-secs market, as will the inclusion of Indian G-secs in global bond indices, for which efforts are ongoing," he said, while delivering the keynote address online at the 21st Conference FIMMDA and PDAI. He called for further develop-



ment of the G-secs market in India to add to the robustness of financial markets.

Highlighting that the Gsec market liquidity tended to dry up when interest rates rose or in times of uncertainty, he said it was worthwhile considering alternatives that ensured adequate supply of securities across maturities.

Fiscal deficit touches 21.3% of target

2021, reflecting the further

unlocking, especially across

the southern States," ob-

served Aditi Nayar, chief eco-

nomist at ICRA. "Compared

to July 2019, the overall core

index rose by 1.1%, led by a

double-digit increase in coal

output, whereas refinery

products and crude oil

trailed their pre-COVID per-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Centre's fiscal deficit stood at ₹3.21 lakh crore or 21.3% of the budget estimates at the end of July, as per data released by the Controller General of Accounts on Tuesday.

The deficit figure this fiscal appears better than it did a year earlier, when it had soared to 103.1% of the estimate, mainly on account of a jump in expenditure to help deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Centre's total receipts stood at ₹6.83 lakh crore or 34.6% of budget estimate (BE) up to July. Total receipts were 10.4% of BE a year earlier. Expenditure was ₹10.04 lakh crore or 28.8% of BE. It was 34.7% of BE a year earlier.

'Bank credit to non-food sectors grew 6.2% in July'

Industry credit growth was muted at 1%, RBI data showed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The non-food credit from banks grew 6.2% in July 2021, compared with 6.4% growth a year earlier, RBI data showed.

Advances to agriculture and allied activities continued to perform well, registering an accelerated growth of 12.5 against 5.4%, according to RBI data on Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit July 2021, released on Tuesday. Growth in credit to industry remained subdued at 1% compared with 0.9%.

Credit to medium-sized industries registered a robust growth of 71.6%, compared with a contraction of 1.8%. Credit to micro and



Rural progress: Advances to agriculture and allied activities saw accelerated growth of 12.5% compared with 5.4%. • AFP

small industries accelerated to 7.9% from a contraction of 1.8%, while credit to large industries contracted 2.9% from a 1.4% growth. Growth in credit to the services sector slowed to 2.7% from 12.2%, mainly due to decel-

eration in credit to NBFCs and commercial real estate.

Personal loans saw accelerated growth of 11.2% compared with 9%, mainly due to faster growth in loans against gold jewellery and in

Sensex scales 57,000; surges over 9% in Aug.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The BSE benchmark index Sensex has soared over 9% in August to scale the 57,000-mark for the first time, as the bull run continues in the equity market.

The index reached an all-time intraday high of 57,625.26 on Tuesday, the last trading session of August, a month that has seen the stock market making many new records. The index closed with a gain of 662.63 points, or 1.16%, at 57,552.39, its record close.

"Led by bulls, indices breached record highs amid broad-based buying due to continuation of Fed's dovish policy and the expected release of GDP data," said Vinod Nair of Geojit Financial Services.

TVS Srichakra forays into Indonesia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TVS Srichakra Ltd., a leading manufacturer and ex porter of two, three-wheeler and off-highway tyres, has foraved into Indonesia to seek a strong presence in the country's two-wheeler tyre market.

The first product line to be unveiled under the Eurogrip brand is Eurogrip Bee City, the company said. These tyres are suited for popular scooter and motorbike models in Indonesia and come in five sizes, the tyremaker added.

"Indonesia will be one of our important international markets going forward and we will invest in terms of infrastructure. sales processes as well as brand," said P. Madhavan, EVP – sales & marketing.

Lucas TVS to build Li-ion battery unit for ₹2,500 cr.

Firm collaborates with U.S.'s 24M Tech

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Lucas TVS Ltd. and U.S.based 24M Technologies Inc. are setting up a ₹2,500crore factory near Chennai for making semi-solid lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery cells.

The plant, which will produce the battery cells initially for the Indian market, will begin commercial production by the second half of 2023, Lucas TVS said in a statement.

The firm expects to build similar plants throughout India to support the growing energy storage, electric mobility and lead acid batteryreplacement markets.

Lucas TVS will be the first to introduce semi-solid lithium-ion batteries produced in India and specifically designed for the Indian mar-



T.K. Balaji

ket, the company added. "We believe in investing in next-generation technologies, which is why we chose to partner 24M," said

T.K. Balaji, CMD, Lucas TVS. "We are confident that their innovative technology will enable us to provide our customers affordable e-mobility, lead acid battery replacement and storage solutions with improved quality and best-in-class safety."

FinMin releases ₹13,386 cr. as grant to RLBs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday said it had released ₹13,386 crore to 25 States to provide grants to rural local bodies (RLBs).

Tied grants are released to the rural local bodies (RLBs) for improving two services - sanitation and maintenance of open-defecation free (ODF) status, and supply of drinking water, rainwater harvesting

and water recycling. "The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has on Monday released an amount of Rs 13,385.70 crore to 25 States for providing grants to the Rural Local Bodies," the ministry said in a statement. This grant-in-aid is the first instalment of tied grants of the year 2021-22.

PayU to buy payments firm BillDesk for \$4.7 bn

'Retail market grew 80% over 2 years'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Dutch tech investment firm Prosus on Tuesday said its subsidiary PayU had agreed to acquire Indian payments gateway BillDesk for \$4.7 billion, making this one of the biggest deals in the Indian

digital payments sector. The firm said that PayU and BillDesk together would be able to 'meet the changing payments needs of digital consumers, merchants and government enterprises in India' and deliver 'robust

consumer protection'. "We've invested close to \$6 billion in Indian tech, and this deal will see that increase to more than \$10 billion," Bob van Dijk, Group

CEO of Prosus, said. PayU had previously acquired firms such as Citrus-

PayU had earlier

companies such as CitrusPay, Wibmo. Paysense in India

Pay, Paysense and Wibmo in India. "Acquisition of Bill-Desk will see PayU become one of the leading online payment providers globally, handling a total payment volume of \$147 billion," the company added.

According to RBI's FY21 annual report, the number of transactions for digital retail payments has risen more than 80% from 24 billion in FY19 to 44 billion in FY21. Over 3 years, RBI expects more than 200 million new users to adopt digital payments with the average annual transactions per capita rising 10-fold to 220.

flexible engine mandatory'

'Govt. to make

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said India will make it mandatory for auto manufacturers to offer vehicles running 100% on biofuels in the next six months.

Such a move will be costeffective for consumers. who are hassled by the high petrol prices, the Minister said, pointing out that a litre of bioethanol cost ₹65 as against ₹110 for petrol.

The fuel is also less pol-

luting and saves forex. "We are committed to delivering vehicles with flex engine norms. We have taken a decision, we will make it mandatory by which there will be a flexengine," Mr. Gadkari said at an event hosted by brokerage Elara Capital.

Handing over the baton to the future through the present

The feeder lines are clear and unclogged, as they have been for some time, and that has been one of India's strengths



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

t is possible that we are approaching a transitional phase in Indian cricket, with some stars preparing to make way for a new generation. Not immediately, and perhaps not for a while after the England tour, but it is best to be prepared. The feeder lines are clear and unclogged, as they have been for some time, and that has been one of India's

The average age of the team that played the Headingley Test is just 30, so any discussion over succession might amount of cricket they play, both international and domestic, today's players tend to give up Test cricket earlier than those of a previous generation did.

appear premature. But given the

Longevity

Rahul Dravid was 39 when he announced his retirement, Sachin Tendulkar 40, Anil Kumble 38. Can the modern player last as long despite a better physical regimen? There is too the temptation of lucrative media offers besides business and family commitments. Few players voluntarily make a clean break. Following the tour of Australia, Dra-

vid and V.V.S. Laxman retired in 2012, next year Virender Sehwag and Sachin Tendulkar did so, and the men who constituted one of the finest batting line-ups in the history of the game were gone.

Crucially, as they were finishing, they welcomed into the squad the new kids on the block: Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Virat Kohli, Ishant Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara. That is how the baton is passed on. Some of these replacements were planned for, others came as pleasant surprises. It has always been thus, and will continue to be. There are no guarantees in sport; even Don Bradman was dropped after his first Test. This generational overlapping is im-

portant. You can trace a direct line from Kapil Dev to Javagal Srinath to Zaheer Khan to Ishant Sharma. Kapil was around when Srinath made his debut, Zaheer bowled alongside Srinath and Ishant had Zaheer to look up to when he made his debut. Such patterns might look inevitable, but they are a tribute to the right selection at the right time, and an awareness of baton-passing.

Virat Kohli is only 32 and has already played more Tests than Dravid had at that age besides T20 by the bucketful.

He is the fulcrum around which the Indian team will revolve for some time. In the next five or six years, he will play midwife as a new generation steps out. Much like Dhoni did, and Sourav Ganguly before him, backing some players on instinct and record while other choices into the basket marked 'what-might-have-been.'

Roll of the dice

Selection to the highest level is based on potential and performance; players make it on one of these grounds. When Kumble or Tendulkar were first picked, there was no way of knowing they would be the greats they became. Kumble was 19, Tendulkar 16, and selectors staked their reputation on these two. For every inspired choice, there are many who seem equally worthy but fail at the highest level for one of these reasons: temperament, fatal technical flaw, wrong timing.

Sometimes a strong mind can overcome a flaw, sometimes a player chosen at the wrong time can be lost forever. Some never discover what the right time could be as their First Class careers overlap with the international careers of more established and successful players. Once the middle-order during the Tendulkar period was in place, there was no vacancy there. Each batter played over 100 Tests, and many like Amol Mujumdar (who made 260 on his First Class debut) who might have played in another era simply didn't get a look-in.

In the years when India had worldclass spinners who would have easily walked into any other international team, many were held back. Rajinder Goel and Padmakar Shivalkar are the best examples; they were kept out by the presence of Bishan Bedi. But there

was V.V. Kumar too, a classical leg-spinner up against Bhagwat Chandrasekhar. Later Kumble and Harbhajan Singh, who between them had over 1,000 Test wickets, ended the aspirations of many.

On knife-edge

Careers also depend on how the team performs. Victory lends a hand to those on the brink of dropping out, pulling them towards safety. In the current team, Pujara redeemed himself with a knock of 91 in the last Test; the focus is now on Ajinkya Rahane. Ishant Sharma may be rested for the third Test. Among the reserves is Wriddhman Saha, who at 36 is the oldest.

Players have two more Tests to make things work for them - both as a team and individually. The series is balanced on a knife-edge, as are some careers too. Contradictory as it sounds, looking ahead is a continuing process in sport.

High jumper Mariyappan shines with a silver

Sharad also makes the podium in the same event; Singhraj bags bronze in shooting as India's medal count swells to 10

PARALYMPICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

T. Mariyappan and Sharad Kumar won a silver and bronze respectively in the men's high jump T63 event and shooter Singhraj Adana fetched a bronze in the men's 10m air pistol SH1 event as India's tally at the Paralympics touched an unprecedented 10 medals here on Tuesday.

India has so far won two gold, five silver and three bronze medals in the ongoing Games

Mariyappan cleared 1.86m while American gold winner Sam Grewe, who finished behind the Indian in the T42 category at Rio, succeeded in soaring above 1.88m in his third attempt. Sharad took bronze with an effort of 1.83.

Varun finishes seventh

The third Indian in fray, and 2016 Rio Paralympics bronze-winner, Varun Singh Bhati ended seventh out of nine competitors after he failed to clear the 1.77m

The T63/F63 classification is for athletes with single through knee or above knee limb deficiency competing with a prosthesis where minimum impairment criteria for lower limb deficiency are met.

The T42 classification is for athletes with a leg deficiency, leg length difference, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in the legs. The athletes compete in a standing position.

Earlier, Singhraj Adana shot a total of 216.8 to finish the P1 men's 10m air pistol SH1 event in third place after qualifying for the eight-man final as the sixth best shooter.

However, Manish Narwal, who topped the qualifications with 575, finished in the

The Mariyappan file

Age: 26

- Native of Salem, Tamil Nadu
- Event & category: T63/T42 high jump
- Training base: SAI, Bengaluru Personal & National coach:

Satvanaravana

- Silver at Tokyo Paralympics
- Gold at Rio Paralympics 2016 ■ Bronze at World Para Athletics
- Championships, Dubai 2019 Bronze at Asian Para Games,
- Jakarta 2018
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award,

■ Padma Shri Award, 2017 Arjuna Award, 2017







- Native of Motipur, Bihar
- Event & category: T63/T42 High jump
- Ranked World No. 2
- Training base: Ukraine
- Personal coaches: Nikitin Yevhen & Shallaz Kumar
- Bronze at Tokyo

HONOURS

- Silver in World Para Athlet-
- Silver in World Para Athletics Championships, 2017 Gold in Asian Para Games,
- Jakarta 2018 Gold in Asiad, Incheon 2014 Gold in Malaysian Oper

Para Athletics, 2012

BACKGROUND

■ After being struck by polio at two, his parents Surendra Kumar and Kumkum tried all treatments but there was no major improvement. His brother was a high jump record-holder in school and Sharad longed to break his record. He began training seriously and in 2009 won gold at the Junior National para athletics and represented the country at the 2010 Asian Para Games in China. He has been training under Nikitin Yevhen since 2012 and with

the Government also supporting him under its TOPS scheme, he is now among the world's best

CHENNAI

- Native of Faridabad,
- Event & Category: P4

The Singhraj file

Mixed 50m pistol SH1, P1 Men's 10m air pistol SH1 ■ World rank: No.4 in

P4 mixed 50m pistol

- SH1, No.5 in P1 Men's Training base: Dr. Karni Singh
- Range, Tughlakabad and home range Coaches: Personal:

J.P. Nautival Omprakash Chaudhary; National: Subhash Rana

As the pistol is held with

one hand only, athletes in

SH1 category have an impair-

ment affecting one arm and/

or the legs, for example re-

sulting from amputations or

men's 10 air pistol competi-

tion. Shooters either com-

P1 is a classification for the

spinal cord injuries.



- Bronze in P4 team in silver in P4 individual event the 2019 Sydney World at the 2018 Chateauroux Championship
 - Gold in P1, silver in P4 ■ Bronze in P4 of 2018 team and bronze in P4 Para Asian Games in individual event in the 2021 Palembana Al Ain World Cup

Singhraj, who was afflicted by shooting at 35. His family set up

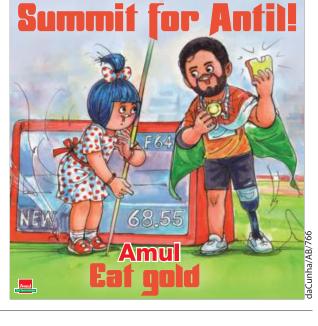
a 10m and 50m range at home for practice during lockdown. Grandfather Sumera Ram Adhana was a freedom fighter and his father

Prem Singh is a social worker. Singhraj also serves social cause like education for the poor and rights for the disabled

> kesh had bounced back to best Marian Marecak of Slovakia 111-108 in the previous round The Indian women's table

145 in the quarterfinals. Ra-

tennis team of Bhavina Patel and Sonal Patel was outclassed 2-0 by China in the



Wet weather affected my chances: Mariyappan

K. KEERTHIVASAN

India's T. Mariyappan and Sharad Kumar, the silver and bronze medallists in men's high jump, said that the rain made their task quite difficult to perform.

"At the start, there was a mild drizzle, so we were able to jump without much difficulty.

"But after 1.80m, there was mild to heavy rain and my socks got wet which made my take-off and jump difficult," said Mariyappan in a virtual press conference.

"I could have jumped 1.90m had there been no rain."

Dangerous

"It was a dangerous situation to perform under rainy conditions," remarked Sharad.

On winning silver, defending champion Mariyappan said he felt happy and sad at the same time.

"I was upset because I wanted gold but happy that I could win gold (at Rio) and silver now," he said.

The 26-year-old further said not being a flag-bearer

(he had come in contact with a COVID-19 victim on arrival at Tokyo) was also upsetting, but added that he was determined to do well.

"I was in quarantine and had to train in isolation."

"I was confident of Mari-

yappan winning gold as he was clearing 2m during training. Fate had other plans," said Mariyappan's coach Satyanarayana. Sharad said he had a knee

injury on the eve of the final. "I cried the whole night as I had damaged my meniscus but my parents, my brother, and friends kept me motivated," he said, adding getting a bronze under the circumstances was great.

Sharad thanked the Paralympics Council of India (PCI) and Satyanarayana for the help in getting all the documentation done when he was training in Ukraine prior to the event.

Gurcharan Singh, Indian chef-de-mission, also spoke at the conference organised by PCI and Eurosport.

BCCI seeks bids for new franchises

seventh place in the final.

The other Indian in the

event, Deepender Singh, fin-

three, Adana dropped out of

contention with his poor 19th

shot but managed to get back

in the reckoning with his

20th attempt as China's Xiao-

Hovering around the top

ished 10th.

COMPILED BY STAN RAYAN AND KAMESH SRINIVASAN

AMOL KARHADKAR

More than eight months after approving the addition of two new franchises into the Indian Premier League (IPL) fold, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday released an Invitation to Tender (ITT) for prospective owners to enter the

While announcing its decision on behalf of the IPL Governing Council, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement: "The detailed terms and conditions governing the submission and evaluation of bids including eligibility requirements. process for submissions of bids, proposed new teams' rights, and obligations, etc. are contained in the ITT."

The ITT can be purchased till October 5, on payment of ₹10 lakh, excluding taxes. It will be followed by an online closed-bidding process.



Jay Shah. • FILE РНОТО

The Hindu understands that the base price for each of the two new teams is set at ₹1,500 crore and any entitv – either a corporate or a consortium – is required to have valuation worth ₹3,000 crore to be eligible for bid-

In 2010, when the BCCI had expanded IPL into a 10team affair ahead of the 2011 edition, the owners of Kochi and Pune franchises had agreed to shell out ₹1,530 crore and ₹1700 crore, approximately.

Unlike in 2010, when more than a dozen venues

were made available for the interested bidders, the BCCI is likely to restrict the venues list to Ahmedabad, Kochi, Guwahati, Lucknow,

long Lou got 8.6.

silver respectively.

venth in the final.

China dominated the fi-

nals with defending cham-

pion Chao Yang (237.9 – Pa-

ralympic record) and Huang

Xing (237.5) winning gold and

Rubina Francis finished se-

In the women's category,

Maximum of two bids

Pune and Dehradun.

An interested bidder is likely to be presented with an option to submit a maximum of two bids - either for the same or different cities, unlike in the past when there was no cap on submitting

On December 24 last year, the BCCI AGM had passed the proposal to add two new teams and had asked the IPL Governing Council to work out the nitty-gritty.

With Tuesday's development, it appears that IPL 2022 will be played in a format similar to 2011, with a total of 74 games.

Each team is set to face five teams on home-andaway basis while competing against the remaining four teams once during the

England prepared to take on world-class Ashwin, says Root

pete in a seated or standing

position as defined in the

The Indian challenge in com-

pound men's Open archery

ended after Rakesh Kumar

lost to former World cham-

pion Xinliang Ai of China 143-

Rakesh misses out

rules.

INDIA IN ENG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Skipper Joe Root, who led England to a series-levelling win at the Headingley, expects an Indian backlash in the penultimate Test and said it was ready for all combinations, including facing the "world-class" R. Ashwin at the Oval.

India had grabbed a 1-0 lead in the five-match series after beating England by 151 runs at Lord's but England came back to level the series with an innings win in the

"A world-class team like India, led by Virat (Kohli) I expect nothing less than a response and we'd be naive to think otherwise," Root said during virtual a press-conference.

"That's why I think it's really important that we



Up for the challenge: Joe Root expects India to come back

don't get too comfortable, we don't think that we've achieved anything at this point, we've just got ourselves back to level playing."

Trusting Ravindra Jadeja's batting ability more than Ashwin, India skipper Kohli had ignored the ace off-spinner for the first three Tests, but heading into the Oval Test from Thursday, the call for his inclusion has once again gained voice.

"His record speaks for it-

strongly after the innings defeat in the previous Test. • AP self, he's a world-class player. We've seen him score runs and take wickets against us. we know what he's capable of in the Test arena," Root said when asked if he's surprised that Ashwin did not

play the first three Tests.

"We will be making sure that we're prepared for the challenges that he poses coming into this Test, along with other combinations that they might throw at us," Root

Pirates sign up Monu Goyat

Thakur, Chillar and Cheralathan fail to command a high price

PKL AUCTION

ASHWIN ACHAL

Monu Goyat, who two seasons ago was the costliest player in the history of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL), was signed for a modest figure on the final day of the auctions (category B, C, D and unallocated players) at Mumbai on Tuesday.

Raider Goyat, valued at ₹1.51 crore in Season 6, was picked for ₹20 lakh by Patna Pirates in the Season 8 auction.

Veterans Ajay Thakur, Manjeet Chillar and Dharmaraj Cheralathan also could not command a high price. Thakur was picked by Dabang Delhi for ₹46 lakh. All-rounder Chillar (₹20



Monu Goyat. ■ FILE PHOTO

lakh) and Dharmaraj Cheralathan (₹20 lakh) were signed by Dabang Delhi and Pink Panthers respectively.

Defender Sandeep Kandola, who had a base price of ₹10 lakh, was signed by Telugu Titans for ₹59.5 lakh.

Zverev and Pliskova begin quest for a maiden Grand Slam with facile wins

Tsitsipas breaks Murray's rhythm; Osaka eases into Major play; Agut shows Kyrgios the door

U.S. OPEN

REUTERS

NEW YORK German Alexander Zverev got his bid for a maiden Major off to a smooth start by beating American Sam Querrey 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 in the first round of the U.S. Open on

Tuesday. Querrey kept the match close through the first two sets but was stymied by unforced errors as the 2020 runner-up and Olympic champion Zverev kept his game comparatively clean and fired off 25 winners.

Similarly in the women's section, World No. 4 Karolina Pliskova fired off eight aces to defeat American wild card Caty McNally 6-3, 6-4 in the first round as she bids for an elusive Major.

Meanwhile on Monday,

former World No. 1 Andy Murray went down fighting in the first round of the US Open as third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas triumphed in a near five-hour contest.

As fans returned in numbers to Flushing Meadows for the first time in two years. they were treated to quality tennis at Arthur Ashe Stadium where Tsitsipas won 2-6, 7-6(7), 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, even as Murray fumed over what he saw as the Greek's stalling

"I lost respect for him," Murray said after Tsitsipas took a bathroom break and a medical time-out that broke the Scot's momentum.

Medvedev advances

Second seed Daniil Medvedev beat Frenchman Richard Gasquet 6-4, 6-3 6-1 in the final match of the day and the Russian was relieved it did not go the distance after watching many players struggle physically. "I'm happy that I didn't stay out here for five hours," Medvedev said.

Fans stayed well beyond midnight hoping to be enter-

tained by Nick Kyrgios but the only fireworks the Australian provided were arguments with the chair umpire over towels while slumping to a 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 loss to Roberto Bautista Agut.

Two-time champion Nao-



Cruise mode: Alexander Zverev proved too good for Sam Querry. • AP

mi Osaka kicked off her title defence with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Czech Marie Bouzkova and she was happy to have

Sabalenka survives

the crowd back.

Second seed Aryna Sabalenka was given a scare when Nina Stojanovic took the match to a third set but the Belarusian dominated the decider to advance 6-4, 6-7(4), 6-0.

American Coco Gauff surrendered the opening set but rallied to beat Magda Linette 5-7 6-3 6-4, while three-time runner-up Victoria Azarenka trailed 4-1 before winning 11 straight games to outclass Tereza Martincova 6-4, 6-0.

Marin Cilic, the 2014 champion, retired injured from his first-round match with Philipp Kohlschreiber with the contest locked at two sets each.

IMPORTANT FIRST ROUND RESULTS Men: Mackenzie McDonald 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 8-Casper Ruud

(USA) bt 27-David Goffin (Bel) 6-2, 7-5, 6-3; 21-Aslan Karatsev (Rus) bt Jaume Munar (Esp) 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2; 10-Hubert Hurkacz (Pol) bt Egor Gerasimov (Blr) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3; 4-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt Sam Querrey (USA) 6-4, 7-5, 6-2; 22-Reilly Opelka (USA) bt Kwon Soonwoo (Kor) 7-6(3), 6-4, 6-4.

5-Andrey Rublev (Rus) bt Ivo Karlovic (Cro) 6-3, 7-6(3), 6-3; Guido Pella (Arg) bt 32-Filip Krajinovic (Srb) 6-7(2), 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 18-Roberto Bautista Agut (Esp) bt Nick Kyrgios (Aus) 6-3, 6-4, 6-0; 12-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Evgeny Donskoy (Rus) 7-6(0), 3-6, 7-6(1), 7-6(8); 16-Christian Garin (Chi) bt Norbert Gombos (Svk) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(4); Peter Gojowczyk (Ger) bt 23-Ugo Humbert (Fra) 1-6, 6-1, 6-2, 5-7, 6-4; Carlos Alcaraz (Esp) bt 26-Cameron Nor-

rie (GBr) 6-4, 6-4, 6-3. 3-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Andy Murray (GBr) 2-6, 7-6(7),

(Nor) bt Yuichi Sugita (Jpn) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; Marco Trungelliti (Arg) bt 29-Alejandro Davidovich (Esp) 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, 6-7(3), 6-4; Brandon Nakashima (USA) bt 19-John Isner (USA) 7-6(7), 7-6(6), 6-3; 11-Diego Schwartzman (Arg) bt Ricardas Berankis (Ltu) 7-5, 6-3, 6-3; 15-Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) bt Sam Riffice (USA) 6-1, 7-6(3), 6-3; 24-Daniel Evans (GBR) bt Thiago Monteiro (Bra) 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-4, 6-1; Philipp Kohlschreiber (Ger) bt 30-Marin Cilic (Cro) 6-7(4), 6-7(3), 6-2, 6-1,

2-0, retd; 2-Daniil Medvedev

(Rus) bt Richard Gasquet (Fra)

6-4, 6-3, 6-1. Women: 4-Karolína Pliskova (Cze) bt Caty McNally (USA) 6-3, 6-4; 30-Petra Martic (Cro) bt Dalma Galfi (Hun) 6-3, 6-2; 24-Paula Badosa (Esp) bt Alison Van Uytvanck (Bel) 6-4, 6-3; 17-Maria Sakkari (Gre) bt Marta Kostyuk (Ukr) 6-4, 6-3.

5-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt Rebecca Marino (Can) 6-2, 6-3; 25na Pironkova (Bul) 6-2, 6-1; 19-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) bt Aliaksandra Sasnovich (Blr) 6-2, 6-3; 16-Angelique Kerber (Ger) bt Dayana Yastremska (Ukr) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(3); 21-Coco Gauff (USA) bt Magda Linette (Pol) 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; Kaia Kanepi (Est) bt 31-Yulia Putintseva (Kaz) 2-6, 7-6(4), 6-2; 3-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) bt Marie Bouzkova (Cze) 6-4, 6-1. 8-Barbora Krejcikova (Cze) bt Astra Sharma (Aus) 6-0, 6-4; 32-

Darya Kasatkina (Rus) bt Tsveta-

Sara Errani (Ita) 6-3, 6-2; 18-Victoria Azarenka (Blr) bt Tereza Martincova (Cze) 6-4, 6-0; 9-Garbine Muguruza (Esp) bt Donna Vekic (Cro) 7-6(4), 7-6(5): 15-Elise Mertens (Bel) bt Rebecca Peterson (Swe) 3-6, 7-6(5), 7-6 20-Ons Jabeur (Tun) bt Alize

Ekaterina Alexandrova (Rus) bt

Cornet (Fra) 7-5, 7-5; 26-Danielle Collins (USA) bt Carla Suarez (Esp) 6-2, 6-4; 2-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Nina Stojanovic (Srb) 6-4, 6-7(4), 6-0.

Combination of Protection and Savings

Contact your agent/branch or visit our website www,licindia,in or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474





Jab LIC ka ho saath, toh fikr ki chhodo baat

For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read the sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

IRDAI Regn No.: 512

www.licindia.in

TV PICKS

Tokyo 2020 Paralympics: DD Sports & Eurosport (SD & HD), 5.45 a.m. & 2.30 p.m. European 2022 WC Qualifiers: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. & Sony Ten 1, 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 12.15 a.m. (Thursday)
US OPEN 2021: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m.& 4

a.m. (Thursday)

Ramkumar advances

IN BRIEF

MALLORCA (SPAIN) Ramkumar Ramanathan beat wild card entrant Carlos Gomez-Herrera of Spain 6-7(1), 6-4, 7-5 in the first round of the €44,820 Challenger tennis

tournament here on Tuesday. Other result: €44,820 Challenger, St. Tropez, France: Hugo Grenier (Fra) bt Prajnesh

Gunneswaran 7-5, 6-3.

Rich haul by **Indian boxers**

Indian boxers won six gold, nine silver and five bronze medals in the Asian youth championships in Dubai. Preeti Dahiya (60kg), Sneha Kumari (66kg), Khushi (75kg) and Neha (54kg) clinched gold while, Preeti (57kg), Khushi (63kg), Tanisha Sandhu (81kg), Nivedita (48kg), Tamanna (50kg) and Simran (52kg) took silver. PTI

India beats Cuba in U-19 World volleyball

India defeated Cuba 25-20, 25-17, 25-17 in a playoff Match of the FIVB boys' (U-19) World volleyball championship on Tuesday.



Akram denies interest in becoming PCB chief

Former Pakistan captain and fast bowling great Wasim Akram has denied reports he is interested in becoming chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board. Akram tweeted that the job was a specialised one and he was not up for it.

Moise Kean to join Juventus

Moise Kean is set to be the final piece of Juventus' post-Cristiano Ronaldo attack after the Italy forward completed his move from Everton on Tuesday. Kean, 21, returns to the club where he began his professional career on a two-year loan for \$8.3 million). AFP

Vidit fails to make the quarterfinals

CHESS

RAKESH RAO

Vidit Gujrathi's unbeaten run on the final day was not enough to earn him a place in the quarterfinals of the Aimchess US rapid

online chess on Monday. Vidit (7.5 points) drew against Shakhariyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan), Vladislay Artemiey (Russia), Anish Giri (Netherlands) and Awonder Liang (USA) and stunned Levon Aronian (Armenia) to finish tied 11th. Vidit could have finished higher had he not blundered in a winning position against Liang.

Artemiev topped the preliminary league, scoring 10.5 points from 15 rounds. World champion Magnus Carlsen (10) took the second spot, half a point ahead of Aronian and Alireza Firouzja (France). Quarterfinal line-up: Artemiev-Dominguez; Wesley So-Firouzja; Mamedyarov-Aronian; Duda-Carlsen.

Abdul Rahman (33) fol-

An exemplary speed merchant bids adieu

Dale Steyn retires from cricket, a sport the South African giant adorned with finesse and fire

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

Many summers ago, a domestic match was in progress at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Javagal Srinath, one of India's greatest ever fast bowlers, dropped in and he was then donning a freshly minted ICC match referee avatar. He sauntered towards the assembled press corps and gushed about a fellow purveyor of speed.

The name was Dale Steyn but those were early days for the South African spearhead. Yet Srinath was convinced: "Steyn has an excellent action, smooth, and superb control. He is the one to watch out for." This wasn't just the 'Fast Bowlers Club' on overdrive, this was a genuine observation. Since that day in 2006, Steyn, despite those odd injury-enforced-breaks, showed that he was one of the finest exponents of scorching pace allied with intelligence.

High on grace

But time flies, limbs tire and the greatest have to step aside. At 38, with an enviable record to boot - 439 Test wickets, 196 ODI scalps and 64 victims in Twenty20Is, Steyn bid goodbye to his glorious career on Tuesday. "Today I officially retire from the game I love the most. Bitter sweet but grateful," he



In full flight: Dale Steyn could hustle the best with his pace and control. • AF

Dale Steyn's career in numbers

Bowling	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Avg.	Econ	SR	5WI/10WM
Tests	93	171	439	7/51	22.95	3.24	42.30	26/5
ODIs	125	124	196	6/39	25.95	4.87	31.90	3/0
T20Is	47	47	64	4/9	18.35	6.94	15.80	0/0
IPL	95	95	97	3/8	25.86	6.92	22.43	0/0

mentioned in a note high on grace. The last mentioned being his innate trait even if on the field he was a muchfeared opponent.

Steyn could scythe through batting line-ups, hustling the batsmen, rushing them into mistakes while

stumps cart-wheeled, slips exulted and pads got ruffled. There was Allan Donald in the past and Steyn was perhaps his natural successor with a smooth run-up yielding to a fine load-up and pre-

His duels with leading bat-

smen was one for the cricketing gods. There was one against Sachin Tendulkar during the 2011 Cape Town Test. This was a high-octane battle between Steyn's fire and Tendulkar's ice. Steyn did all that he could, probing, looking for flaws and the Go well, great man. You were fire, one of the best the game has seen

VIRENDER SEHWAG

Great player, great man, amazing memories! U picker a good song to sign off my bud. Legend forever!

Legend! No greater fast bowler in all conditions! See you in the bush for a beer soon, boet!

maestro countered everythadroitly. Tendulkar scored a ton but that passage of play between him and the South African ace was rivet-

Years later, the Stevn-AB de Villiers battles in the Indian Premier League held an allure. Steyn emerged second best but de Villiers wouldn't say a negative word about his South African compatriot. Such was the respect Steyn had within the Proteas dressing room. He quit Tests two years ago to extend his limited-overs career but with COVID-19 affecting schedules, a fitting swansong never happened. Steyn will be missed even if batsmen heave a sigh of relief.

Vinesh fails to make it, Sangeeta qualifies

WRESTLING

Y.B. SARANGI KOLKATA

Vinesh Phogat met with disappointment, while her cousin Sangeeta Phogat sprung a surprise in the selection trials for the World wrestling championships, to be held in Oslo (Norway) from October 2 to 10, in Delhi on Tuesday.

Vinesh won her first bout against Anju in the 55kg weight class. However, the ace wrestler withdrew after feeling unwell.

Sangeeta, wife of Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang Punia, made an impressive return to competitive wrestling after three years and surgeries on both her knees. She defeated Manisha, who earlier beat Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik, in the final to book her berth in 62kg.

Anshu Malik (57kg), Sarita Mor (59kg), who beat Pooja Dhanda, and Divya Kakran (72kg) were some prominent names to win the

trials. Four medallists, including Yash Tushir (74kg), Gourav Baliyan (79kg) and Anirudh Kumar (125kg) in men's freestyle and Bhateri (65kg) in women's section, from the recently concluded World junior champion-

ships made it to the squad. Yash got past seasoned



Sangeeta Phogat. ■PTI

Amit Dhankar, while Baliyan beat World championships medallist Narsingh Yadav.

Since there was only one wrestler in 63kg and 82kg of Greco Roman, 92kg of freestyle and 76kg of women's styles, the selection committee decided to hold the trials in these weight categories next week, said a WFI release.

Selected wrestlers: Men: Freestyle: 57kg-Shubham, 61kg-Ravinder, 65kg-Rohit, 70kg-Sushil, 74kg-Yash Tushir, 79kg-Gourav Baliyan, 86kg-Sandeep Mann, 97kg-Satyawart Kadian, 125kg-Anirudh Kumar. Greco Roman: 55kg-Sandeep, 60kg-Gyanender, 67kg-Gaurav Duhan, 77kg-Sajan, 87kg-Sunil Kumar, 97kg-Ravi, 130kg-Naveen Kumar. Women: 50kg-Hanny Kumari,

53kg-Pooja Jatt, 55kg-Pinki, 57kg-Anshu Malik, 59kg-Sarita Mor, 62kg-Sangeeta Phogat, 65kg-Bhateri, 68kg-Ritu Malik, 72kg-Divya Kakran.

Bangladesh begins as the favourite against a weakened New Zealand

The home side hopes to finally beat the Kiwis for the first time in the format

NZ IN BANGLADESH

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mahmudullah Captain warned his Bangladesh side that it can't be complacent against a weakened New Zealand going into their fivematch Twenty20 series starting on Wednesday.

New Zealand has picked none of its Twenty20 World Cup squad for its first tour of Bangladesh since 2013. Tom Latham is the stand-in captain and Glenn Pocknall the stand-in coach.

Even so, Mahmudullah said on Tuesday the New Zealanders can't underestimated.

"New Zealand is without their first-choice players but they are a well organised and an extremely disciplined side." Mahmudullah said. "They are a team which does a lot of homework about condition and opponents. From what I have seen, they always try to execute their plan well.'

Bangladesh is heavily fa-



Cautiously optimistic: Mahmudullah warned his side that the New Zealanders can't be underestimated. • AFP

voured to finally beat New Zealand for the first time in the format.

The home side won't veer far from its strategy against the Australians on the same spinning paradise pitches at Shere Bangla National Stadi-

Shakib Al Hasan and Nasum Ahmed should extract suffocating spin, and the middle order batting will be bolstered by the return from

injury of Mushfigur Rahim. New Zealand has only three players with more than 10 T20s – Latham, Colin de Grandhomme and Scott Kuggeleijn - and three more who could make their international debut. They all have a chance to impress as injury replacements for the coming T20 World Cup.

Rough ride

Latham admitted he's expecting a rough ride, but they remained hopeful.

"We know things won't be easy over here, looking at the Australia series," Latham

"This is a slightly younger group. There's a bit of experience here, so will try to lean on those guys as much as possible. Most of the guys have played T20s for New Zealand but probably not as much as they would like to. We have to enjoy ourselves out there, and stick to a brand of cricket that we believe can be successful in these conditions. Our goal is to win the series."

'I love being cut off from the world' +

Solo non-stop circumnavigator Abhilash Tomy opens up

C.K. MURALIDHARAN

Commander Abhilash Tomy, 42, a retired Indian naval officer was the first Indian to circumnavigate non-stop the World solo without any stops in 2013. He shared his experience

with The Hindu during the National sailing championships recently. *Excerpts*: What inspired you to take up

the around the world solo expedition?

I was fascinated by the "Around Alone" race in which a French lady was the champion. I was very impressed and

wanted to emulate her and sail alone when I grew up. I joined the Navy sailing

team and was sent to Mumbai for six months training I was chosen as the ser-

vice back-up for Dilip Doade's solo circumnavigation and gained valuable experience in 2009-10.

Later the Navy offered me a chance to circumnavigate the world solo without stops

Golconda Masters Telangana Open to tee off tomorrow



Abhilash Tomy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tell us about your circumnavigation experience

I undertook the expedition from Mumbai (called Sagar Parikrama 2) on November 1, 2012 and returned to the city on March 31, 2013, completing a voyage of 23,100 nautical miles without any

The then President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, gave a ceremonial reception at the Gateway of India on April 6, 2013. I was the first Indian, second Asian and 79th person to accomplish

in the 2018 Golden Globe I raced solo in a 10m/32 feet

boat with no modern equipment for support.

Your experience competing

It was a very challenging race. It started and ended in France. I improved my position after 10/15 days and after 82 days was in third posi-The last 15 days were the

most difficult, as I experienced bad weather, storms and had a bad accident near Australia and my boat was damaged. I had a fall and broke my spine. I was rescued in a

joined duty after six months after passing the military medicals for flying / sailing. In January this year, I

multinational rescue effort.

I was operated upon and re-

took early retirement to prepare for the 2022 race. Why this race again?

I love sailing. I like to be cut off from the world and it has given me more individuality. Spiritually I am involved with nature and the sea and it leads to a great feeling within me.

Sheikh holds on to lead

CARROM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Mohammed Sheikh was unable to capture the magic of the first round, yet stayed in the lead with a cumulative score of 32 points after two rounds of the Champions league in the Indian online carrom challenge organised by the All India Carrom Federation (AICF).

After a spectacular performance in the opening round when he had three points thanks to an universal slam and a white slam, Mohammed Sheikh compiled a score of 29 points in clearing the eight boards in the second round, and had a white slam to show.

lowed one point behind the leader, while Riyaz Akbar Ali (47), Mohd. Ghufran (48), Mohd. Arif (50), K. Srinivas (52), Yogesh Dhongade (53) and Vikas Dharia (56) were trying to bridge the gap at the top so as to make the semifinals after four rounds. The reigning World

champion Prashant More was in the 16th spot with 75 points, while Yogesh Pardeshi was in the 11th spot with 65 points. In the women's section,

Rashmi Kumari continued to retain the lead with 64 points. She was followed by Nidhi Gupta (83), S. Shainy (84), S. Appoorwa (85), Aakanksha Kadam (90), Naga Jothi (95), Deepa Naik (95) in the race for knockout stage.

GOLF V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

The seventh edition of Golconda Masters Telangana Open golf championship, organised by Hyderabad Golf Association and the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), will be held at the picturesque Golconda golf course from September 2 to 5, according to tournament director Sampath Chari.

Mr. Chari informed media

on Tuesday that the event, sponsored by Vooty Golf County and Haldi Golf County in partnership with Telangana Tourism, would see 129 golfers, including six

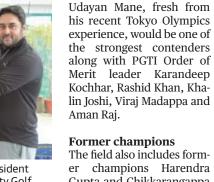


Participants can collect world-ranking points in season's first PGTI event

amateurs, in action. ning much. The fact that the golfers can collect world-"The course is in excel-

County, with the trophy. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lent shape offering differing ranking points from this kinds of challenges to the meet itself should be a huge motivation," said Mr. Chari. golfers with the ball not run-



Former champions

Defending

champion

The field also includes former champions Harendra Gupta and Chikkarangappa besides the Bangladeshi duo of Md. Zamal Hossain Mollah and Badal Hossain.

The local challenge will come from Haider Hussain, Mohd Azhar, Venkkat Gautham, Rupinder Singh

Singh. Mane said he couldn't have asked for a better

Gill and Sanjay Kumar

course and setting to start the season which also includes about 10 premier events in the next three months.

Top three

Kochhar rated the course as one of the top three in the country and that it was great to see so kids playing the sport on the greens here.

C. Dayakar Reddy, HGA president, and Mr. K.S. Sreenivasa Raju, IAS, Secretary to State Government, Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture, also spoke.