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fundamental stature: HC

The right to protest and express dissent occupies a fundamental stature in a democratic polity and therefore the sole act of protesting should not be employed as a weapon to justify the incarceration of those exercising it, the Delhi High Court said on Friday while granting bail to five accused. including a woman, in a north-east Delhi riots case **CITY** ▶ PAGE 2

Sept. 5 mahapanchayat will be historic: BKU

GHAZIABAD Ahead of the September 5 mahapanchayat in Muzaffarnagar against the contentious farm laws, the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) said on Friday that the mahapanchayat would be historic and would see the participation of farmer groups from across the country. BKU national spokesperson Rakesh Tikait said farmers were linking the event to their dignity.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

Edible oil prices likely to ease by December: official

But govt. unlikely to reduce import duties: Food Secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

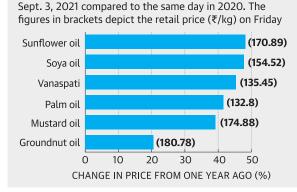
Soaring edible oil prices are likely to soften by December as international commodity futures show a declining trend and along with the arrival of domestic oilseed crops, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said on Friday. However, he indicated that the government would be constrained from further import duty cuts to reduce oil prices as it needs to augment its own resources affected by COVID-19.

Average retail prices of major edible oils have risen by up to 48% over the last year, driven by surging global prices and lower domestic production of soybean, which is India's largest oilseed crop. However, Mr. Pandey expressed confidence that the spike is over.

"December futures for soybean and palm oil are showing marginally declining trends. So we can expect that there will be no more rise in prices," Mr. Pandey said, adding that arrivals of domestic soybean crop and

A costly affair | The chart shows the %

change in the all-India retail price of major edible oils on



the rabi mustard would also help to soften prices. "Hopefully, prices should remain under control. There will be a decline, but not a very dramatic decline because global commodity pressures are still there."

Officials say that one of the reasons that global prices have surged is excessive buying of edible oil by China. Another reason is that many major oil producers are aggressively pursuing biofuel policies and diverting edible oil crops for that purpose. That includes oil palm in Malaysia and Indonesia as well as soybean in the U.S, the two oil types that make up 50% of India's domestic consumption.

India currently imports about 60% of its edible oil needs, leaving the country's retail prices vulnerable to international pressures. However, governmental taxes and duties also make up a major chunk of the retail price of edible oils.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Mullah Baradar set to head Taliban govt. in Afghanistan

Mullah Yaqoob, Abbas Stanekzai to be senior members of new regime: sources

Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE REUTERS

Taliban co-founder Mullah Baradar will lead a new Afghan government that could be announced soon, sources in the Islamist group said on Friday, as it battled rebel fighters and tried to ward off economic collapse.

Mullah Baradar, who heads the Taliban's political office, will be joined by Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, the son of late Taliban founder Mullah Omar, and Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai in senior positions in the government, three sources said. "All the top leaders have arrived in Kabul, where preparations are in the final stages to announce the new government," a Taliban official told Reuters.

The announcement of a new administration will not happen until Saturday at the earliest, a Taliban spokesman said. The Taliban seized Kabul on August 15.

While the West has adopted a wait-and-see approach

م فی أفغانستان ولب راوستلو ترون م صلح به افغانستان In control: A file photo of Taliban co-founder Mullah Baradar

at the signing of the U.S.-Taliban agreement in Qatar. • AFP

to the Taliban, China confirmed a tweet from a Taliban spokesman indicating that Beijing will keep its embassy in Kabul open.

"We hope the Taliban will establish an open and inclusive political structure, pursue moderate and stable domestic and foreign policy, and make a clean break with all terrorist groups," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said.

The government's legitimacy in the eyes of international donors and investors will be crucial for an economy grappling with drought and the ravages of a conflict that killed an estimated 2,40,000 Afghans.

'Impending catastrophe' Humanitarian groups have warned of impending catastrophe and the economy, reliant for years on many millions of dollars of foreign aid, is close to collapse.

"Since August 15, we have seen the crisis accelerate and magnify, with the imminent economic collapse that is

Last province continues fight

Anti-Taliban fighters in Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley said on Friday they were battling to repulse "heavy" assaults as the Islamists seek to capture the last holdout province defying their rule. Efforts to strike a peace deal between the two sides have failed. > PAGE 13

coming this country's way," Mary-Ellen McGroarty, director of the World Food Programme in Afghanistan, said.

The United Nations said it had restarted humanitarian flights to parts of the country, linking the Pakistani capital Islamabad with Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan and Kandahar in the south.

A senior executive of Western Union Co said the firm was resuming money-transfer services to Afghanistan in line with a U.S. push to keep up humanitarian work.

_ Delhi's excess deaths twice the official COVID-19 toll

Undercount at 3.4 from **Jan.-June 2021**

CHENNAI

The number of "excess deaths" registered by the Civil Registration System (CRS) in Delhi ever since the CO-VID-19 pandemic hit (from April 2020 to June 2021) was an estimated 55,239, which is 2.2 times the official reported figure of 24,977 COVID-19 deaths for the same period.

The undercount factor increased to 3.4 if only the January to June 2021 period is considered, rising due to a surge in mortality during the second wave in May and June

Data on deaths registered from January 2020 to June 2021 in Delhi were sourced by The Hindu via multiple Right to Information (RTI) queries filed with five urban local bodies. Data for the pre-

Low multiple

Excess deaths in Delhi were 2.2 times the official COVID-19 death toll during (April 2020-June 2021)

Period	Multiple
AprDec. '20	0.6
JanMay '21	2.8
JanJune '21	3.4
Apr. '20-May '21	1.9
Apr. '20-June '21	2.2

vious vears were sourced from the annual reports on the registration of births and deaths in Delhi.

The excess deaths were calculated as the difference between the month-wise total number during the pandemic period and the average of deaths registered for the same months during the pre-pandemic period (2018 & 2019). If only 2020 is considered, the excess deaths are considerably fewer than the

Thus, the undercount factor was below one. This might be due to the sudden drop in the number of patients from outside Delhi due to a stringent lockdown and border closings during the first wave.

The CRS includes deaths among the migratory population too, while the death estimations done by the Sample Registration System considers only the fatalities among the domiciliary population. Back in 2001, the number of registered CRS deaths in Delhi was only 1.1 times that of

the estimated SRS deaths. By 2018, registered CRS deaths were more than double (2.25 times) the estimated SRS deaths. This shows the significant increase in patients from outside Delhi who come to the city's hospitals to access its superior healthcare facilities.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC Collegium clears 68 names for HC judges

Priority to address judicial vacancies

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Within days of successfully getting nine new judges appointed to the Supreme Court in one go, the top court's Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, has, in vet another first, recommended 68 names in one stroke for elevation as judges of various High Courts.

The Collegium, in backto-back meetings on August 5 and September 1, considered 112 candidates for High Court appointments. Sixty-eight of 112 names have been recommended for appointments to 12 High Courts. Of the 68, there are 44 from the Bar and 24 from the judicial service.

Scripting history in gender representation in the judiciary yet again, the Collegium recommended a woman judicial officer belong-

NEW DELHI

ing to the Scheduled Tribes. Marli Vankung, as judge of the Gauhati High Court. If the government approves the recommendation, she would be the first ever High

Even otherwise, the Colrecommended legium's names have 10 women.

Court judge from the State

16 candidates

of Mizoram.

Meanwhile, the Collegium has sought further details about 16 candidates whose names were considered in its meetings.

The 12 High Courts for which the names have been recommended are Allahabad, Rajasthan, Calcutta, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab and Harvana, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Assam.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Directed by SC, Delhi Police traces minor girl to Kolkata within days

It was in direct contrast to U.P. Police's two-month delay

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Barely 48 hours after it was put on the job by the Supreme Court, the Delhi Police traced a minor girl to Kolkata and arrested a man accused of kidnapping her.

The speed with which the Delhi Police acted on the case came out in direct contrast to the Uttar Pradesh Police's inability to trace the girl, who is from Gorakhpur, for two months.

"This is certainly a reflection of the U.P. Police," a Bench led by Justice A.M.

Khanwilkar remarked orally. Exasperated by the U.P. Police's attitude, the court, which was hearing a habeas corpus petition filed by the 13-year-old's mother, had turned to the Delhi Police on September 1.

In fact, the last straw for the court was when the U.P. Police asked for another two weeks to crack the case.

The court said the U.P. Police seemed to have not realised the urgency and seriousness of the case.

In the last hearing, the court asked the Delhi Police Commissioner "to ensure that prompt further investigation, as may be necessary, is directed in tracing out the missing girl and report com pliance at the earliest".

On Friday, the Delhi Police counsel said the girl would be handed over to the mother, represented by advocate Amit Pai, on Saturday. It said the relevant evidence, including medical, have been placed on record.

The girl had last been seen by her vounger sister on the morning of July 8 before she had gone missing.

Footprints of 3 dinosaur species found in Thar desert

Sands of time: the giant finds in western Rajasthan are estimated to be 200 million years old

MOHAMMED IQBAL

In a major discovery, footprints of three species of dinosaurs have been found in the Thar desert in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district, proving the presence of the giant reptiles in the western part of the State, which formed the seashore to the Tethys Ocean during the Mesozoic

The footprints, made in the sediment or silt of the seashore, later became permanently stone-like. They belong to three species of dinosaurs – Eubrontes cf. giganteus, Eubrontes glenrosensis and Grallator *tenuis*. While the giganteus and glenrosensis species have 35 cm footprints, the

footprint of the third species was found to be 5.5 cm. Virendra Singh Parihar,

assistant professor, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, a member of the team of palaeontologists that made the discovery recently, told The Hindu on Friday that the footprints were 200 million years old. They were found near Jaisalmer's Thaiat village.

All carnivorous

The dinosaur species are considered to be of the theropod type, with the distinguishing features of hollow bones and feet with three digits. All the three species, belonging to the early Jurassic period, were carnivorous, said Dr. Parihar.



Eubrontes could have

scientists to interpret

ancient environments in

which the rocks of the



Jurassic link: Footprints of dinosaurs found in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

been 12 to 15 m long and weighed between 500 kg deposited. and 700 kg, while the height of the Grallator is estimated to have been 2 m, as much suggested that after the as a human, with a length of up to three metres. Careful geological observations enabled the

footprints, which were once soft sediments, were Fieldwork in the Kutch

and Jaisalmer basins has main transgression during the early Jurassic period, the sea level changed several times. Dr. Parihar said some

features of the Grallator

tenuis footprint, involving a

wide angle of digits, very narrow toes, and long claws, had strong similarities to the early Jurassic ichnogenus of Stenonyx. Jan Schlogl of Comenius

University in Slovakia and Grzegorz Pienkowski from Warsaw University in Poland were the first to discover dinosaur footprints in India after the 'Ninth International Congress on the Jurassic System' was held in Jaipur in 2014.

Dr. Parihar said the possibility of finding more evidence of dinosaurs in the **Jaisalmer and Barmer** districts is very strong. "It is just the beginning of the findings of dinosaur remains in Rajasthan. More such discoveries will be made in the near future," he said.



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IN BRIEF

High Court refuses to reinstate CRPF constable

The Delhi High Court has refused to reinstate a CRPF constable, who was compulsorily retired from service, finding that he circulated an objectionable WhatsApp message to 200 other staff with an intent to defame an officer.

mobile canteen for its officers in Dwarka

of Police (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said the pilot project will be manned by one upper-rank officer and his subordinate – who will be in-charge of a mobile phone.

mobile phone on which Duty Point In-charge or make a request for delivery places during special arrangement and law and order duty," Mr. Meena said.

Personnel deployed in various law and order situations like riots, crowd management, religious gatherings, various festivals, political rallies, area domination, patrolling street crime-prone areas and inter-State borders will get food items, snacks, aerated water, soft drinks in the mobile to their places

Chargesheet against me figment of police's imagination: Khalid

The former JNU student leader, held in a riots conspiracy case, is seeking bail

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Former JNU student leader Umar Khalid, arrested in the north-east Delhi riots conspiracy case, told a local court on Friday that the chargesheet against him contained hyperbolic allegations without any factual basis.

"The chargesheet is a result of the fertile imagination of the police officer who drafted it and the witnesses are procured ... He is not writing the script of The Family Man [a famous web series starring actor Manoj Bajpayee]," senior advocate Trideep Pais, representing Mr. Khalid, contended while seeking bail.

Mr. Khalid, arrested on September 13, 2020, is facing charges under the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for allegedly

'Classes IX, XI to follow

CBSE two-term system'



Umar Khalid

being one of the 'masterminds' and one of the main conspirators as well as instigators behind the riots in northeast Delhi last year.

Mr. Pais described the chargesheet as figment of imagination of the police referring to a line which stated that Mr. Khalid kept a safe distance from Delhi as he knew that it would be thrown into

"The last person who travelled with someone and got into this officer's head was

and annual examination

[Term-2] with approximate-

ly 50% syllabus in each.

Each term will have 50% weightage for the calcula-

The order elaborated that

question papers in the 90-

minute Term-1 or mid-term

exams that will be conduct-

ed in October or November

will have multiple-choice

will be two hours, and it will

be descriptive with short- or

(Rajeshwari B.) MGNREGA Commissioner, RDD.

The duration of Term-2

tion of final results."

questions.

He is not writing the script of The Family Man [a famous web series starring actor Manoj Bajpayee]

TRIDEEP PAIS [WHO IS REPRESENTING MR.

Voldemort from Harry Potter," the senior advocate quipped.

Mr. Pais further argued that several statements carried in the chargesheet could not be relied upon while considering his bail. "There is no way these statements are consistent with each other and meet the test under the UA-PA," he argued.

Mr. Pais said there was nothing in Mr. Khalid's speech that was seditious, however, public opinion was being shaped by the nature of language and allegations in

the chargesheet. The court will hear the bail plea again on September 6.

Police's stance

Earlier, the Delhi police had stated that Mr. Khalid cannot claim parity with other accused - Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha - who were released on regular bail.

The Delhi police said the Supreme Court, while hearing the appeal filed by them against the judgments granting bail to the three, had clarified that these judgments "shall not be treated as a precedent and may not be relied upon by any of the parties in any of the proceedings."

"So, these judgments cannot be cited and relied upon by the applicant/accused [Mr. Khalid] in the instant case," the Delhi police said.

Schools need to expand role to make education a mass movement: Sisodia

Heads finish course on skill development

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

During an interaction with heads of Delhi government schools, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday said the institutes have to expand their role to make education movement.

He added that the school heads need to play the role of education leaders and engage the community with the school so that the learning environment is not confined to the boundary walls. The heads of schools completed a Cluster Leadership Development Programme (CLDP) for their professional development and leadership upskilling of school heads of government schools in Delhi on Friday.

Mr. Sisodia said, "This programme plays a multifaceted role for the education ecosystem. If this programme is not in place, then many aspects of education will remain untouched. This programme has helped in creating an environment of education leadership."

"Our school heads have to play a role as education leaders. This will not only benefit the schools of a cluster but also the rest of the citizens living within the geographical radius of that cluster and an environment for education will be created in the entire region," Mr. Sisodia said.

press dissent is a right, which occupies a fundamental stature in a democratic polity and the sole act of protesting should not be employed as a weapon to justify

Court says right to protest fundamental in democratic polity

HC grants bail to five persons

in north-east Delhi riots case

Policemen in north-east Delhi on February 26, 2020. ■ FILE PHOTO

common intention to accomplish the unlawful com-Justice Subramonium Pramon object," Justice Prasad sum, a married woman with observed.

"There cannot be an umbrella assumption of guilt on behalf of every accused by the court, and every decision must be taken based on a careful consideration of the facts and circumstances in the matter," the judge said. Opposing the bail plea. Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju stated that on the morning of February 24, 2020, a crowd carrying various weapons such as dandas, lathis, baseball bats, iron rods and stones, convened at the main Wazirabad Road and refused to pay heed to the orders of senior

officers and the police force. Mr. Raju stated that the crowd soon got out of control and started pelting stones at the police officers, and resultantly, more than 50 police personnel suffered injuries and Head Constable Ratan Lal was shot dead. Mr. Raju added the protestors turned violent, burnt private and public vehicles as well as other properties in the vicinity, including a petrol pump and a car showroom.

Justice Prasad, however, remarked, "The applicability of Section 149 IPC (unlawful assembly), specifically read with Section 302 (murder), cannot be done on the basis of vague evidence and general allegations."

The judge noted that the five persons had been added as accused by way of chargesheet and that none of them had been explicitly caught on any CCTV camera in connection with the crime.

"It is egregious and against the principles enshrined in our Constitution to allow an accused to remain languishing behind bars during the pendency of the trial," Justice Prasad said, adding, "Bail is the rule and jail is the exception."

Two persons arrested for bike theft

30 motorcycles recovered from the accused, say police

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

The right to protest and ex-

the incarceration of those

who are exercising this

right, the Delhi High Court

said on Friday while grant-

ing bail to five persons in a

sad granted bail to Tabas-

two children, who was ar-

rested in October 2020. The

High Court also granted bail

to Suvaleen, Furkan, Mohd

Arif and Shabad Ahmed,

who were arrested between

All five persons were ar-

raigned as accused in con-

nection with the death of a

Head Constable during the

involved, at the juncture of

grant or denial of bail, the

court must hesitate before

arriving at the conclusion

that every member of the

unlawful assembly inhabits a

"When there is a crowd

March and May in 2020.

north-east Delhi riots.

north-east Delhi riots case.

Bailed perons

NEW DELHI

Two persons have been arrested from Mewat for allegedly stealing two-wheelers, the police said on Friday. A total of 30 motorcycles have

been recovered, they said. DCP (Dwarka) S.K. Meena said the accused have been identified as Arshad alias Kallu (28) and Mushtfa alias Kippa (23) - both from Bharatpur.

On August 30, the police got information regarding two persons from Mewat who are involved in cases of bike theft. A trap was laid and the accused were arrested from near Peeragarhi in the afternoon.

It was revealed that the two have stolen over 50 bikes from Delhi and handed them over to Sajid, Imran, and Waheed of Sahsan

On their instance, three bikes from Mundka Industrial Area have been recovered. Subsequently, a raid was conducted at Sahsan village and 25 stolen vehicles were recovered from a godown. Receivers of the vehicles are said to be abscond-

During interrogation, the police said it was revealed that Arshad is the leader of the gang. This gang steals the vehicles from Delhi and Bharatpur and park them at secluded places and then give it to Imran and Wahid who then arrange local boys to drive the two-wheelers vehicles back to the village. They modify the stolen vehicles by forging engine numbers and chassis numbers. They then sell in Mewat's lo-

cal markets, Mr. Meena said.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM Agency for Establishing AMR System for 11 KV Feeders and Projects/AMR rojects@uhbvn.org.i their O&M for a period of 5 years in R-APDRP & IPDS Areas of UHBVN & DHBVN, Extension of date 07.09.2021 at 15:00 Hrs FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.hai SAMVAD 13/2022/40/4549/I/199/7

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TENDER NOTICE No. 27 dated 03.09.2021 Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system

Ov Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur and on pehalf of the President of India, invite enders through e-procurement system or the supply of the following items complete description of the item an ther condition are available on

www.tenders.gov.in Item No.- 1. Tender No. & due date 10215942A Due on Dt.- 07.10.2021, Brief Description of Stores: Parts of Modified Ground Connection for 20mm etc. Otv. Required: 720 Set Earnest Money(Rs.): 0

vebsite www.ireps.gov.in &

tem No.- 2. Tender No. & due date: 10216040A Due on Dt.- 04.10.2021 Brief Description of Stores: IRS Typ Fround Connection for EPM- 143mi roke etc. Qty. Required: 530 Se Earnest Money(Rs.): 0

Above tenders are available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in the irm desirous in participating agains tender are advised to electronicall egd, themselves on the above websit or which they would required to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtain) from certifying agenciuthorized under govt, of India IT Act 2000. Manual offers will not b ccepted. 3. Advertised tender and bulletin tenders of Dy.CMM/Depo office, NER are being opened throug EPS (E-Procurement system) onl Firms desiring to participate i Dy.CMM/Depot. Tenders should btain necessary digital certificate and get themselves registered with CRIS/New Delhi. Necessary details n this regard can be obtained from he website http//www.ireps.gov.ir 4. In case of difference between English and Hindi version of the tender notice the Englsh version shall prevai 5. Head of allocation towards, S I noney is 00844517 and Earnest, mone 00084506. 6. The Tender Cost EMD will be accepted through On-Line payment on IREPS Portal only for the ender published on or after 01.09.2016 gainst all the Dy. CMM/Depot/ NER.

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KP tenders except Global Tender.

Mukhyamantri Laghu Evam Kutir Udyam Vikas Board (Government of Jharkhand Undertaking) 4th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ratu Road, Ranchi 834001 Corrigendum

Ref. No: 720

Date: 02.09.2021

Subsequent to the discussions held in pre-bid meeting on 01.09.2021 for e-tender Advt. PR No: 252248 dated 27.08.2021 for supply, installation and commissioning of Machines & Equipment for Annatdev Woodcraft Producer Company Limited, Bokaro (Jharkhand) certain machine specifications have been changed in the bid document.

Detailed revised specifications can be seen on the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/http://mmlkuvb .jharkhand.gov.in

Chief Executive Officer

4º Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ratu Road, Ranchi – 834001 (Jharkhand) nail- contact.cmlaghukutir@gmail.com, Phone: 9102467777, 9262219999 PR.NO.252611 Mukhyamantri Laghu And Kutir Udyam Vikas Board(21-22):D



GOVT. OF JHARKHAND CABINET SECRETARIAT AND VIGILANCE DEPARTMENT (CIVIL AVIATION DIVISION) STATE HANGAR, AIRPORT ROAD,

HINOO, RANCHI-834002 TELEFAX NO.-0651-2250287, 2250319 $govtflyops@gmail.com\underline{/civilaviation.jhr@gmail.com}$

CORRIGENDUM TENDER FOR MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF GOVT. AIRCRAFTS.

Please refer to the Tender Ref. No.: CAD/XI-02/2018/543, Dtd. 23.08.2021 & PR No.-251904 regarding Tender for Maintenance Contract of Govt. Aircrafts. Due to some unavoidable reasons, the last date of opening of bids is modified as follows:-

Date and time of opening of bids

16/09/2021; 11:30 AM In addition to the above, Para No.-7(b) of the E-Tender Notice has been

removed from the Technical bid requirements. The rest Terms & Conditions of E-Tender Notice remains the same. For further details and online applications, please visit jharkhand tenders.gov.in

PR 252655 Civil Aviation (21-22) D

Sd/-Director (Ops.)

Ghaziabad DM told to remove encroachment from green belt area

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal directed the Ghaziabad District Magistrate (DM) to remove encroachment from a green belt area on which a private building has been constructed.

An NGT Bench said there was nothing to rebut the DM's report on the construction being illegal encroachment on a green belt, in violation of the master plan without requisite approvals.

"We direct the DM (Ghaziabad) with the assistance of SSP (Ghaziabad) to forthwith take remedial action of removing encroachment and restoring the green belt," the Bench said while taking note of submissions

made by the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority.

It added: "Any failure in this regard may leave no option except to take coercive measures against the DM and SSP personally."

₹10 lakh fine

The DM was also directed to assess and recover compensation for wrongful encroachment of public land in the green belt. The Tribunal said that pending assessment of final compensation, an interim amount of ₹10 lakh be deposited for violations.

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea alleging encroachment on the green

NGT forms panel to probe 'operation of slaughterhouse'

Committee to file report within 3 months

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Following a plea seeking action against the operation of a slaughterhouse in Ghazipur, the National Green Tribunal constituted a committee to submit a report on the

The committee will comprise officials from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) and district authorities, the Tribunal said.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said the DPCC and the CPCB will be the no-



dal agencies for coordination and compliance with the order. The Bench directed the committee to convene its first meeting within two weeks and conduct an inspection of the site. The committee was also asked to interact with stakeholders and furnish a report within three months.

Police launch

STAFF REPORTER

The police on Friday said they have launched a mobile canteen to provide food to officials on law-andorder duty in Dwarka.

Deputy Commissioner

"Canteen will carry a Company Commander will of food items at required

of duty.

An order issued by the DoE states: "The academic session will be of two-term ex-

aminations, that is, mid-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In line with the CBSE's gui-

delines on conducting two

terms for students in Classes

X and XII, the Directorate of

Education has introduced

the same system for Classes

IX and XI in the city for the

academic session 2021-22.

term examination [Term-1] long-answer questions. Government of Jharkhand Rural Development Department Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, FFP building, Ranchi

(Phone: 0651-2446776. Email: nrega.jhr2015@gmail.com)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF VARIOUS CONTRACTUAL POSITIONS UNDER CLUSTER FACILITATION PROJECT Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has launched Cluster Facilitation Project (CFP) for 3 years with possibility of extension for 2 more years to ensure the effective implementation of

MGNREGA in 51 Blocks of Jharkhand through better planning, coordination, and monitoring State MGNREGA Cell, Rural Development Department intends to build core project team for this ambitious project. The Recruitment is further being facilitated by State Rural Livelihood Mission i.e. JSLPS through its empaneled HR Agency-SIDS. Applications from committed professionals are invited for the

following	positions purely on contract basis:						
Sl. No.	Name of Position	No. of Vacancies					
State Lev	el Positions						
1.	State Project Officer-NRM	1 (UR)					
2.	State Project Officer-GIS	1 (UR)					
3.	State Project Officer-Livelihood	1 (UR)					
District Level Positions (for 21 Districts)							
4.	District Coordinator-NRM	21 (UR-09, EWS-02, ST-05, SC –02 , BC I -02, BC II- 1)					

District GIS Expert 21 (UR-09, EWS-02, ST-05, SC -02, BC I -02, BC II- 1) Recruitment will be conducted by the empaneled independent HR agency i.e. SIDS Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi.

All positions are purely on contractual basis and tenure of service is subject to project period, budget

availability and satisfactory performance of employee Applications would be submitted ONLY through ONLINE and candidates may visit at www.sids.co in/cfp for the purpose. Detailed advertisement including job profiles, eligibility criteria, pay package may also be obtained fromwww.jslps.org/career,http://rdd.jharkhand.gov.in/rdd/circular-notifications/ Last date of receiving applications online is 18th September 2021.

It is the responsibility of the candidates to confirm his/her eligibility criteria against the Job Description Reservation policy of the Government of Jharkhand will apply on reserved position and shall be applicable to applicants who are domicile of Jharkhand. $State\ MGNRE\bar{GA}\ cell\ reserves\ the\ right\ to\ modify\ / cancel\ the\ recruitment\ without\ prior\ notice.$

Test/Interview/ call letters will be issued to the short-listed candidates only. No TA/DA will be admissible to candidates. The online application portal will be live within 48 hours from the date of publishing this

PR.NO.252645 Rural Development(21-22):D Government of Jammu and Kashmir

J&K Pollution Control Con Winter office: November-April Parivesh Bhawan, Gladni, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu, (J&K) 180006. Ph./Fax. 0191-2476925

Summer Office:May-Octobe email: membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.cor

Public Notice

Public Notice

Sub.: Public Hearing for Minor Mineral (River Bed Mineral) Blocks scheduled on 27.09.2021 for i) Block- 04, ii) Block-06, and iii) Block-31 of District Reasi (J&K).

As per EIA Notification Rule7(1) Section (III) issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India vide S.O.1533 dated 14*

September, 2006 (as amended till date), Public Hearing of the below mentioned mining blocks for minor mineral extraction is to be carried out. The Public Hearing is being conducted by J&K Pollution Control Committee as per requirement of EIA notification. The ToRs (Terms of Reference) have been forwarded by JKEIAA/2021/482/763-67 dated 01.04.2021 ii) JKEIAA/2021/520/1238-42 dated 08.05.2021 and iii) JKEIAA/2021/487/786-90 dated 01.04.2021 for the said Public Hearing along with draft EIAs/EMPs, which is scheduled to be conducted as per

Name of Agency	Area	Location of minor mineral area /	Name of Village/ Tehsil/	Location of public hearing
		Coordinates	District	Venue (Date and time)
Shri Karanvir Singh,	9.85	Block 04, having an area 9.85 ha.	Village : Sukitar	Date- 27-09-2021.
S/o Shri Surinder Singh, R/o	Hect.	Anji Khad upstream Sula Park bridge	Teh. & Distt.: Reasi	Time- 10.30 AM to 12 noon
Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar,		District- Reasi Coordinates:	(J&K).	At Govt. Middle School, Kayala
Pathankot, Punjab		A 33°4'28.34" -N		Teh : Reasi.
		74°51'24.49" -E to		Distt.: Reasi (J&K)
		F 33°4'38.88" -N		
		74°51'4.54" - E		
M/s Aggarwal Mines,	9.95	Block 06, having an area 9.95 ha.	Village : Sukitar	Date- 27-09-2021.
R/o 328, Defence Colony,	Hect.	Anji Khad upstream Kayala bridge	Teh. & Distt.: Reasi	Time- 12 noon to 01.30 PM
Pathankot, Punjab.		District-Reasi, Coordinates:	(J&K).	At Govt.Middle School, Kayala
		A 33°4'35.19" -N		Teh Reasi.
		74°52'40.97" -E to		Distt.: Reasi (J&K)
		E 33°4'37.68" -N		
		74°53'9.12" - E		
Shri Parshotam Singh,	7.32	Block 31, having an area 7.32 ha.	Village : Sukitar	Date- 27-09-2021.
S/o Shri Baljit Singh,	Hect.	Anji Khad downstream Sula Park bridge,	Teh. & Distt.: Reasi	Time- 2.00 PM to 3.30 PM
R/o H.No. 56, W.No. 3,		District-Reasi, Coordinates:	(J&K).	At Govt.Middle School, Kayala
Kamra Pati Jalito Faridkot,		A 33º4'32.22" -N		Teh Reasi

H 33º4'25.60" The **Executive Summary** of EIAs and draft EMPs in **English** and **Hindi** of the above proposed mining blocks are available in the website of JKPCC

the Executive Summary of EIAs and draft EMPs in English and Hindi of the above proposed mining blocks are available in the website of JKP., www.jkspcb.nic.in as well as in the following offices:
i) The Commissioner / Secretary to Govt. Forests, Ecology & Environment Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

ii) Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India Northern, Regional Office, Chandigarh.

iii) Director, Ecology Environment & Remote Sensing / Member Secretary, JKEIAA Paryavarana Bhawan, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.

iv) Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.

v) Deputy Commissioner, District Reasi.

vii) Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.

vii) Divisional Officer, Pollution Control committee, Reasi.

iii) District Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining Department, Reasi.

concerned are hereby informed through this notice to send their suggestions / written objections or comments on or before 27th of Septemt

All concerned are hereby informed through this notice to send their suggestions / written objections or comments on or before 27th of September 2021 addressed to Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Parivesh Bhawan, Gladni, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu (09.30 AM to

2021 addressed to Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Parivesh Bhawan, Gladni, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu (09.30 AM to 05.30 PM) on any working day or by email membersecretaryikspcb@gmail.com
The panel for conducting Public Hearing shall be as under.

i) District Magistrate, Reasi, J&K or his representatives not below the rank of Addl. District Magistrate.
ii) Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu or his authorized representative.
iii) District Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining Department, Reasi.
iv) Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Reasi
All interested persons/organizations/groups/stake-holders are invited to participate in the above mentioned Public Hearing on the aforementioned date strictly observing all SOPs and guidelines of COVID-2019 issued in this behalf, at the venue and time and give their suggestions, view comments and objections, if any, to the authorities conducting the Public Hearing.
Any person having interest in this public hearing can also have access to the Executive Summary of EIA from Office of District Pollution Control Committee, Reasi.

(B.M. Sharma) IFS

DIP/J-2575-P/21

JK PCC, Jammu.

Timings DELHI

SATURDAY, SEP. 04 RISE 06:01 SET 18:39 RISE 02:59 SET 17:14 SUNDAY, SEP. 05

RISE 06:02 SET 18:38 RISE 04:00 SET 17:55 MONDAY, SEP. 06

RISE 06:02 SET 18:37 RISE 05:01 SET 18:33

Delhi Weather Delhi City Safdarjang

Delhi Palam Todav 33°C Light rain and drizzle may occur at some areas. Warm and humid day likely with light winds

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 34°C Rise in day temperature likely. A spell of light rain and thunderstorm would occur at

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some places

THEMAHINDU

IN BRIEF



NSUI stages protest against privatisation

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) organised a protest against the increasing privatisation in the country on Friday. National president of NSUI Neeraj Kundan said that the government, by privatising its assets, was unable to stand up to the expectations of the youth who will now be forced to work for private firms.

Sexual assault of minor: police file chargesheet NEW DELH

The Delhi police on Friday filed a chargesheet before a court here in the case of alleged sexual assault of a six-year-old girl by a man in east Delhi last month. officials said. The 187-page charge sheet was filed before Additional Sessions Judge Hasan Anjar who put the matter for further hearing on September 10, they said.

British-era tunnel to be thrown open to public

The Delhi Assembly will throw open a British-era tunnel and a renovated execution room for public next year, Speaker Ram Niwas Goel said on Friday.

Govt. starts giving COVID relief after initial delay

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has released funds to all districts so that they could give ₹50,000 each to those whose family members died due to COVID-19.

On Thursday, The Hindu had reported that hundreds of such people are yet to get the compensation despite their requests being verified and approved as the Delhi government was yet to release funds.

'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojna', under which the compensation is being given, was notified on June 22.

On Thursday evening, the Revenue Department released ₹15.5 crore to 11 districts for natural calamities and this is being used to give the compensation, as per an

official order. "We approved the release of money to many beneficiaries on Friday and it will get credited in their account on Friday or Saturday," a

district official said. Nine districts have got ₹1.5 crore each and two districts have got ₹1 crore each for COVID-19 related activi-

Expert panel to be set up to resolve waterlogging issues in city: Sisodia

Drainage Master Plan submitted to the government in 2018 yet to be implemented

STAFF REPORTER

After several parts of the city witnessed waterlogging for three consecutive days, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday said that those sites should be identified. In order to resolve the problem, "an expert committee will be formed" with officers, and a short-term and long-term plan will be made, he said.

"He [Mr. Sisodia] directed the officers to get rid of the problem and said that waterlogging sites in Delhi should be identified and work should be done on it at the micro level. Only then will the city get rid of this problem," an official statement from the Minister's office said.

Waterlogging had led to the closure of traffic under the Minto Bridge and there were traffic jams in different parts of the city. Residents found it difficult to reach their destinations.

In 2012, the government had commissioned a group of experts from IIT to make



Vehicles passing through the waterlogged areas of G.T. Karnal Road on Friday morning. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

a Drainage Master Plan for the city and it was submitted to the Delhi government in 2018.

Comprehensive solutions The plan gave comprehensive solutions and talks about 330 waterlogging points in the city, identified by Delhi Police, and solutions in many areas. But it has yet to be approved or implemented. Earlier this year, the PWD had identified several such major wa-

terlogging points. Experts have been saying

that implementing the masterplan is the solution to the problem.

A Delhi government spokesperson said that the current problems will be looked at by an existing committee headed by the Public Works Department, which is already looking into the waterlogging issues.

"This committee is looking into different aspects of the Drainage Master Plan submitted to the government and making suggestions or changes. This will be a long-term plan, and

the short-term plan will be made to solve the current major issues," the spokesperson said.

Earlier this week, Minto Bridge was closed for traffic due to waterlogging, and the government had said in a statement on Wednesday: "It has been raining heavily for two days. But the work done by the Delhi government to prevent waterlogging in the past has shown results and there is no problem like bus getting stuck due to waterlogging in Minto Bridge.'

The statement also said that "apart from this, also there are many areas where there was no waterlogging".

Following heavy rains and waterlogging, on August 24, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said that Delhi will "soon get freedom from waterlogging" and "problems will be identified on the ground level".

Overall, the city has gauged 987.7 mm rainfall since June 1, which is 81% more than normal.

STAFF REPORTER

The city reported no new CO-

VID-19 death in 24 hours for

the third consecutive day

and the total number of

deaths stood at 25,082, as

per a bulletin released by the

Delhi government on Friday.

Also, 35 new cases were re-

ported, taking the total cases

Trading Company; Ashirwad Associates

Reduce number of refugees protesting outside UNHCR: HC

'COVID guidelines prohibit gatherings of more than 100 people'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday directed the Delhi government and the police to reduce the number of Afghan nationals protesting outside the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) office here. and that they strictly follow COVID-19 protocol.

"Nobody is stopping them from protesting. Firstly they are at a wrong place. It is not a designated protest site. Plus, as per the COVID-19 guidelines, more than 100 people cannot gather," Justice Rekha Palli remarked.

Law same for all

The judge added, "How can there be 500 protesters. What is this exception of 500 for refugees?" while referring to the restriction of 100 people even for marriage purpose. The court made it clear that the law is the same for everybody.

The High Court's observation came while hearing a petition by Vasant Vihar Welfare Association, which stated that the foreign nationals

COVID cases dip as city sees only 35 infections

1,37,85,457 vaccine doses administered in the Capital so far: government bulletin



Afghan nationals protesting outside the UNHCR office in Vasant Vihar. • shiv kumar pushpakar

have gathered outside the office of the UNHCR at B Block in south Delhi's Vasant Vihar since August 15, including lanes and parks adjoining it and residents are facing difficulties due to this.

The Delhi police's counsel said that as per the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) guidelines, all social, political, sports, entertainment, cultural, religious, or festival related gatherings and congregations are prohibited during the pandemic.

government Central standing counsel Ajay Digpaul said the issue must be seen from a humanitarian angle and urged the court to grant some more time to take a holistic view to resolve

The court has listed the matter for further hearing on September 7, with the caution that if the matter was not resolved by then, it will be constrained to pass certain orders.

The police's counsel said children are also there in the protest for some duration and the officers have tried to persuade the protesters to shift but they are not agreeable and the only option left is to push them away, which was not done since it was a sensitive issue having international ramifications.

'Facilitate approval for New Delhi rly station redevelopment project'

It will be along the lines of IGIA under TOD policy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal on Friday chaired a meeting of the Apex Committee to oversee and facilitate the redevelopment of New Delhi Railway Station along the lines of IGI Airport under the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) policy

The National TOD Policy is focused on development around or along a transit node or corridor to facilitate complete ease of access to the transit facilitates and was approved by Mr. Baijal in his capacity as Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in September 2019.

According to sources present at the meeting, the status of the project, including the grant of NOCs by various departments and preparation of influence zone plans was reviewed.

While appreciating the progress made so far, the source said, Mr. Baijal ad-



Anil Baijal •

adequate provision for vertical greens, recycling of wastewater for non-potable purposes besides ensuring seamless intermodal mobility and pedestrian-friendly pathways.

Timely implementation

According to the source, the DDA, Delhi Police and other departments concerned were advised to proactively facilitate approvals and clearances as required for timely implementation of the project.

The project will, over the next four years, seek to redesign the largest and second-busiest railway station in the country with a daily footfall of approximately 4.5 lakh passengers, both from without and within, according to a senior government

'DSU to make city a factory of Olympic medallists'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Addressing the first meeting of the Board of Management of Delhi Sports Un-Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the university's vision is to create an environment wherein every person in the country will consider sports as a field of education.

"The vision of the Delhi government is to organise the Olympic Games in Delhi before the country goes to the 100th year of independence and the Delhi Sports University will play an important role in fulfilling this vision," Mr. Sisodia said.

He added that the university would strive to making Delhi a factory of Olympic medallists and world champions.

Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Sports University, Karnam Malleshwari said there was no dearth of sporting talent in the country and an athlete just needs a little support to make their talent shine and win a medal.

done in a day and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.05%. Of the total cases, 14,12,430 people have recovered and there are only 362 active cases. As many as 83 people are under home isola-The number of contain-

A total of 63,812 tests were

ment zones in the city fell to 131 from 141 on Thursday, the bulletin added.

The COVID-19 vaccine stock of the city on Friday morning would last for two days, as per another bulletin. Delhi had a balance stock of 5,16,720 vaccine doses, of which 3,73,370 are Covishield and 1,43,350 are Covax-

in, according to the bulletin. A total of 1,53,745 vaccine

doses were administered on Thursday of which 1,06,672 were first doses and 47,073 second doses, it said. The cumulative number of vaccine doses administered in Capital so far is 1,37,85,457, including 39,41,416 second jabs.

A ND-NDE

vised the officials to make official. Police response sought on bail

plea in Jantar Mantar case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought response from Delhi Police on the bail application of one of the organisers of an event near Jantar Mantar where allegedly communal slogans were raised last month.

Justice Mukta Gupta issued notice on Preet Singh's bail application and directed the police to file its status report.

Mr. Singh, who was remanded to judicial custody on August 10 after his arrest, is accused of creating enmity between different groups.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-11 **ADMISSION NOTICE** to "Fellowship Programme in

Oncologic Imaging, Fellowship in Onco Surgical Anaesthesia and Post Doctoral Certificate course in Oncopathology' at Regional Cancer Centre

For further details please visit our Website: www.rcctvm.gov.in



Thiruvananthapuram for the year

Date: 30-08-2021 DIRECTOR RO/01460/D3/2021/I&PRD



• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing



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MGR Knowledge City,CIT Camp Taramani, Chennai - 600113. h: 044-66632503. Web: www.setsindia. vites Applications for th

II) PROJECT SCIENTIST - 2 Nos. applications is 14.09.2021

www.setsindia.in/careers

JMK MERCANTILE LIMITED Email Id: grover@indovax.com Reg. off.: 8TH FLOOR, EROS

NOTICE TO THE MEMBERS FOR 18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

30.09.2021 at 2.30 p.m. through Video Conferencing ('VC')/Other Audio Visual Means ('OAVM') as per circular bearing ref. no. 20/2020 dated 5th May, 2020, 8th April, 2020 and 13th set out in the Notice of AGM. Members attending the AGM through VC/OAVM shall be reckoned for the purpose of quorum under section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013. Further, it is belote 31.03.2021ate requested to send their 1. Name2. Folio No. 3. Mobile No. and 4. Email ID on the Company's Email ID viz: grover@indovax.com or submit these detailsat the Registered Office of the Company on or before 25.09.2021 so that the link to attend the AGM through VC/OAVM can be communicated to all members at their Registered Email IDs and Registered Mobile No. The company is also sending its Annual Report for F.Y.2021 along with Notice

VinodSomnathKapur

said Mortgagors/Borrowers), is surchasing Entire First Floor, built on Plot No. Niti Khand I/920, admeasuring 267.10 Sq. Mtrs., Indirapuram, Ghaziabad (hereinafter referred to 'said property') from Mr. Ankit Malhotra, who is it's absolute owner vide Sale Deed dated 12.10.2020, registered as Document No. 6894. The Borrowers will create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients IDFC First Bank Limited, 2nd Floor, Express Building, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Any person, body, individual, institution having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property by way of sale, exchange, property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance maintenance, inheritance, testamentary deposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my Client.

P.K. Sinha (Advocate)
Plot No. E-56 (LGF),
Sector 72, Noida (U.P.)
Contact: +91-9667070233

Form No. INC-25A newspaper for conversion of public company into a private company Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs New Delhi Region

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND In the matter of

M/S GEETA LEASING AND HOUSING LIMITED having its registered office at A-69, Group Industrial Area, Wazirpur, Delhi -110052

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on **29th** July 2021 to enable the company to give

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/ status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director at B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi 110003, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address

For and on behalf of the Applicant

Vishal Anand (Director

'Yogi to hold talks with cane farmers'

Farmers are on our main agenda: Sugarcane Development Minister Suresh Rana

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

Cabinet Minister in the Uttar Pradesh government Suresh Rana on Friday said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath would hold further talks with farmer outfits and their delegation before finalising an increase in the procurement

price for sugarcane. The assurance by Mr. Rana, Minister for Sugarcane Development and Sugar Mills, comes two days before the scheduled mahapan-



Suresh Rana •

chayat called by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha in Muzaffarnagar on September 5.

Mr. Rana reiterated the

promise made by Mr. Adityanath recently that his government would hike the procurement price for cane after discussions with all stakeholders.

Mr. Rana, addressing a press briefing, said talks at the Cane Commissioner and Chief Secretary level had concluded and said the CM had also met cane farmers recently in Lucknow and took inputs from them.

The Chief Minister wanted to hold talks with more farm-

i.e. www.punjabtourism.punjab.gov.in

Santosh

Kumar

011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/972/CD/2021

Phone:

Plot no. 3, Sector 38, Chandigarh

0172-5042969, 5042951, Email directorculture@yahoo.com

Expression of Interest

800 old weapons by cleaning the same from inside and outside to make

these fit for display in Medal Gallery and Museum at Mohindra Kothi at

Patiala. The details of old weapons are available on department website

submit their details and proposals along with methodology for cleaning

of old weapons through email or by post on or before 15-09-2021

(upto 3.00 P.M) in the office of undersigned. The bidders may also be requested later on to give the presentation regarding methodology to

be adopted by them for cleaning of old armaments. After examining the

proposals/methodology, the bidders whose proposals are found to be

Note: The bidders who have already submitted the EOI for this work

are not required to submit the EOI again and the already submitted EOI

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing:

Red Colour T- Shirt & Brown Colour Nikkar and Hawai Chappal

Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Patel Nagar, New Delhi at E-mail

ld-cic@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in

appropriate shall be asked to submit their financial offers.

Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Punjab intends to restore approx.

Interested bidders who have specific experience in this field may

er outfits and delegations, said Mr. Rana. He said the government would provide farmers with a "good price" after analysing all aspects. "Farmers are on our main agenda," he said.

The BJP government's assurances of hiking the procurement price for cane, along with withdrawing cases lodged against farmers for burning stubble, come at a time when farmer outfits in western U.P. are protesting against the three farm laws.

DPRPB NA/12/4665/2021/7489

General Public is hereby informed that

a person (depicted in the photo), Namely: Santosh Kumar S/o

Sh Ghuran Podar R/o H.No: T-6041

Near Baba Ramdev Mandir, Baljeet

Nagar, New Delhi has been missing

since 16.08.2021 from the Jurisdiction

of P.S. Patel Nagar, New Delhi. In this

regard a case vide DD No. 26A dated

21.08.2021 has been lodged at Police

Station Patel Nagar, New Delhi. His

Age: 28 Years, Height: 5'6"

physical description is as under:-

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS) Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isol-**Directorate of Cultural Affairs**

WEATHER WATCH

ated places Assam, Meghalaya, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Rayalaseema, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

			•				
ITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MI
Agartala		34.4	27.4	Kozhikode	2	27.8	23.
Aĥmedabad	0.5	32.7	25.4	Kurnool		31.5	24.
Aizawl	1	28.8	20.6	Lucknow		34.6	28.
Allahabad		36.8	28.0	Madurai	4	31.8	24.
Bengaluru	44.6	26.2	19.5	Mangaluru	4.7	29.1	23.
Bhopal		31.4	23.9	Mumbai	10	30.7	25.
		34.4	25.5	Mysuru	15	28.8	21.
Chandigarh		35.0	27.1	New Delhi	2	34.5	25.
Chennai		33.1	25.2	Patna	6	33.2	26.
Coimbatore	25	28.3	22.2	Port Blair	38	29.7	23.
Dehradun	0.2	32.2	23.0	Puducherry	31.5	32.1	22.
Gangtok	1	21.3	17.1	Pune	1.4	31.6	21.
Goa	5	31.5	24.8	Raipur		34.2	25.
Guwahati				Ranchi			
łubballi		29.0	22.0	Shillong	19	25.1	16.
Hyderabad	38	29.6	22.1	Shimla		23.9	19.
mphal	0.2	31.5	22.0	Srinagar		31.0	15.
aipur	0.6	32.6	24.8	Thiruvananthapuram	0.6	31.0	24.
ochi	9	29.4	24.0	Tiruchi	55	31.3	23.
(ohima	27	24.0	18.0	Vijayawada	17	34.0	24.
Kolkata		34.6	27.7	Visakhapatnam		33.6	25.
Rainfall data	in mm·	tomnor	sture in	Calsius)			

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing SO₂ NO₂ CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE Bengaluru11 ...-.71 ... 36 ...48 Delhi11 .55 107 ... 59 ...87 ... 62 ...85 Lucknow...... ...9 .39 .66 .115 .130 .13 .10 ...– 102 .17 .68 Mumbai 59 .102 Visakhapatnam .19 .28 .31 ... 30 ...64

Yesterday

3,207 MSMEs

shut down in

pandemic

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

BHUBANESWAR

1 last year.

Odisha during

The COVID-19 pandemic

has spelt doom for Micro

Small and Medium Enter-

prise (MSME) sector in Od-

isha as 3,207 units have

been shut down since April

to a query in the Assembly

on Friday, State Industries

Minister Dibya Shankar

Mishra said, "During the

pandemic, 3,207 MSMEs

have closed their opera-

tions. However, the govern-

ment does not have infor-

mation as to how many

In order to bail out

MSMEs during the pan-

demic, CM Naveen Patnaik

had announced a special

package under which male

entrepreneurs were dis-

bursed additional loan at

2% interest rate and female

State government had esti-

mated to provide ₹108.29

crore towards interest sub-

vention under the Emer-

gency Credit Line Guaran-

tee Scheme. Accordingly,

the MSME department had

approved a fund of ₹99.87

crore," he said. As many as

473 entrepreneurs have ta-

ken advantage of the

scheme. The government

informed the year 2020

and 2021 were among fruit-

"During 2020-21, the

at 5%, said Mr. Mishra.

people have lost jobs."

Furnishing written reply

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Yamunanagar, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 162 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

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 lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified girl about 05 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown has found dead at PF No. 03. In EMU Train Ghaziabad to Panipat Coach No. 05, New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with **DD** No: 26A, dated: 01.09.2021 at PS NDRS Railways, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been

made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Female, Age: 05 Years, Height: 3'2", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: White-red

If anyone has any information about her relatives, kindly inform the SHO/NDRS Railways, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/237/RLY/2021

P.S. NDRS Railways, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-23744073

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found unconscious on 28.08.2021 at Near Thimaya Marg red light opposite Army Boys Hostel, Delhi Cantt., Delhi. The unknown person admitted to DDU Hospital vide MLC No. 6764/21 Delhi In this regard DD No. 107A dated 28.08.2021 U/s 174 CrPC has been lodged at

Police Station. Delhi Cantt., South West Distt., Delhi. During the treatment Doctors declared him dead. Dead body has been preserved in DDU hospital mortuary for identification. Identification of unidentified dead body is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 45 Years, Height: 5'7" Complexion: Shallow, Identification: Inscribed 'Geetu' on both hands wrist and on chest, Wearing: Pink Colour half Sleeves

Shirt and Blue Colour Lower. If anyone has any information or clue about this male deceased may

kindly be inform undersigned.

Police Station, Delhi Cantt., Delhi DP/816/SW/2021(UIDB) Ph.: 011-25693161, 9810563274

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one emale Namely Antim @ Yogendri D/o Pappu R/o H.No.211, Gali No. 03, C Block Saboli Extn, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped from the jurisdiction of PS Harsh Vihar, Delhi since 23.04.2021. In this regard, a case FIR No. 116/17 dated 24.04.2017 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing / kidnapped male



Age: about 16 years, Height: 5' 2" Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face:

Long, Wearing: Firoji Colour Suit, Chitdar Salwar and cream & Blue colour chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the kidnapped/missing male then please inform P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/990/NE/2021

Sd/-SHO Harsh Vihar, Delhi PH. 011-22342074

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 50-55 years, Height: 5'6" Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: White Colour shirt and Grey colour pant and Red Colour Under Wear, and Black Sandal, who was found dead at down main Rly Line K.M. Pole No. 10/24 - 10/26 near in front of



Max Hospital, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 25A dated 27.08.2021 has been registered at P. S. Subzi Mandi, RLY Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO

P. S: Subzi Mandi RLY Station, Delhi DP/230/RLY/2021(UIDB) Tel. No. 011-23692455

PUBLIC NOTICE

MD. ASHRAF

HIMANSHU JAIN (Advocate) -27, Basement Floor, Jungpura Extn., Delhi RENTAL

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GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK E-Tender Notice No.24 for 2021-22 (Online)

P.S. Patel Nagar, New Delhi

Ph. No. 011-25872637, 25871110

Central Distt., Delhi

Online E-Tenders in "B-2" Form (Item Rates) for the following works invited by Executive Engineer,

P.W.Division. Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and On behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State From Capable of P.W.Deptt. Registered / Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company / branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document

Tender document download on our website https://mahatenders.gov.in. Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W. Division, Nashik. *Conditional Tender will not be accepted

Note :- Above mentioned E-Tender Notice including Total 1 (One) (Costing Rs. 100.00 coror and above) Work And details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below website,

1. www.mahapwd.com

2. https://mahatenders.gov.in

Tender Document Sale	06.09.	2021		20.10.2	2021
Start and End Date Time	From	11.05	То	Upto	17:00

- Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only.
- Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document
- All eligible/ interested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal https://mahatenders.gov.in before downloading tender documents and participate in e-tendering
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Sd/-**Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Nashik**



2nd Sept 2021. DOB: 10.6.1938 - DOD; 2.9.2021 Tenth day ceremony on 10th Sept 2021 at Sri Sathya Narayana Theertham, Kakkan Nagar, Besant Nagar, Chennai eply mourned by Family, Relatives & Friends. PH: 9841017051

announcements in this section, please contact our

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M NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY **CORRIGENDUM**

Under noted amendment is hereb nade against Tender notice No. 09 dt. 27.08.21 (Item No. 16). Item No.: 16, Existing Entry:- Tender No. 22211044 due on 01 10 21, To read as:- Tender No. - 22210044 due or 01.10.21. All other terms and condition will remain unchanged Note: Above information may be seen on N.E. railway website

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW DELHI 110019 Notice is hereby given that 18thAnnual General Meeting of the Members of JMK Mercantile Limited will be held on Thursday, i.e.

April, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, to transact the Ordinary and Special Businesses as hereby informed that all the members registered with the Company on or before 31.08.2021are requested to

For JMK MERCANTILE LIMITED

Director DIN: 00054739 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

....Applicar

DIN: 01601842 A-69, Group Indl Area, Wazirpur, Delhi 110052 Date: 3rd September 2021 | Place: Delhi





PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I MD. ASHRAF S/O MD. USMAN ANSARI, ASHRAF S/O MD. USMAN ANSARI, residing at E-77-A, WEST VINOD NAGAR, PATPARGANJ, EAST DELHI-110092 declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as NARGIS in my minor daughter's SAMREEN JAHAN aged 13 years School Records and Birth Certificate. The actual name of my wife is SHAKRA KHATOON, which may be amended accordingly. amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is declared that Ms. Priyanka d/o
Sh. Udayvir r/o House No. 12,
Dahina, Rewari, Haryana- 123411
was the Director to Cloudwalker
Logistics Pvt. Ltd. (CID No.
U6309DL2020PTC368841) since
its inception, along with Ms. Rajini.
But Ms. Priyanka had retired from the
Directorship on 27-03-2021. Thereby
all the accounts has been settled.
After the said retirement, now
company is having two Directors
namely Ms. Rajini and Ms. Sushma
Sharma. Ms. Priyanka has nothing to
do with the alleged company and the
company shall not be liable for any of
the acts.

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DEATH

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THE HINDU DELHI
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2021



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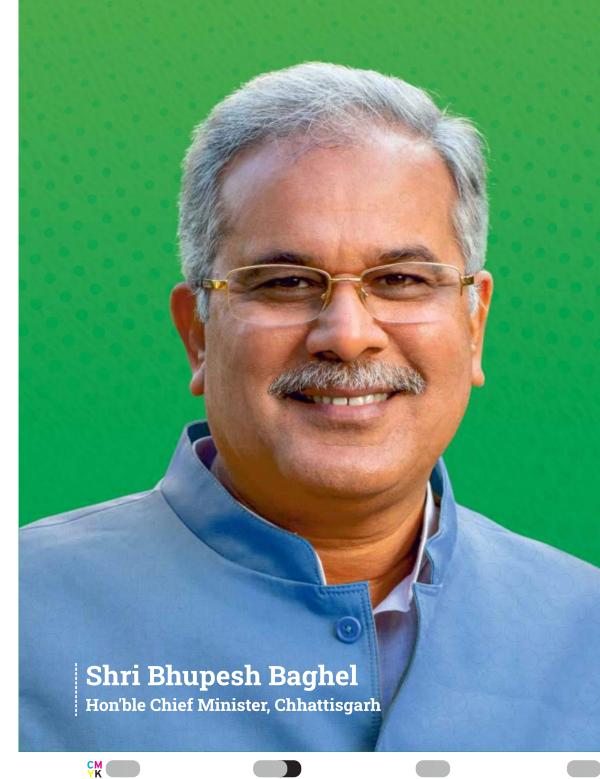
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An uneven uptick

GST revenue trends indicate the recovery

is neither smooth nor fast 7ith gross revenues of ₹1.12-lakh crore in August, the GST has now yielded over ₹1-lakh crore a month for almost a full year. The only blip in the past 11 months came in June, when takings fell below ₹93,000 crore in the aftermath of the second COVID-19 wave that compelled mobility restrictions across States. Those curbs have been progressively easing up – just as they were a year ago when the country saw a phased unlocking from the national lockdown. Compared to those lows, the August collections are 30% higher and also 14% above the pre-pandemic levels of 2019-20, though one must remember India's growth had stuttered sharply that year. While revenues from domestic transactions were up 27%, key industrial States saw faster growth, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Going forward, the Government expects such 'robust' GST revenues to persist. Most economists agree that may be the case, unless the

fears of a third wave come true, triggering lockdowns. But it is unclear if the economy is recovering 'fast' in tandem with the easing out of COVID-related restrictions. The GST collected in August pertains largely to economic activity in July and the mobility restrictions in most States had been eased further that month compared to June, including in the southern States. GST eway bills generated in July surged to an average of 2.1 million from 1.8 million in June. Yet, on a sequential basis, GST revenues in August are almost 4% lower than the ₹1.16-lakh crore collected in July. This recovery appears choppy rather than 'fast'. Similarly, the Government's claims of higher compliance levels reiterated over the past several months need to be matched with accompanying numbers. At the start of the GST regime four years ago, it had 6.6 million taxpayers. On GST Day this July, the Finance Minister said this had risen to 12.8 million. But how many of them are filing returns each month is no longer known since the Government stopped disclosing that number from February 2021. This makes it virtually impossible to distil the effects of compliance and growth on GST revenues. Deviating from standard data points spikes suspicions about what they strive to hide. The Government would do well to restore and enhance its quality of data disclosures even State-wise revenues have been selectively shared recently. As the Reserve Bank of India Governor has highlighted, the economy is still delicately poised – manufacturing recovery has stumbled in August, services remain stressed, exports stay strong but have slipped on a month-on-month basis just like GST collections. There is surely a need to talk things up when the chips are down, but ultimately only facts and figures can invest words with meaning.

Ending the forever

The U.S might not find it easy to resist the impulse to remake other nations

resident Joe Biden has mounted a stiff defence of position on pulling American troops and civilians out of Kabul, an operation widely regarded as botched and disastrous, vowing that the era of meddling in the politics of other nations had ended. His comments came in the context of sharp criticism of an evidently poorly planned exit, coterminous with deadly terror attacks near Kabul airport. Since the withdrawal, U.S. polls suggest that nearly twice as many people disapproved of his management of the end of the long war as those who approved, that 56% of surveyed individuals disapproved of his performance on foreign policy, and his overall job approval rating had hit a new low of 44%. When the poll statistic of 71% of Americans believing that the U.S. mission in Afghanistan was a failure is taken together with Mr. Biden's promise to eschew the regime change paradigm in foreign policy, it begs the question of whether such a new era of U.S. non-interventionism is possible or likely. The answer depends on the extent to which the U.S. believes it can manage the forces of international terrorism from afar, sans boots on the ground. That also partly depends on the strategic role of Pakistan, China, and Russia in the South Asia region. Neither sets of factors inspires hope that the messy troop pull-out was anything other than one step in another round of the classic historical cycles in Afghanistan, of foreign occupation, 'regime change,' abandonment and lapse into lawlessness, orthodoxy, and flirtations with terror outfits in the neighbourhood.

The U.S. has a rich history of shaping or toppling foreign governments and seeking to influence forces made abroad that had an impact on American shores. In the early 20th century, the centre of gravity of such clandestine operations was in the North American hemisphere, and it included the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama. In the post-Second World War and post-Cold War periods, it included the likes of Iran, Indonesia, and Venezuela, including alleged interference in the elections of Italy, the Philippines and Japan. With a foreign policy elite and intelligence community deeply inured to habitually meddling in the politics of other nations for at least a century, the odds that Mr. Biden will be the leader to turn their heads from this preoccupation are low. It is true that ever since the advent of his predecessor, Donald Trump, the U.S. has been on an inexorable path towards a more inward-focused paradigm of policymaking, putting "America First" and reconsidering if not rejecting certain elements of the rules-based international order. But in America, historically, the clarion call for nativist populism has always coexisted to an extent with the temptation to meddle abroad. The impulses of the Biden administration may, therefore, only lead to a temporary lull in this disturbing trend.

Certainly not the end of the road for the U.S.

Even if the Afghan exit was disastrous for various reasons, to declare it as the demise of America is a misreading



T.P. SREENIVASAN

The future of Afghanistan is yet to be determined, but the debate has abruptly shifted to the future of the United States after its withdrawal from Afghanistan. This may be the first time in history that a ruler is sought to be punished for ending a war of 20 years. "Pax Americana died in Kabul," a strategic thinker declares. This is a watershed moment that will bring down the curtain on the West's long ascendency, he predicts. Others say that the damage can be limited if U.S. President Joe Biden resigns. Some U.S. Congressmen have submitted a questionnaire to Mr. Biden raising such issues as the Taliban acquiring nuclear weapons. Mercifully, there is no significant opinion that the U.S. should not have withdrawn its troops or that the U.S. should reoccupy Afghanistan. "The U.S. has done the right thing in the wrong way," says another learned commentator.

Defining event

To understand the present plight of the U.S., we need to go back to the terrorist bombing of 9/11, which was a game-changing global experience. It transformed the geopolitics of the world, which was determined by the size of the nuclear arsenals of the nuclear weapon states. The most powerful country in the world, which had the capacity to destroy the world many times over, became powerless before a few terrorists, who had only knives and forks as weapons. In one clean swoop, the theories of the balance of power, mu-

tually assured destruction and nuclear weapons superiority went up in smoke with the Twin Towers of New York. Once the responsibility of the attack was traced to Osama bin Laden and the terrorists in Afghanistan, it was imperative for the U.S. to retaliate by overthrowing the Taliban regime and hunting out and killing bin Laden.

Benefits of the U.S. presence The U.S. accomplished its mission within a short period but it was not able to withdraw because the Afghanistan government was unable to withstand the onslaught of the Taliban and other terrorist groups. Even neighbouring countries, including India, were strongly in favour of continuing the American presence. Pakistan played a double game - of being a partner on the one hand and an adversary on the other. It was not a matter of the Americans imposing themselves, but being invited to provide a certain stability for Afghanistan. The result of their presence was the prevalence of relative peace in the region except that Pakistan fattened the Taliban with American largesse. In the process. the troops in Afghanistan protected the homeland and the Americans, because the Taliban and other groups were kept engaged in Afghanistan territory.

At this moment, when American failures at the time of withdrawal dominate the news, it is worth recalling that the U.S. presence in Afghanistan had succeeded in containing the dangers of terrorism for two decades. Considering that terrorism has endured in the broader West Asia/Middle East and the attacks and victims worldwide are three to five times higher annually than in 2001 (9/11), the benefits of the American presence should not be underestimated, even though the cost was high in terms of American money and

lives.

We should also remember that the clear mandate given to Mr. Biden was to clean up the Augean stables left behind by his predecessor, President Donald Trump, and how the world as a whole and a majority of the U.S. citizens heaved a sigh of relief that the U.S. finally had a predictable, steady and experienced leader to combat the novel coronavirus pandemic and racism in the country and to recover its position in the centre of the world that the Chinese were hoping to grab. Mr. Biden moved in earnest to return to the Paris Agreement (climate), resume the dialogue on the Iran nuclear deal and to reassure America's traditional allies that the U.S. would stand by them. He gave a clear signal to China and Russia that no confrontation would be tolerated, but cooperation, wherever possible, will be pursued.

The Afghan exit

Withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan was yet another unfinished agenda he had inherited and what he did was merely to follow up the agreement reached with the Taliban and announce a deadline, in the expectation that the Afghan forces trained and equipped by the Americans and the Kabul government would step into the vacuum. As Mr. Biden pointed out, the decision about Afghanistan was not just about Afghanistan. It was about "ending an

era of major military operations to remake other countries". But the series of events that happened till the end of August 2021 completely wiped out what should have been the good ending of a partly successful war on terror.

Even if the exit became a disaster because of the wrong calculations on the part of the military advisers – who stand condemned by the retired flag officers for the tragic and avoidable debacle - to declare it as the end of the road for Mr. Biden and the United States is unfair and graceless. History is replete with events of extreme folly by rulers who survived because of the many other mitigating factors in their favour. By those standards, the Biden presidency has every

reason to survive. The decisiveness with which he has handled the debris of the exit should receive approbation. As a true Commander-in-Chief, he stood by his Generals and took the blame. He has not even been provoked to attack the Taliban or to criticise the Afghan forces for their betrayal of their patrons. In fact, he went out of his way to announce that the Taliban was helpful in facilitating the evacuation, which was completed before the deadline, Interestingly, it was Mr. Biden who set the August 31 deadline, which was turned into an ultimatum by the Taliban.

Many commentators have argued that the Kabul fiasco was worse than Vietnam, Tehran, 9/11, Iraq and COVID-19 because the details of the other disastrous developments had lost their sharpness with the passage of time. Whatever may have been the horrors of those events, no President was held accountable for them and removed.

In the case of U.S. President Gerald Ford, 59% of the people said that he deserved none of the blame at all. Only 2% held him res-

ponsible, though he lost the elections in 1976. President Ronald Reagan's misadventure in Lebanon was criticised by 60% Americans in 1984, but he won the election later that year. There were reasons for these Presidents to continue to serve the nation, taking the reverses in certain areas in their stride. As of now, there is no alternative to President Biden to lead the country, after his having learnt a bitter lesson from the Afghan experience. A CNN commentator remarked that the withdrawal may hurt him in the midterm in 2022 and presidential election in 2024. "They could just as easily have no impact at all."

No setting sun

Even more unfortunate is the conclusion that the U.S. itself lost its place in the world on account of its failure to have a sagacious leader or a competent Commander-in -Chief. A superpower does not sink or rise on account of a single leader. It is still the most powerful economic and military power around which the whole constellation of the world rotates. In fact, the world has a stake in ensuring that a democratic nation leads the world rather than an expansionist dictatorship which has no public opinion to restrain it. The free world has a responsibility to maintain the American leadership of the world till a wiser and more benign alternative is found.

Much has been written about a post-American world for some years now. But it looks that the demise of America, as Mark Twain said about the reports of his own death, is greatly exaggerated.

T.P. Sreenivasan, IFS 1967, is Former Ambassador of India and Governor for India of the IAEA. He is also Chairman, Academic Council. Director, NSS Academy of Civil Services, and Director General,

Estimating the deaths due to COVID-19 in Chennai

Undercounting of deaths due to COVID-19 in the city is age dependent — and also more during the second wave

T.S. GANESAN, R. RAJARAMAN

ndia is slowly recovering from the second wave of SARS-CoV-2. ■ It is still uncertain whether a third wave will happen, and if so, with what intensity. Assessing how many people actually died from COVID-19 can help governments and the health-care sector prepare their treatment strategies effec-

When it comes to evaluating fatalities, the Indian Council of Medical Research has issued clear guidelines as to what constitutes a COVID-19 related death. Despite this, it is evident that there is an undercounting of deaths in India due to a variety of reasons. Even in rich countries, undercounting has been observed based on international analyses of "excess deaths". This reflects the "real world" problems of acquiring perfect data during a public health crisis.

Given that this is the case, there is no shame for either the Government of India or the State governments to admit that the reported number of deaths due to COVID-19 is much less than the actual num-

To estimate the actual numbers is far more honourable given the magnitude of the crisis and the precision of planning required to overcome it. In this article, we concentrate on estimating CO-VID-19 fatalities in Chennai and to what extent the southern metropolis falls prey to "undercounting" COVID-19 deaths that plagues India, and the world, currently. This adds to the previously published articles in this newspaper.

Estimation for Chennai

To estimate the "excess deaths" during the period of the pandemic requires accurate baseline data of deaths in the previous years. For Chennai, we consider the available

data on the daily total all cause deaths (ACD) during 2015-19 (the basic source is the Chennai Corporation - https://bit.ly/3yFzEb2). During this period the ACD steadily increased by about 1,850 per year (3% per year). The projected population of Chennai also increased at roughly the same rate. Hence, our estimate of the expected total ACD, if the pandemic had not occurred, assumes that this steady increase in the ACD would have continued in 2020-21.

We have only been able to extract the age-dependent ACD for 2018-19. Since the age dependence of the increasing trend cannot reliably be extracted from data that just spans two years, the simple average of ACD from 2018 to 2019 is used as the baseline for the age-

Examination of the ACD during the pandemic from January 2020 until June 2021, as compared to the baseline of ACD from 2015 to 2019, reveals two clear observations. First, there is reduction in mortality prior to the lockdown in the first wave and also during the intermediate period between the two waves (Table 1). There could be many reasons for this. As of now, we have no reliable data to ascribe causes and the dip in mortality during these periods remains unexplained. Second, there is an increase in ACD during the first and second wave of reported deaths due to COVID-19 in Chen-

Broadly, when the reported mortality due to COVID-19 was low, there was a reduction in ACD, and the converse when it was high. It is reasonable to conclude based on this data, that the pandemic had two opposing effects on the ACD. On the one hand, the ACD increased due to those who died due COVID-19. On the other, it also de-

stratified ACD.

The pandemic and ACD

Age stratified deaths and COVID-19 Difference in all cause mortality and that due to COVID-19

Period	Date	Reported COVID-19 deaths	Excess deaths (I)	Under- counting Ratio (I)	Excess deaths (II)	Under- counting Ratio (II)
Pre-Lockdown	Jan 1, 2020 - Mar 22, 2020	0	-1008	-	-378	
Post lockdown and pre-first wave	Mar 23, 2020 - Apr 23, 2020	4	-1025	-	-635	-
First wave	Apr 24, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020	4,001	7,768	1.9	9,881	2.5
Intermediate Period	Jan 1, 2021 - Mar 15, 2021	176	-503	-	-3	-
Second wave (ongoing)	Mar 16, 2021 - May 31, 2021	2,901	19,091	6.6	19,360	6.7
Full period	Mar 22, 2020 - May 31, 2021	7,082	24,322	3.4	29,176	4.1

The undercounting factors defined as (excess deaths)/(reported COVID-19 deaths) are tabulated above for the different stages of the pandemic in Chennai. A negative value of the excess deaths means that the number of recorded deaths during that period was less than the number expected from the baseline data. | Method-I: Baseline calculated from ACD of 2015 to 2019 including yearly increase in deaths | Method-II: Baseline calculated from ACD of 2018 to

creased due to the deaths due to other causes (OCD) reducing due to lockdown effects. At the moment the reasons for this duality are not clear. The only way this issue can be resolved is by conducting a verbal autopsy with the families of the deceased. This has not been performed systematically in Chennai. In the absence of this confirmed data, the under-counting factors are defined to be (excess deaths)/(reported COVID-19

The results on the approximate undercounting factor for Chennai, defined above during the different periods of the pandemic, are shown (Figure and Table 1). These undercounting factors are probably underestimates. This is because our estimated number of deaths during the pandemic period inferred from the pre-pandemic data on ACD does not account for the probable reduction in OCD due to the lockdown effects. It is clear that the undercounting of the deaths was much more in the second wave as compared to the first one.

The age dependence of excess deaths and undercounting ratio are shown (Figure). The ACD in the "juveniles" (0-17 years) and

"young adults" (18-44 years) are reduced throughout the pandemic period (deficit deaths) except for the young adults during the second wave. The undercounting ratio in the first wave increases with age but the trend is not discernible during the second wave.

Among the elderly

It has also been reported that the mortality rate due to COVID-19 among the elderly was significantly less than that of the internation-

However, this analysis of data from Chennai indicates that, this may simply be a consequence of the fact that the undercounting factor of the deceased among the elderly is much more than that of the younger age group during the first wave. The reasons for this undercounting are not clear just now. This will only be known after a thorough examination of the causes of death in the future.

However, it is important to acknowledge that there has been an undercounting that requires detailed quantitative analysis. Understanding the severity of this viral infection is important to devise effective policy for the immediate

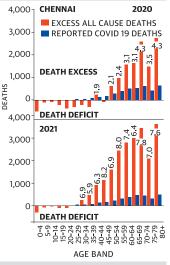


Figure. Age stratified excess/deficit all cause deaths and reported COVID-19 deaths during 2020 and 2021. Undercount factors of each age group are also given.

T.S. Ganesan is Professor, Medical Oncology and Clinical Research, Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai. R. Rajaraman is Professor, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam. R. Shankar is Honorary Professor, The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai. The views are personal

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

'Communal content'

The observation by the Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, Supreme Court of India, that "everything in this country is shown with a communal angle by a section of media" is apt (Page 1, September 3). This is making the life of the minorities difficult by defaming almost all they do. However, the problem is just a speck as almost

education, politics, administrative machinery to history of the nation is being coloured. That 'secularism' is a structure of the Constitution must not be forgotten. K. MUHAMMED ISMAYIL, Koduvally, Kozhikode, Kerala

■ All right-thinking people will share the concern expressed by the CJI. Television watching is a task as certain channels can be

found spewing venom in every sentence. The anchors in some news channels are predisposed or conditioned to present a slanted view of events. Journalists are supposed to be politically neutral and speak the truth to power, rather than 'bend' and 'crawl' to get on the right side of the powers that be. One often wonders whether they are independent journalists or party and government staff. Some

channels try to strike a balance between communalism and secularism to maximise viewership! Much of our success as a great civilisation hinges on how well we resolve the crisis of secularism. G. DAVID MILTON, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

A diverse India The salient feature of India is its diversity. There are many

Indias within India. The India wee see in Ashapoorna Devi's great novels is not the one we see in Mahasweta Devi's works. And in Baby Halder's autobiography, A Life Less Ordinary, we can see an India we have seen nowhere. Perumal Murugan depicts yet another India. It is really surprising and shocking to see the removal of diverse expressions/narratives from

University which was committee which has

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approved unanimously by the teachers by an oversight nothing to do with literature or syllabus formation. We butcher democracy by removing diverse narratives here. And criticise the Taliban for their undemocratic deeds! SUKUMARAN C.V.,

every aspect of life, from

the syllabus of Delhi

Kongad, Palakkad, Kerala

Duper, fleecer, jailbird

Sukesh Chandrasekhar has allegedly impersonated government officers, judges and businessmen to extort money from people, many of whom have cases of fraud and corruption against them. **Devesh K. Pandey** and **S. Vijay Kumar** report on the high-profile 'conman' who has kept investigators on their toes



The Enforcement Directorate have searched multiple locations linked to Chandrasekhar including a 'benami' bungalow at Kanathur, Chennai, along East Coast Road. (Below): Sukesh Chandrasekhar in 2017. • JOTHI RAMALINGAM B.; MANOHARAN J.

ukesh Chandrasekhar, 32, sits cooling his heels in the custody of the Delhi Police. He faces the charge of running a well-oiled extortion racket, not from a swanky bungalow but from the premises of Rohini Jail where he has been lodged for the last one year.

Four years ago, Chandrasekhar was arrested by the Delhi Police for allegedly striking a deal with a faction of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), led by V.K. Sasikala and T.T.V. Dhinakaran, by assuring them that they would get the 'two leaves' AIADMK symbol ahead of the keenly contested RK Nagar by-polls in Chennai. Chandrasekhar, investigators say, had promised them that he would bribe officials in the Election Commission of India to get the job done.

Three months ago, the Enforcement Directorate stumbled upon some What-sApp chats which indicated that someone was involved in money laundering operations. In due course, it turned out it was no small sum − nearly ₹200 crore had changed hands and had reached the prime suspect. Realising that something was amiss, the investigators meticulously worked on the case. Finally, the agency's cyber experts achieved a breakthrough and managed to find out the phone's location by tracking down its Internet Protocol address prints.

Meanwhile, based on complaints from various people, who said that they had received calls from government functionaries promising them help in exchange for a hefty sum, the investigators also scrutinised the outgoing call records from the landlines of these functionaries. The outgoing call records showed that no calls had been made to the complainants, which meant that the numbers had been spoofed. Spoofing is a process which involves the masking of the number of the caller's phone with a number of his choice, to cheat people.

The investigators say there were left stunned with their findings. The calls were made from Rohini Jail and the man making the calls was none other than Chandrasekhar.

Bits of a puzzle

Going by the charges against him, Chandrasekhar played many roles to run his extortion business – sometimes a government officer, at other times a businessman and, pushing the envelope more, even a politician's grandson. His victims were carefully chosen. They were businessmen, senior politicians and film personalities, many of whom were entangled in cases of large-scale cheating, fraud and corruption. Chandrasekhar, smooth-talking and persuasive, who knew the art of deception well, would promise to provide a solu-

tion to their problems for a price.

During the investigation, the police later identified two jail staff – an Assistant Jail Superintendent and a Deputy Superintendent – who admitted to the police that they had assisted Chandrasekhar. With admissions tumbling out, two dozen jail officials have now been transferred.

simultaneously, the Enforcement Directorate is conducting a money-laundering probe to identify all the assets



generated through the proceeds of alleged crimes currently under investigation.

The scale of extortion is yet to be established. The probe agencies are looking into all the instances where those facing legal cases had received calls offering a way out in exchange for huge sums of cash. The source of these calls remained elusive for long as those conned did not dare open their mouths. Some cases of impersonation were earlier lodged with various police departments across the country, but they were pursued separately.

The probe officers concluded that the calls were being made through a number-spoofing App to camouflage the real phone ID. First developed in 2004 in the United States, this technology is often employed to deceive the receiver into believing that the call has originated from some other phone line.

The officials shared this information with the police, which launched its own investigation. The Special Cell of the Delhi Police got its first breakthrough when it received a complaint from Aditi Singh, the wife of former Fortis promoter Shivinder Singh, who was arrested along with his brother Malvinder Singh by Delhi's Economic Offences Wing in a case in 2019.

Aditi Singh alleged that she had been duped by a person who had first called her in June 2020. Posing as a senior Law Ministry official, this person, she said, offered to help her husband get some relief. It is alleged that Malvinder Singh's wife too was made a similar offer. Based on the complaint, last month a trap was laid for the conduits who were to receive more cash from the complainant. What ensued was a dramatic chase by multiple teams. Pradeep Ramdanee and Deepak Ramnani, small-time operators, were detained. They claimed that they had been collecting money at the behest of Chandrasekhar, lodged in Rohini Jail. Investigators allege that ₹200 crore changed hands through several

Next there were searches inside the jail premises. The police found two mobile phones and sent them for forensic examination. Investigators say Chandrasekhar had been leading a comfortable life in prison. The detection, coupled with other irregularities, prompted jail authorities to examine the rotten apples in their midst and fix responsibility of those involved in arranging the devices for the accused.

The Economic Offences Wing subsequently registered another case and ar-

rested three more persons – the bank manager of RBL, Komal Poddar, and his two associates – Avinash Kumar and Jitender Narula – apart from Chandrasekhar. The role of 'hawala' operators in the transfer of funds also came to the fore

A lavish lifestyle

The Enforcement Directorate also initiated a probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, on the basis of the police case and searched multiple locations linked to Chandrasekhar, his associates, and wife Leena Maria Paul, an actress in the Malayalam film industry, who had starred in the critically acclaimed film Madras Café. The agency also identified a 'benami' sea-facing bungalow in Chennai. When the Enforcement Directorate sleuths reached the spot, they found a fleet of luxury vehicles of top brands like Rolls-Royce Ghost, Bentley Bentayga, Ferrari 458 Italia, Lamborghini Urus, Escalade and Mercedes-AMG 63 parked there.

The search team entered the building, which was being maintained by caretakers. In the words of an official, the bungalow revealed the extravagant lifestyle of its residents. He described sleek Italian marble floors, Versace rugs, expensive furniture, chandeliers, gym equipment, a home theatre and gold-plated items. On the second floor was a spacious bar. They also found a large number of shoes, bags and branded clothes bearing labels such as Ferragamo, Chanel, Dior and Louis Vuitton. The initial search resulted in the seizure of 16 high-end vehicles, including a luxurv bus, apart from the bungalow. Going through past reports, investigators found that Chandrasekhar had a penchant for high-end vehicles since his school days. In Bengaluru, he would roam around in cars fitted with a red beacon and often dropped names to get his job done.

The agency has tracked down seven more vehicles that were parked at other places. The seized vehicles bore registration plates of different States. Their details will be gathered by the agency from the transport authorities.

While the current value of the seized assets is being assessed, the Enforcement Directorate is also looking into the revenue records of the bungalow to determine its ownership history.

Daredevilry with no limits

Chandrasekhar, a school dropout, hails from Bengaluru, Karnataka. His father, who passed away last year, worked as a part-time mechanic and rubber contractor. Chandrasekhar flirted with the law when he turned 17. He posed as the son of a former Chief Minister of Karnataka and allegedly duped an old man of ₹1 crore.

Elated with that success and many subsequent ones, he slowly transitioned into a high-profile 'conman'. If he donned the role of a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officer in one case, he would impersonate the grandson of a Chief Minister in another. Not only was Chandrasekhar audacious, he also possessed skills that helped him. He spoke multiple languages and soon acquired expertise in spoofing. This was crucial to his operations. His daredevilry knew no limits: he would spoof offices of Central law enforcement agencies headquartered in Delhi and senior officers in ministries, the police say.

While the accused remained the mastermind, his associates arranged logistics for him. They would create the network for him to make calls and fix deals, say investigators. His associates would often pose as officials from investigating agencies and offer to help those facing legal action. Sometimes, they would demand that the victims pay up for not getting arrested. When the deals were struck, the call to finalise the arrangement would come from Chandrasekhar, the 'officer' heading the probe or helming the agency. The number displayed would ostensibly be of the real office or officer as reflected in Truecaller or other modes of verification.

The cycle of arrests and bail

After he was arrested for the first time in 2007 and subsequently granted bail, it is suspected that Chandrasekhar shifted base from Bengaluru to Chennai. It was

sometime in 2009-10 that he contacted Leena via Facebook, identifying himself as Balaji, a man with deep pockets, from the Tamil film industry. He said he could get her acting assignments. Born and brought up in Dubai, Leena had come to Bengaluru to pursue a dental science course. She also aspired to become a film actress. Leena was to discover his real identity much later.

Chandrasekhar was again arrested in 2009. He came out on bail, but was arrested yet again in 2011. He came out on bail that time too. In May 2013, a joint team of the Delhi and Chennai Police arrested Leena from a farmhouse in South Delhi for allegedly cheating the Canara Bank of ₹19 crore. Chandrasekhar managed to escape, but was nabbed weeks later in Kolkata. Based on that case, the Enforcement Directorate had attached 20 bank accounts with a cumulative balance of over ₹13 crore, cars worth ₹7 crore, 80 watches and jewellery.

After Chandrasekhar's arrest in the Dhinakaran case in 2017, the police seized ₹1.30 crore in cash. They also seized a fake card showing him as a Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, an Indian Youth Congress identity card, and a Mercedes car bearing a sticker of Member of Parliament. He had used all these to trap his victims.

"It is the immense belief that one can wriggle out of even the worst possible situations that drives a conman to go to any length. Given the nature of allegations, it also holds true for Chandrasekhar. He is said to be a master at mimicking anyone's voice. He also understands mobile technology well," says an investigating officer. The officer says there are dozens of cases against him in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Delhi.

Facing multiple charges

The frequency with which Chandrasekhar allegedly indulged in cheating and fraud was reflected in the submissions made by a public prosecutor before a Delhi lower court in May 2019, while opposing his bail application. It was submitted that three new First Information Reports had been instituted against him while he was in his custody in the Dhinakaran case. In one case, he allegedly used the phone of a constable to influence a judge in order to get out on bail by impersonating a Supreme Court judge. In another, he allegedly posed as the private secretary to the Union Law Minister and contacted an Additional District Judge in Mumbai to seek favour in a case. In the third, he was accused of bribing and managing the police escorting staff while he was taken to Bengaluru, Coimbatore and Mumbai, before being produced in front of the courts.

The Enforcement Directorate is also verifying whether a former Rajya Sabha MP and another high-profile accused arrested by the agency in separate cases were also cheated of ₹25 crore and ₹11 crore by Chandrasekhar while he was in Rohini Jail. Chandrasekhar also faces the allegation of cheating about 500 people in Mumbai through a Ponzi scam. He was arrested in the case, along with Leena, in 2015. On the pretext of illhealth, he later got himself admitted to a hospital from where he allegedly attempted to stop a property auction by

making a phone call posing as a government official. The Mumbai Police again arrested him in May 2016.

Chandrasekhar's role again came up in a case registered by the Hyderabad wing of the CBI on January 16, 2020. Former Telugu Desam Party MP Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, director and promoter of Transtroy (India) Limited, who was earlier booked by the CBI in a bank fraud case involving ₹7,926 crore, alleged that he had received calls from a + person claiming to be a senior CBI official. He was threatened with dire consequences if he did not pay up. The man demanded ₹100 crore to bail him out of the case. However, the former MP sensed foul play and lodged a complaint with the CBI. According to the FIR, on January 3, 2020, a landline installed at the CBI head office in Delhi was spoofed by the imposters and multiple calls were made to Rao on his mobile phones. Two accused - Manivardhan Reddy Yala and Ramaraj – were initially named in the case for collecting money from different people in the name of senior Central government functionaries by promising favourable actions, the FIR said.

All the cases instituted against Chandrasekhar are either under investigation or pending trial. While the police are trying to identify his other associates, the Enforcement Directorate is examining various persons linked to the case. The witness statement of Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez, who was also reportedly contacted by him from inside prison, was recently recorded by the agency. As people spoke up, the investigators were able to piece together an extraordinary story of

In the Dhinakaran case, Chandrasekhar has pleaded not guilty of any of the allegations made by the police, which filed a charge sheet before the trial court on July 14, 2017. In November 2018, the court ordered the framing of charges against him and others under the relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Further proceedings are

Following his arrest in 2017, the accused has spent most of his time in Tihar Jail and later Rohini Jail. Chandrasekhar has a battery of high-profile lawyers arguing his case. With court permission, he has come out on bail or parole a couple of times. In June this year, the Delhi High Court granted two weeks of interim custody bail on the ground that his mother was seriously ill and required hospitalisation and surgery in Chennai. The bail was then extended till July 2.

In November last year, the Supreme Court granted him interim bail for two weeks so that he could attend the last rites of his father. The court also directed that Chandrasekhar be escorted by a cop, the expenses for which were to be borne by him. He was earlier allowed to meet his father, who had then been suffering from leukaemia. During that period, he contracted COVID-19 and the bail duration was extended. On being discharged from a Chennai hospital, he was back in Rohini Jail. He is also apparently back in business.





FROM PAGE ONE

Edible oil prices likely to ease by December

Two months ago, the Centre cut import duties on crude palm oil from 15% to 10%, saying that the reduction would be in effect till the end of September. However, effective duties, including cess and other charges, are still at 30.25% on crude palm oil and 41.25% on re-

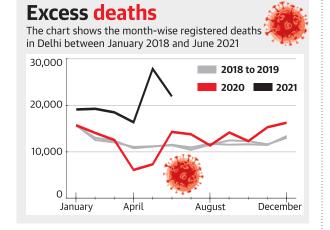
fined palm oil.

Asked whether any further tax cuts were likely, Mr. Pandey only noted that the "pandemic has affected the resources of everyone ... and the government also faces constraints. But still, whatever the government could do, they have done."

SC Collegium clears 68 names for HC judges

These recommendations come close on the heels of the three-member Collegium consisting of Chief Justice Ramana, Justices U.U. Lalit and A.M. Khanwilkar seven names for the Telangana High Court on August 17. On the same day, the five-member Collegium had recommended nine names for elevation to the Bench of the

Delhi's excess deaths twice the official toll



Commenting on the undercount factor falling below one in 2020, Jugal Kishore, head of the Community Medicine Department at Safdarjung Hospital said, "Our hospital used to receive a lot of patients from Bihar, U.P., Rajasthan, Haryana, and all over the country. But non-COVID patients from other States were very less during 2020, when the lockdown was strict. This year, the lockdown was not that strong and we got more patients

"Delhi's reporting system of COVID deaths initially had some problems and there were some fluctuations, but it was later rectified," said Dr. Kishore.

"Still, there was underreporting of COVID deaths as tests could not be done or the deaths occurred at home. But Delhi has much better reporting of deaths compared to other States, which is also due to the high media presence in Delhi," he added.

(With inputs from

Supreme Court rejects Bengal's petition on DGP appointments

State had said that power granted to UPSC was an attack on federal structure

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a West Bengal plea questioning the authority of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to shortlist the names for Director of Police (DGPs) based on a judgment of the court.

One of the seven directives of the Prakash Singh judgment in 2007 is that a Chief Minister has to choose from among the three most senior police officers empanelled by the UPSC for the DGP post.

These officers should have a guaranteed tenure as DGP for a minimum two years. The judgment was a conscious reformative step to thwart attempts by State governments to appoint pliant officers at the top.

However, West Bengal argued that the power granted to the UPSC, a Central body, to prepare the panel was a direct attack on the federal structure of governance. The subject of 'police' belonged to the State list.

The State's plea came at a time when the CBI has written to the West Bengal DGP office for information about the alleged incidents of murder and rape in the post-poll violence in the State. The court was not im-

pressed by West Bengal's submissions. "Why are you bringing

such matters and wasting time? On one hand, you



yourself say urgent matters of bail, etc. are not being heard by the court, and then you come with such petitions... Is this not abuse of the law," Justice L. Nageswara Rao, who headed a threejudge Bench, told senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, for West Bengal.

The court, however, allowed the State to implead itself in the main case on police reforms. Noting that the main case in which the court is monitoring compliance by States "has not seen the light of the day for years," the Bench, also comprising Justices B.R. Gavai and B.V. Nagarathna, said it would take up the main matter for hearing in October.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for former IPS officer Prakash Singh, submitted that in most States, directions of the court remained unimplemented.

In its application, West Bengal said the 2006 judgment was "not in consonance with extant constitutional and legal framework". The State government has the autonomy to select the DGP, it said.

Sub-inspector took bribe in Deshmukh's case: CBI

'Confidential documents leaked'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged that its sub-inspector, Abhishek Tiwari, received bribes from the former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh's lawver to share confidential information about the probe against him. Both the lawyer and the sub-inspector are currently in CBI custody.

The sub-inspector was part of the team led by a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) which had gone to Mumbai on April 6 this year to conduct a preliminary enquiry against Mr. Deshmukh, as directed by the Bombay High Court. The team members examined several persons, including Mr. Deshmukh.

The DSP, as an enquiry of-

ficer, submitted the report on April 16. The accused sub-inspector was assisting him in preparing the report and had been in possession of the case-related documents, according to the First Information Report. "Pursuant to the comments and opinion of senior officers, including legal officers, and after the approval of the competent authority", a case was registered against Mr. Deshmukh and others on April 21, the CBI said.

The agency later found out that copies of the documents pertaining to the enquiry had been disclosed to unauthorised persons. The sub-inspector had come in contact with Anand Dilip Daga, the Nagpur-based lawyer of Mr. Deshmukh, and had been in touch with him,

Adhir Ranjan mobbed by TMC cadre in Murshidabad

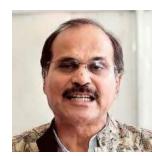
MP's car chased by people showing slippers and black flags

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Friday was reportedly targeted by mobs of Trinamool Congress workers and supporters when he visited the Murshidabad district in West Bengal. Mr. Chowdhury, who is

the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief in West Bengal, was visiting Gudhaipara village under Raninagar II block in Murshidabad to probe the alleged violence against Congress supporters by the ruling party workers. The timing of the confron-

tation is significant as it comes in the middle of efforts to bolster Opposition unity. The face-off also comes barely 24 hours after Mr. Chowdhury had written to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, accus-



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

ing Trinamool workers of unleashing violence against Congress workers.

Mr. Chowdhury's office also released videos of his motorcade being chased by a mob, women brooms, slippers and black flags in Raninagar II Block.

"I am touring this place because yesterday I got calls for help from our mothers and sisters. Yesterday, for an uninterrupted five hours, their homes were attacked, vandalised and looted. Even

the fish in their ponds and bamboo plantations were not spared," Mr. Chowdhury told reporters in Murshidabad. "There is an atmosphere of fear and terror here. These people fear that attacks will restart after we leave the place. I have raised all these issues in my letter to the Bengal Chief Minister," he added.

Mr Chowdhury's letter, dated September 2, will also give fresh ammunition to the BIP that has been targetting the Mamata Banerjee government over post-poll violence in the State.

In his letter to Ms. Banerjee, the Congress leader alleged, "I would like to flag your kind attention to the violence and atrocities committed by the ruling party's workers in a broad daylight today when houses of Congress party workers were vandalised and looted."

Manjula Chellur to monitor probe into post-poll violence

Retired Chief Justice of Calcutta HC takes up assignment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Friday appointed former Chief Justice of the High Court Manjula Chellur to monitor the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the post-poll violence in West Bengal. The court, in its August 19 order, had directed that the SIT be headed by a retired Supreme Court judge. "On account of imme-

diate non-availability of a retired Honourable Supreme Court Judge to take up the assignment, we deem it appropriate to modify the aforesaid part of the order, while adding that the working of the SIT is to be monitored by a retired Chief Justice of a High Court. Further we had requested Honourable Ms. Justice Manjula Chellur, retired Chief Justice of this Court, to take up the as-



Justice Manjula Chellur (retd.)

signment. She has very graciously accepted our request. We accordingly appoint her to overview the working of SIT," the order

The order on Friday was by the court's five-judge Bench, headed by Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal, which had passed the August 19 order

The court also said that it would be the duty of the Chief Secretary of West Bengal "to ensure that all arrangements for Justice (retd.) Chellur's travel and stay are made, and protocol facilities are extended to her".

On August 31, one of the petitioners had approached the High Court saying that while CBI teams were visiting the families of the victims of post-poll violence cases in districts, the SIT had not started its work.

The High Court, in its order on August 19, had deputed three senior IPS officers Soumen Mitra, Suman Bala Sahoo, and Ranvir Kumar to look into cases of post-poll violence. Subsequently, ten more IPS officers have been assigned to the SIT.

The CBI has so far regis tered more than 30 FIRs in the case.

On Friday, one more arrest was made by the CBI in connection with a murder at Jagadal, taking the total arrests so far to five.

HC rejects plea against chanting of mantras in Tamil in temples

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.

The Madras High Court on Friday rejected a public interest litigation petition which sought a direction to the Tamil Nadu government to withdraw the 'Annai Tamil Archanai' scheme, which lets devotees opt for the chanting of hymns by priests in Tamil, instead of Sanskrit, while performing puja in the sanctum sanctorum of temples.

Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice P.D. Audikesavalu refused to entertain the petition since the issue was not res integra (an unsettled question of law) any more. They said another Division Bench of Justices Elipe Dharma Rao and K. Chandru (both retired) had, in March 2008, dismissed a batch of cases filed in 1998

and held that the Agama Sastras do not prohibit chanting of mantras in Tamil.

Holding that the choice of wanting the mantras to be recited either in Sanskrit or in Tamil vests with the devotees, that Bench had criticised the litigants for making it seem as if God could understand only Sanskrit and not Tamil.

Authoring the verdict, Justice Chandru had said that if the litigants were allowed to have their way, the fears expressed by former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan might become true. In his book, The Hindu view of Life, Dr. Radhakrishnan had said, "To many Hinduism seems to be a name without any content. Is it a museum of beliefs, a medley of rites, or a mere gap, a ge-

Dhankar raises queries on investment in WB

Governor seeks White Paper

SHIV SAHAY SINGH KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has raised questions about the claims of investment in the State made by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. In a series of tweets, Mr. Dhankhar said there has been no response from the State government on his gueries about investment in West Bengal over

the past five years. "On Aug 25, 2020 sought from CM @ Editions of Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) @MamataOfficial details of over ₹12 lac crore investments in 5 (years). No response now for over a year. Industrial climate calls for transparency & accountability. In industry WB pale shade of what it was!" Mr. Dhankhar said. The Governor also shared the details of a letter he had written to

Security tightened

after death of

Syed Ali Geelani

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Restrictions on the move-

ment of people and a com-

munication blackout conti-

nued in the Kashmir Valley

on Friday after the death of

separatist leader Syed Shah

Geelani on Wednesday and

Governance as per constitutional norms and rule of law alone can generate climate for industrialisation

the Chief Minister a year

Mr. Dhankhar said he had sought the year-wise amount spent since 2016 in holding the business summits, the number of MoUs signed, investment and jobs promised at each annual event since 2016; and achievements at each BGBS event as regards actual investment made, and jobs created. Mr Dhankhar demanded a White Paper on the subject.

"Governance as per constitutional norms and rule of law alone can generate climate for industrialisation," the Governor said.

RSS-linked publication slams Infosys for GST, I-T portals' snags

Panchjanya cover story says the company 'messed up'

NISTULA HEBBAR

Goods and Services Tax (GST) portal and the new Income Tax website, developed by the Bengalurubased Infosys, has come under scathing attack by RSS associated magazine Panchjanya. Its cover story of its September 5 edition is on how Infosys, being the technology vendor for the government to develop these two portals, has "messed up" the execution. The cover has Infosys founder Narayana Murthy's picture and the text 'Saakh Aur Aaghaat' ['Reputation and a Grievous Harm'].

The issues surrounding the

The story alleges that both the portals and their attendant problems, in terms of public interface and us-



age, have led to a situation where trust in the government and its tax collecting system has been brought down. The article says that a known software company was given the contract by the government to simplify the system, but it has, rather, made a mess of the mat-

Questions are also raised on the lowest bidder or L1 system of awarding the contracts followed by the government.

"Will Infosys provide this

Restrictions, communication shutdown continue in Kashmir

same kind of shoddy service to its foreign clients," asks the article. More interestingly, the article alleges that the Infosys Trust finances many "Left wing" outfits, including fact-checking ones, and media portals that are openly against the Modi government.

Speaking to The Hindu, Panchjanya editor Hitesh Shankar said that the reputation of the company may have given the magazine a pause over a cover story like this, "but the implications for the people have been grave, it is an issue that directly hits crores of taxpayers, both direct and indirect." "It's not the question of one company or its reputation, but the harm done to the taxpayers due to the

BJP misusing investigating agencies: TMC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress hits out at the BJP for the recent summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate to the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira, calling it vendetta politics on losing the recent Assembly elections in West

Bengal. The party said the BJP was misusing the central investigating agencies against its political opponents while investigations against their own leaders were suppressed. The party's Rajya Sabha Chief Whip Sukendu Shekhar Ray, at a press conference in Delhi, said that ED had now joined CBI in being the caged parrot. Bureaucrats in West Bengal were also being hounded by the Central agencies, he said.

Madras HC directs police to respond to plea to examine ex-CM, Sasikala

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Madras High Court on Friday directed the Sholurmattam police in the Nilgiris district to file its reply to a plea by three accused in the 2017 Kodanad Estate heistcum-murder case, to summon and examine former CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami, former CM Jayalalithaa's close aide V.K. Sasikala and others, before the trial court. Justice M. Nirmal Kumar directed State Public Prosecutor Hasan Mohammed Jin-

nah to ensure that the reply was filed by September 27. Accused D. Deepu, M.S. Satheesan and A. Santhosh Samy had filed the revision petition against the refusal of the trial court to summon the former CM and others.

Iustice Kumar told the counsel for the accused that they had not listed out the reasons to summon certain people for examination as defence witnesses. He asked the counsel to be prepared with reasons during the next

his burial in the early hours of Thursday. Mobile Internet and calling services, except for BSNL fixed lines, remained suspended on Friday. There was



negligible movement of people and traffic on the roads. Most markets remained shut. Inter-Kashmir train services

were suspended. All postgraduation examinations to be held by the Kashmir University on September 3-4

Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said Internet services on mobile phones

were also postponed.

afternoon Director General of Police

would remain suspended till

(DGP) Dilbag Singh said, "The situation across Kashmir has been peaceful. People are cooperating to ensure peace. There has not been even one single untoward incident. Security forces are exercising utmost restraint."

Additional forces Additional

deployments were made on Friday and many sensitive areas sealed in many districts in the Valley to disallow any protests after the noon prayers. No congregational prayers were Masjid and the Hazratbal shrine. Security forces also barricaded the graveyard at Srinagar's Hyderpora, where Geelani, former Hurriyat chairman, was buried. Restrictions were strict in north Kashmir's Sopore, which was Geelani's hometown. The closure of Internet

allowed at Srinagar's Jamia

service affected online businesses, travellers and students appearing for online exams. "I missed my paper for the engineering course I am pursuing in a Punjab varsity. Due to the pandemic, the exams are being held online," Nazia Shah, a student from the old city, said.

India and Russia friendship has stood the test of time, says Modi

The friendship between India

of time. Most recently, it was seen

and Russia has stood the test

Vladivostok is the confluence of Eurasia and the Pacific, he says at forum

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

The India-Russia friendship has "stood the test of time", Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Friday while virtually addressing the Far Eastern Economic Forum 2021, currently under way in the Russian port city of Vladivostok.

Mr. Modi's remarks came days after Russia abstained from a crucial Afghanistan and terrorism-related resolution at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), where India served as the President for August.

He mentioned a number of areas spanning connectivity, space research and shipbuilding, which, he stated, were redefining the strategic bilateral partnership. "The friendship between India and Russia has stood the test of time. Most recently, it was seen in our robust cooperation during the COVID-19 pandemic, including in the



Energy is another major pillar of our strategic partnership," he noted and asserted that the India-Russia energy partnership could stabilise the global energy market. Mr. Modi announced that

was taking shape. The speech, however, did not mention the situation in Afghanistan even though substantial consultation had taken place between the two

an energy and trade bridge

from Vladivostok to Chennai

sides on the deteriorating security situation in the wartorn country. Mr. Modi called up Russian President Vladimir Putin on August 24 discuss Afghanistan among other issues. While India is concerned about the fallout of the Taliban takeover of Kabul on Kashmir, Russia is worried about a similar spillover along its southern borders. During the discussion on the UNSC Resolution

"ours versus theirs" and abstained alongside China. Mr. Modi said Vladivostok

2593 on August 31, Russia

claimed that the draft state-

ment divided terrorists as

was the confluence of Eurasia and the Pacific. "In Indian history and civilization, the word 'sangam' has a special meaning. It means confluence or coming together of rivers, people or ideas. In my view, Vladivostok is truly a 'sangam' of Eurasia and the Pacific. India will be a reliable partner of Russia in realising this vision," he observed.

The modern ship-building facility at Zvezda and the Mazagaon Docks Limited would work together for the "construction of some of the most important commercial ships in the world".

The Eastern Economic Forum is being attended by Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri. The forum was set up by a

decree of Mr. Putin in 2015 to support the economic development of Russia's far east and "expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region".

Respond to pleas of NDTV promoters: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to file its response to the petitions of NDTV promoters Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy, which sought that the penalty proceedings against them, related to the alleged violation of securities norms by concealing information from shareholders on loan agreements, be kept in abeyance.

The promoters have

sought that the market regulator's order imposing the penalty be kept in abeyance till the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) decided their appeals. A Bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana took note of the statement by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for SEBI, that the market regulator would not take coercive action against the promoters in the meantime and said a response to their pleas may be filed in two weeks.

IT rules framed to regulate unlawful content, says govt.

'Restrictions may be imposed for the interest of the public'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Friday told the Madras High Court that it had "lawfully" notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules of 2021 to regulate publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content on Over the Top (OTT) platforms from pu-

blishing "unlawful" content. The submission was made in a counter affidavit before the first Division Bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice P.D. Audikesavalu, who were seized of two writ petitions filed by Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna, the Digital News Publishers Association, and former Editor of The Hindu Mukund Padmanabhan, challenging the constitutional validity of the statutory rules that were



notified on February 25.

The counter, served upon senior counsel P.S. Raman and advocate Suhrith Parthasarathy, representing the petitioners, said the right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution was not absolute and that it was subject to limitations under Articles 19(2) and 19 (6), which empower the State to make laws imposing reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right.

"A common thread that runs across all reasonable restrictions is public interest and it is beyond any pale of doubt that restrictions may be imposed on freedoms for the interest of the public at large. The Rules have been clearly enacted bona fide for the benefit of the public," the counter affidavit read.

Claiming that the IT Rules, 2021, were framed after holding public consultations with the stakeholders, the Ministry said the significant expansion of the online intermediary ecosystem, growth of online social media platforms and their influencing capabilities were some of the reasons for framing the new rules.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, too, filed a separate counter affidavit and claimed that the rules had been brought in to provide an institutional framework for digital media and OTT platforms. The judges decided to commence hearing arguments in the case from September 14.

Court concludes trial of 2008 Ahmedabad blasts

77 persons are accused in the attacks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A local special trial court in Ahmedabad has concluded the trial against 77 persons accused of carrying out serial blasts in the city in 2008, which killed 56 persons and inured 200 others.

Ahmedabad was rocked with as many as 21 blasts across the city, including at the civil hospital's trauma centre, in a span of 75 mi-

Verdict reserved

After the protracted trial that began in December 2009 and lasted almost 13 years, special trial court judge A.R. Patel on Friday concluded the hearing and reserved his verdict.

During the trial, the prosecution examined over 1,100 witnesses against the accused, who are allegedly members of the Indian Mujahideen (IM), a faction of an al conspiracy and relevant the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

The Gujarat police during

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India and the United States

signed a project agreement

(PA) on July 30 for an Air-

Launched Unmanned Aerial

Vehicle (ALUAV) under the

ambit of the Defence Tech-

nology and Trade Initiative

(DTTI), the Defence Ministry

said in a statement on Friday.

The PA was inked bet-

the investigation found that the IM terrorists had planned these blasts as revenge for the 2002 post-Godhra riots, in which several persons from the minority community were killed

FIRs registered

Immediately after the blasts in Ahmedabad, the police recovered live bombs from different parts of Surat, following which 20 First Information Reports (FIRs) were registered in Ahmedabad and 15 in Surat.

Subsequently, all 35 FIRs were consolidated naming 85 persons, out of which the trial commenced against 78 accused. One of the accused later turned approver, leading to the trial against 77 persons. Seven other accused are still absconding.

The accused have been charged with murder, crimiprovisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

U.S. Department of Defence

(DoD) by the co-chairs of the

Joint Working Group (JWG)

on Air Systems under the

"The PA outlines the collabo-

ration between Air Force Re-

search Laboratory, Indian

Air Force, and Defence Re-

search and Development Or-

ALUAV prototype

Army conducts exercise with armoured elements in Ladakh

India and China deployed tanks during last year's stand-off

DINAKAR PERI

The Army conducted an exercise with armoured elements in the super high altitude area (SHAA) of Ladakh under the aegis of the Lehbased 14 Corps.

This comes in the backdrop of the Army's renewed focus on beefing up armour in high altitude terrain following the deployment of tanks by India and China during last year's stand-off in Eastern Ladakh.

"Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Fire And Fury Corps, reviewed the operational preparedness of Snow Leopard Brigade on Thursday through integrated manoeuvre and live fire exercise in SHAA of Ladakh," the Defence PRO in Srinagar said on Twitter.

The Snow Leopard Brigade is located at Nyoma, which is very close to the Chushul range, according to

development, demonstra-

tion, testing and evaluation

of systems to co-develop an

ALUAV prototype," the state-

ment from the Defence Mi-

The PA fell under the Re-

search, Development, Test-

ing and Evaluation memo-

randum of agreement

between the Ministry and

the DoD that was first signed

India, U.S. sign project agreement on air-launched UAV

nistry said.



High stakes: The Army conducted the exercise in the super high altitude area of Ladakh. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

a Defence source.

During the stand-off last year, India and China deployed tanks at SHAA on the South Bank of Pangong Tso (lake) at very close proximity, just a few 100 metres apart, with their barrels facing each other.

As part of the first phase of disengagement from Pangong Tso in February last, tanks and armoured elements on the South bank were withdrawn along with

frontline troops and other equipment.

After a major reorganisation in 2017, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) was all mechanised, a second Defence source ad-"The terrain here permits

use of tanks and mechanised elements as there are lots of plains in Eastern Ladakh,' the source stated, pointing to the possibility of tank bat-

1984 riots: SC refuses interim bail to ex-MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to grant interim bail sought on health grounds to former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar, who is serving life imprisonment in an 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, stating that his condition was stable and improving as per the medical records.

The Supreme Court, which dealt with the submission advanced by Kumar's counsel that the former MP be allowed to undergo treatment at a private hospital at his own cost, observed that he cannot be treated as a "super VIP patient".

"You are feeling he is the only patient in the country to be examined," a Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M.M. Sundresh told the counsel representing Kumar.

The Bench further said, "You want him to be treated as some kind of a super VIP patient."

Sept. 5 mahapanchayat will be historic, says BKU

ANUJ KUMAR GHAZIABAD

Ahead of the September 5 mahapanchayat in Muzaffarnagar against the contentious farm laws, the Bharatiya Kisan Union said on Friday that the mahapanchayat would be historic and would see the participation of farmer groups from across the country.

"Apart from Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana, farmers from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have also started reaching Ghaziborder," Dharmendra Malik, mediain-charge, BKU. BKU national spokesper-

son Rakesh Tikait said farmers and workers were linking the mahapanchayat to their dignity. He said this would be the first time that he would be going to his home district since the agitation had started in November 2020. "I had pledged bill wapsi, nahin to ghar wapsi nahin (I will not return home, till the bills are repealed)," he said.

Mr. Tikait said it was the call of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha that compelled him to return to Muzaffarnagar.

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय महासागर सूचना सेवा केंद्र

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) (पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (एमओईएस), भारत सरकार के अधीन एकस्वायत्त संगठन (an autonomous body under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India) हैदराबाद/Hyderabad- 500090

भारत सरकार द्वारा 2021-26 के लिए परियोजना प्रस्तावों के अनुमोदन पर एक वर्ष के लिए परियोजना

विशेषज्ञ/सलाहकार (03 पद - वैज्ञानिक, 01 पद - प्रशासनिक), परियोजना तकनीकी सहायक (05 - पद), परियोजन वैज्ञानिक प्रशासनिक सहायक (10-पद) के अस्थायी पदों के संविदा आधार पर भर्ती के लिए नामों का एक पैनल तैया करने के लिए योग्य भारतीय नागरिकों से आवेदन आमंत्रित हैं। पदों की संख्या, अस्थायी है एवं वास्तविक आवश्यकत भारत सरकार के आदेश के आधार पर बदलने की संभावना है। पद, आरक्षण, समेकित वेतन, शैक्षणिक योग्यता, आय अनुभव एवं संविदा पदों की जिम्मेदारी, आवेदन के प्रारूप और अन्य सामान्य शर्तों के बारे में विवरण 'भर्ती/Vacancies के अंतर्गत इंकॉइस/INCOIS वेबसाइट www.incois.gov.in पर उपलब्ध हैं।

Applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for preparation of a panel of names fo engagement on contract basis against the temporary positions of Project Expert/Consultants (03 No. Scientific; 01 No. Administrative), Project Technical Assistants (05 No.) and Project Scientific Administrative Assistants (10 No.) for one year upon approval of project proposals for 2021-26 by Government of India. The number of positions is tentative and is likely to vary depending upon actua requirement and orders of Government of India. Details about the positions, reservation, consolidated emoluments, academic qualifications, age, experience, and responsibilities of the contract positions format of application and other general conditions are available at INCOIS website www.incois.gov.i

ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि इस विज्ञापन के प्रकाशन कीतिथि से तीन (3) सप्ताह है। Last Date for submission of Online application is three (3) weeks from the date of publication of thi

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED

e - TENDER NOTICE

The TSTRANSCO invites online Bids under e-procurement for supply of the following equipm

SI. No., Tender Specification No. & Description of Equipment: 1. TSPMM41-2

Ozot, Jeroko Cyts, 2. TSPMM41-2/2 (2021, 33kV CTs (1200-800-400/1-0.5775, 1-1.1)
 TSPMM41-23/2021, 33kV Isolator Metallics (2000A), 4. TSPMM41-24/2021, 33kV Isolator Metallics (800A), 5. TSPMM41-25 / 2021, 33kV Isolator Metallics (1200A)
 TSPMM41-26 / 2021, 33kV Lightning Arresters, 7. TSPMM12-27 / 2021, 132kV Lightning Arresters, 8. TSPMM12-28/2021, 220kV Lightning Arresters.

REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695011

Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram Invites

Expression of Interest (EOI) for 'RCC Employees and

Pensioners Health Insurance Scheme

Regional Cancer Centre. Thiruvananthapuram invites Expression of Interes

from IRDA accredited Insurance Companies for implementation of Health

Insurance Scheme for Employees and Pensioners. The Expression of

Interest document has been issued on 03/09/2021 and the same is available

Phone - 0471 2522216, Website: www.rcctvm.

No.RCC/880/2020-FIN H

on RCC's website www.rcctvm.gov.in

Bidders can have further details and download the tender schedule from e-p market place i.e., www.tender.telangana.gov.in (Telangana state). Contact Nos: The Chief Engineer/P&MM, TSTransco, Phone: 040-23396000, Extn 3670/3583/3636/3522, Fax: 040-23303736, www.tstransco.in

विज्ञापन सं. इंकॉइस/आरएमटी/04/2021 Advt. No. INCOIS/RMT/04/2021

02/09/202

DIRECTOR

ween the Ministry and the ganisation towards design, in January 2006 and re-Mamata's 'idol' to share space

with Durga in Kolkata pandal

Move hurts sensibilities of Hindus in the State, says BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A controversy has erupted in West Bengal after the organisers of a Durga puja pandal decided to put up an idol of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at their marquee alongside goddess Durga's, provoking angry reactions from the BJP that called the move "nauseating" and one that hurt the sensibilities of the Hindus in the State.

Famous clay modeller Mintu Pal is sculpting the fibreglass idol at his Kumartuli studio, draping the "deity" in the Trinamool Congress supremo's favourite whitecoloured tant saree and her trademark flip-flop slippers to boot. "I have studied photographs and videos of the Chief Minister as a reference



An artist's perspective: Clay modeller Mintu Pal working on Mamata Banerjee's idol in Kolkata on Thursday. • рті

point, including the way she walks, speaks and interacts with the public, while moulding the face of the idol," Mr. Pal said on Friday. The ten hands of the deity, instead of holding weapons, would depict the projects taken up by the government.

However, the BJP was not

amused. "This deification of Mamata Banerjee, who has blood of innocent Bengalis on her hand following the gruesome post poll violence in Bengal, is nauseating. This is an insult to goddess Durga," said the party's IT head, Amit Malviya, on Twitter.

Significant step It was a significant step towards deepening technology collaboration between the two nations through the codevelopment of equipment, it stated.

newed in January 2015, the

statement added.

The DTTI's main aim was to bring a sustained leadership focus on promoting collaborative technology excreating and change opportunities for co-production and co-development of future technologies for the military forces of both na-

Under the DTTI, JWGs on land, naval, air, and aircraft carrier technologies had been established to focus on mutually agreed projects in the respective domains.

TENDER NOTICE

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State Institute of Languages Nalanda, Trivandrum - 03. Ph: 0471-2316306, 2317238 www.keralabhashainstitute.org Sd/- Director

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RO/01461/D3/2021/I&PRD

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE **WORKS DEPARTMENT** E-mail: ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (0) - 08 / 2021-22

The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge works as detailed below 2. Nature of work Bridge works

- 3. No. of work 4. Tender Cost
 - : Rs.10.000.00
- 5. Class of Contractor
- 6. Available of bid document : From 10.00 AM of 07.09.2021 to 5.00 PM of 04.10.2021
- 7. Pre-Bid meeting
 - Dt.15.09.2021 at 11.30 AM

Super Class Contractor

8. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.05.10.2021 at 11.30 AM

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum /

Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha. OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR OIPR-34003/11/0013/2122



DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-II

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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) II



Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru-570 003, Karnataka, Ind Tel : +91 821 2582905/15/25, Fax : +91 821 258209 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY) THROUGH E-TENDERING MSTC Event No.: BRBNMPL/MYSURU PRESS/MMD/3/21-22/ET/7 [BLOCK BOARD PACKING BOXES]

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Vendors / Bidders are required to register themselves online with
www.mstcecommerce.com for participation. The details are also
published in our website www.brbnmpl.co.in. Amendments/
Corrigendum to the e-tender if any, issued in future will only be notified on
the BRBNMPL's website and MSTC website as given above and will not
be published in Newspaper. Further extension or amendment/s, if any
will be available on website only.

General Manager

Plaint against

Bihar MLA for

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Bihar MLA who is in the

news after fellow passen-

gers on a train objected to

his wearing only a vest and

briefs stated on Friday that

he was so clad because he

had an urgent need to use

Pictures of Gopal Man-

dal, who is from the State's

ruling party Janata Dal (Un-

the restroom.

train ruckus

IN BRIEF



HC set to hear Rao's plea on bail extension

The Bombay High Court will hear a plea filed by Varavara Rao, 81, seeking an extension to the interim medical bail Koregaon caste violence case on September 6. Mr. Rao's counsel informed the court that his interim medical bail would expire on September 5. However, the NIA assured that no action will be taken against him [Mr. Rao]

CBI books directors of **Aman Hospitality Limited**

NEW DELH The CBI has booked Aman Hospitality Private Limited (AHPL) and its directors for allegedly cheating J&K Bank of ₹289.28 crore in connivance with the bank's officials. It is alleged that they connived with the bank officials to get their loan account declared as a non-performing asset.

NIA files chargesheet against 10 in Antilia case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has submitted a chargesheet before a special NIA court against 10 accused including former police officers Sachin Vaze and Pradeep Sharma in the case of recovery of explosives near Antilia, the residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

HC tells varsity students not to protest on campus KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Friday stepped in to end the week-long stand-off in Visva-Bharati, ordering students to take their protest outside the campus. Since last Saturday, Vice-Chancellor Bidyut Chakrabarty had been confined to his home by a group protesting against the August 23 rustication of students who had taken part in a campus protest in January 2020.

SC faces virtual hearing woes

Take out this software and bring the old one, CJI Ramana tells SC officials

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Friday expressed his dissatisfaction in open court over the software newly put in place in the Supreme Court for virtual hear-

"Take out this software and bring the old one. I am very unhappy with this one," Chief Justice Ramana was heard telling the court officials and technicians present in the courtroom.

While the court stoically transformed from physical to virtual mode nearly two years ago without losing a single day's work in the face of a debilitating pandemic, it seems to have not settled into a suitable software. Though the court began hybrid physical-virtual hearings from September 1, the virtual mode continues to be in vogue amidst reports of a third wave.

The CJI's remark has come within days of the court moving to Cisco from the previous one - Vidyo. In fact, a few days ago, some senior lawyers, who had been unhappy with Vidyo, were seen commending the shift

Judges voice concerns

Months of virtual court hearings through Vidyo had seen lawyers complain of poor connectivity, echoes and other disruptions. On several occasions, judges too had recorded their unhappiness about the technical interruptions during hearings.

In fact, in January, a Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul took an exasperated poke at the virtual court system. "We, at the inception, must note our exasper-



CJI N.V. Ramana

ation at the inability of the virtual court system to work satisfactorily in the Supreme Court while there are no such problems in the Delhi High Court next door! We have been since yesterday trying to cope with the problem of disconnections, resonance of voices, even when there is single person arguing... The only voice we hear is the resonance of our own voices!," it observed.

The court's mobile app for journalists to view virtual which hearings. was launched in May keeping in mind the health and convenience of reporters during the pandemic, has unfortunately been patchy. There were days when several courtrooms were not accessible on the app.

No. of courts shrink

After the introduction of Cisco, the number of courtrooms available through the mobile app have diminished with each passing day. Reporters have gone back to depending on lawyers for virtual court links in order to cover crucial hearings.

Chief Justice Ramana, while launching the mobile app, had highlighted the need for transparency. "The role of the media assumes importance in the process of disseminating information," he stressed. The initiative to launch the mobile app for journalists came after he had heard that reporters were depending on lawyers for video links of virtual hearings,

Biological E jab gets nod for trial among children

Corbevax uses spike protein method

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Biological E. Limited has been approved by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to conduct further trials of its vaccine Corbevax on children and adolescents.

Following Zycov-D by Zydus Cadilla and Covaxin by Bharat Biotech, Corbevax becomes the third Indiamade vaccine that may be available for use in children. Zycov-D has already received authorisation for emergency use in children, who are over 12 years. Covaxin is being tested in children who are younger and officials have said that the vaccine is likely to be ready by September.

Corbevax is based on a vaccine technology of a protein antigen, in this case the



Corbevax is the third India-made vaccine that can be given to children.

spike protein, which binds to the Angiotensin Converting Enzyme-2 (ACE2) receptor on the host cell membrane and facilitates virus

The body's own cells then make more copies of this protein that then stimulates the immune system of the body to produce antibodies to protect against a potential, future infection.

ited), wearing only minimal clothing on a train journey were shared on social media. He allegedly verbally abused a co-passenger who had raised an objection. A fellow passenger has

lodged a complaint against the MLA with the government railway police at New Delhi railway station for "misbehaving and snatching of gold items".

The MLA had been travelling on the Patna-New Delhi Tejas Express in the A-1 coach on September 2, it is learnt.

"Yes, I had an upset stomach when I was travelling in the train and there was an urgent need to go to the washroom, so I couldn't wear anything else. But I was wearing a full brief not the short one, and my vest was long. I do not lie," said Mr. Mandal, who represents the Gopalpur constituency in Bhagalpur district.

During the train journey, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel and the ticket examiner had to intervene to calm the situation that emerged after passengers objected to the MLA's clothing. Mr. Mandal said there had been no female passengers in the coach.

not have happened. I've been an MLA for four terms but I had an urgent need to go to the washroom, so I couldn't put on other clothes," he said.

Seven held by CBI for malpractice in JEE

They solved paper by remote access

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested seven persons, including two directors and four employees of Affinity Education Private Limited for allegedly subverting the ongoing JEE (MAIN) examination.

Accused Siddarth Krishna and Vishambhar Mani Tripathi are directors of Affinity Education; and Ritik Singh, Anjum Dawoodani, Animesh Kumar Singh and Ajinkya Narhari Patil are its employees. Another arrested accused has been identified as Ranjeet Singh Thakur. "The three arrested accused were remanded to CBI custody till September

9," said an official.

The accused persons charged ₹12 to ₹15 lakh per candidate to facilitate admissions in top National Institutes of Technology (NITs). They were manipulating the online examination of JEE (Mains) by helping the candidates solve their question papers through remote access from an examination centre in Haryana's Sonepat.

It is alleged that they would keep with themselves the Xth and XIIth mark sheets, user IDs, passwords, and post-dated cheques of the candidates as security and once admissions were confirmed, they collected hefty commissions.

Fill up vacancies by Oct.: Pradhan

Education Minister asks V-Cs to work on mission mode to finish the task

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Central universities have been given a two-month deadline to fill up their 6,000 plus vacancies, which form a third of all sanctioned faculty positions. "Let us work on a mission

mode. During Shikshat Parv [Education Festival], let us start a campaign, a mission to fill up these 6,000 seats within September and October," said Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in his first interaction with the Vice-Chancellors of 45 Central universities on Friday.

Mr. Pradhan added that while there may be a few anomalies at some universities, all institutions should advertise their vacant posts by September 10.

Vice-Chancellors who participated in the meeting said there was a special focus on backlog vacancies - positions which have not been filled despite having been advertised – as well as on vacant positions which have been reserved for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class communities. Out of 6,229 vacant positions, 1,767 were for the OBC category, 1,012 for the SCs and 592 for the STs, Mr. Pradhan said. Mr. Pradhan praised Jawa-

harlal Nehru University for introducing a new course on counter-terrorism that has come in for criticism for referring to "jihadi terrorism" as the only form of funda-



Dharmendra Pradhan praised JNU for starting a course on counter-terrorism.

mentalist religious inspired terrorism. The course is meant for engineering graduate students specialising in international relations.

not just engineers. If a

course," he said. **Focus on mother tongue** The Education Minister also emphasised the importance of using Indian languages in education at all levels, as recommended by the National

course helps engineering

students understand the

kind of obstacles they could

face in developing social pro-

ducts, then I congratulate

JNU for introducing such a

"Our engineers today are of learners.

Education Policy. He said he was not opposed to the English language in principle, and accepted that foreign languages helped Indians participate in the global economy, but pointed out that, prime importance had to be given to the mother tongues

"I accept that it should

Experts flag diversion of fresh water from Brahmani river

High salinity could pose a threat to the mangroves in Odisha, they say

STAFF REPORTER

Environmentalists on Friday expressed concern over the massive diversion of fresh water from the Brahmani river basin, which could pose a grave threat to the famous mangrove vegetation in Odisha.

Bhitarkanika – a notified Ramsar wetland - is spread over 195 sq. km and is home to 62 mangrove species. Besides, 1,600 salt water crocodiles crawl on the mudflats of the Bhitarkanika mangrove forest.

Mangroves grow in brackish water. Proportionate fresh water flow from the

Brahmani river basin and the Kharasrota river keep the sa linity level of the water along the shore down.

comes ideal for the mangroves to grow and stay healthy.

Guzzler industries

The Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO), an environmental pressure group, had drawn public attention on the excess water allocation for industries, which is likely to reduce fresh water discharge

"The Talcher-Angul coal mines, steel and power plants as well as the Kalinga-



Alarm sounded: The Sunderbans mangrove forest was badly hit after the Farraka barrage was commissioned. • FILE РНОТО

nagar steel and power hub are drawing enormous quantities of fresh water from the Brahmani river," said Biswajit Mohanty, secretary, WSO.

"Against an available 4,400 mcum of fresh water stored by the Rengali reservoir, 4,318 mcum, that is al-

most equal to the available water supply shall be withdrawn from the river," he said.

According to the WSO secretary, 105 million litres, as per government claims, would be withdrawn for the mega drinking water project.

reduction in water flow would lead to drastic changes in the water regime of the Bhitarkanika mangroves. The Sunderbans mangrove forest was drastically affected after the Farraka barrage was commissioned."

Stating that the lack of normal flow of fresh water would increase saline ingression upstream, the WSO secretary said it would affect the local flora and fauna as well as the livelihoods of the farmers and fishermen.

Besides, there could be a quantum increase in the man-crocodile conflict since the estuarine crocodiles would leave the core sanctuary area and migrate upstream once salinity increas-

Supreme Court stays Kerala plan to hold Class XI exams

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed a Kerala government order to conduct physical exams for Class XI students owing to the "alarming" spread of CO-VID-19 in the State. The exams were scheduled to start on September 6.

A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar found prima facie force in the argument made by petitioner Rasoolshan A., represented by advocate Prashant Padmanabhan, that the State government did not "seriously consider the prevailing situa-

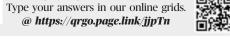
cal exam in September this year". The court noted that about 30,000 cases were being reported every day in Kerala. The State accounts for nearly 70% of the CO-VID-19 cases nationally.

The State counsel refused to give an assurance when the court asked whether the State could guarantee that no student would be infected. "These are children of tender age," Justice Khanwilkar observed. "As we could not get a satisfactory response in this regard, we grant interim relief staying offline exam till the next date listing the case on September 13.

Mr. Padmanabhan submitted that around three lakh students were scheduled to take the exam from September 6 to 27.

The State, appearing through advocate C.K. Sasi, countered that over four lakh students had appeared in Classes X and XII exams during April 2021. But the Bench was not convinced whether the government had really taken into consideration the rapid changes in the public health scenario in Kerala since April.

TH CROSSWORD+ 13344



SCAN TO PLAY

16 One's choice of words lost at spell test (7) 19 Boiling water with hesitation in a two tier pot (7)

21 Emperor and leaders of country are endlessly shuffling army responsibilities (6)

Display keystrokes of genius.

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

23 Repairing main tunnel without one cancellation of contract (9) **25** Bring together company and engineer (5)

26 Dog for one rotating thin plate (6)

27 Outlet at residence – place to get beer, say (8) 28 Reverberates with energy, adding routine tasks right away (6)

29 Wandering free, lass is daring (8) DOWN

1 Instructions about long story sent up (6)

2 Interpret broadcast, startle a nationalist (9)

3 Huge beer king took up (5) 4 Disgraceful action in view at lake up north (7)

6 Vehicle first bought by dad's brother – a gem (9) 7 Leaderless change editor brought to conclusion (5)

8 Available for rent, managed to get in free and easy (8) 11 Newton exiting had to be due (4)

15 Style of "iPhone" arrived with large cover (5,4) 17 Main tune I need to change soon (2,1,6) 18 Free to go about these days on an adventure (8)

21 Restrain old teetotaller breaking into small house (7) 22 Break depression (6)

24 New number cut short — let out a cry (5)

20 Free licence withheld for dance music (4)

25 Escort powerless drug dealer (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12242 Solution to vectorday's Sudoki

DIFFICULTY RATING:

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FAITH

The effects of three gunas

In the Devi Bhagavata Purana, many interesting discussions on the character, behaviour and actions of all beings in creation are featured as a dialogue between Janamejaya and Vyasa. The puranas are open and frank about the mistakes committed by all people, including those who are Satvik by nature and uphold righteousness as a way of life. Janamejaya tells Vyasa that he is unable to understand how even Indra, who is supposed to hold the position of a Lokapala, at times can stoop to such levels so as to disturb the penance of sages. What about his own father Parikshit or his forebears the Pandavas, or even Bhishma, who have committed mistakes in their lives?

Vyasa draws attention to the important fact that adharma is indispensable in life, said Sri K. Srinivasan in a discourse. Adharma is an offshoot of the three gunas that are integrated with Prakriti. All created beings, right from Brahma to the smallest ant, are bound by Prakriti and cannot escape the effects of the three gunas - satva, rajas and tamas. These get ingrained as vasanas and instigate people to act in both good and bad ways. The behaviour of any individual thus depends on the permutations and combinations of the gunas. This is the reason why, at times, even the celestials are guilty of mistakes just as the asuras and human beings. When Indra is guided by selfish interest, say, if he feels there is a threat to his position, he goes to any extent to safeguard it.

Krishna says in the Gita that Kama, desire, and krodha, anger, and greed are the main motives for people to engage in unrighteous deeds. People in Kali Yuga, who are very vulnerable to faults, have no way except to resort to the path of bhakti, by taking shelter in the feet of God who alone can guide them out of samsara.

10 Bachelor free beside a lake at wedding feast (6)

12 Glue, drawing aid curtailed (5)

13 New, odd urn destroyed in Australia perhaps (4,5) **14** Plot is average, closing early in small room (6)



ACROSS

1 Leader departs, full of lies, and having no mercy (8) 5 Emphasis on account with penny (6) 9 Main arch redesigned by one running the show (8)



Instapick

Road to Ladakh: A theatre at 11,562 feet! Leh's Paldan region is now home to the world's highest-altitude cinema. And if you're headed to Ladakh next week, you can club the experience with the pop-up being curated by chef Prateek Sadhu of Mumbai's Masque. Lavender, apricots and other ingredients indigenous to the region will feature in a 10-course menu, alongside beverages crafted with 1800 Teguila. ₹7,000+tax. September 10, 11, 12. 9819069222



Talking Point

Art for the Paralympics: It's not just the Olympics that has inspired artists. While Sudarshan Pattnaik's sand sculpture at Orissa's Puri beach set the tone for the Indian contingent, emerging artworks continue to depict the spirit of the 2020 Paralympics. Such as design studio Goo Choki Par's 'Paralympian' poster (above), of an athlete in motion, and Southern Highlands artist Rheanna Lotter's indigenous design featured on the Australian team's uniforms.

teacher's back

If you think the smuggled notes and comics shuffled underneath textbooks went unnoticed, her 'eyes' caught them all



JANE DE SUZA

To all our teachers who had eyes and antennae on their backs, comes this tribute with admiration, respect and all our love.

'Saji,' Teacher would say, back turned, scrawling on the blackboard. 'Stop digging your nose!'

Saji, who had been in the middle of an excavation to find oil in the Tundra, would stop midway, wide-eyed. All the ear diggers, head-scratchers cavity-pickers, nose-wipers who had waited exclusively for this break, froze instantly.

Without turning around, she'd say, 'And Jane, please share the contents of that note with the whole class.' Note-passing was an activity so surreptitious that the Gestapo could have copyrighted it. Notes zigzagged across class, smuggled under desks, stuck into socks, flown via paper planes. The notes usually contained completely

> arrangements of body parts. 'It's - um - two circles, Miss. We were practising geometry.' I firmly believe my creative storytelling skills be-

false accusations of who was seen with whom or scandalous

gan there. Teacher's back contained a bloodhound's nose as well to pinpoint the originator of a stink

bomb. And elephant ears. 'I heard that!' got 40 voices stoutly protesting, 'It was not me, Miss.' The multiple double chins on Teacher's back would wobble in silent laughter.

Maths problems were the most anticipated (what?!), especially the complex ones that required giant leaps (of faith) for mankind. Those kept Teacher at the blackboard even longer, scribbling out the solution for her ungrateful class. That was the Breaking News Hour. 'Did you hear a 4th grader fainted in the loo?' To which quicker solutions than maths were offered:

'Must have been after you ate lunch!' 'Lina,' Teacher barked. 'Would you like to solve this next step?' Lina, who was salivating over a True Romance comic, would have rather been sucked into the Tundra tunnel. 'I have a pain, Miss,' she'd appeal.

> 'Where?' 'In my stomach, Miss.'

'Good, then nothing wrong with your legs. Walk here and solve it.' Still turned, Teacher said, 'And throw that dirty comic in the wastepaper basket while you're at it.' Saina, who had stolen the comic book from her elder sister, hissed, 'I will kill you. I will maim you. I will break your teeth!'

We bore war wounds from the Back-Time. It was the agreed time to break into strenuous physical activity that not even PT Sir could otherwise urge us to. Pelting pencils, erasers, (books are gods, don't you dare!) and half-eaten jam-parathas at each other. Sometimes, a fry drenched in ketchup landed on Teacher's desk. Dishu once leaned so far out to cheat from the next desk that she fell over and cut her chin. Sara flung an ink pen at the first bench, that both opened up to drench someone's shirt and nearly took out someone else's eye (two-inone school record till today).

When the bell signalled freedom, Teacher walked out proudly, job well done. I swear I saw her pop that fry into her mouth and pick up the dirty comic on her way out. Her back smiled back at me.

Where Jane De Suza, author of Flyaway Boy, pokes her nose into our perfect lives.

Pick of the week

Events, workshops and launches you just can't miss!



Art theory

Art studio RainbowFish's September calendar features 'Mom and Me in Art World', a free art expression workshop for children aged 3.5-5 years. The virtual version now features an art kit that you will receive on registering. September 13. 3.30pm-4.45pm. **.**9952018542 At Delhi's Ikk Panjab in Rajouri Garden, historian and writer <mark>kram</mark>jit Singh Rooprai will do a free of cost storytelling session on the 183rd Birth Anniversary of the last Duleep Singh, today.



Take a cheese break

Indulge your cheese cravings

with the recently-launched subscription service by artisanal cheese brand Käse. Valid for three months, you can choose from a box of three variants (150 gm) delivered once or twice a month, and a weekend party platter comprising four cheese varieties and two condiments. ₹3,600 onwards on eatmorecheese.in At Mumbai's Brun and Babka opening on September 7 after a short break - don't miss the lemon scones, eclair combo, chocolate orange babka wreath, and more. \$8454014422



Pork, ahoy!

The Farm in Chennai is kickstarting their curated meals this weekend with 'The Big Bad lves Lunch' (₹2,000 per head). In collaboration with adventure travel company Helmet Stories, it will feature pork in all its glory - roasted, grilled, glazed. *9176050562. Opening In Edinburgh on September 6 is the Johnnie Walker Princes Street new visitor experience, spread across eight floors and 71,500 sa ft. Tickets for tours start from £25 per person, including a 90-minute tour and three personalised Scotch drinks.



Look again

DAG is holding an exhibition of Company Paintings of Indian birds, in honour of the unknow Indian masters commissioned by the East India Company in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The 125 paintings on view have been curated by writer-historian Giles Tillotson. Opening today, at DAG, The Claridges, New Delhi. In Delhi, at the Open Palm Court Gallery, IIC, Priyanka Baneriee has curated

Panorama-19, a show of works by artists such as Uma Bardhan, Anindita Kishore, and Zaheda Khanum. Until September 10th.



On a high note

Blending Latin, jazz, folk, and Hindustani classical music is sitar virtuoso Purbayan Chatterjee's upcoming album, Unbounded (Abaad). It features the likes of tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain, mandolin master U Rajesh, and international artistes such as composer Antonio Sanchez, Releasing on September 10. sufiscore.com If you're looking for an introduction to Indian classical music, this workshop by vocalist-writer Pushkar Lele will

cover the history, instruments,

₹3,000. livingbridge.net



Courting the hammer

Fifty lots featuring artworks by legends MF Husain, SH Raza, Akbar Padamsee, Krishen Khanna, KK Hebbar, Jamini Roy, among others, will be available at AstaGuru's 'Modern Indian Art Online Auction' next week. September 8 and 9. astaguru.com. Elsewhere, four school students from a government school in Kochi, Kerala are giving instant coffee a run for its money. They have developed Kaapiphile, a filter coffee capsule encased in cassava, which is both



Bvlgari's mangalsutra

Priyanka Chopra Jonas' latest Instagram post had her sporting Bvlgari's 'first-ever India inspired' mangalsutra (₹3,49,000) for Voque India's cover shoot. The Italian jewellery brand's latest offering is in 18 carat yellow gold and comes adorned with round, black onyx inserts and pave diamonds. The double logo depicts the curved inscriptions of ancient Roman coins, and you can complete the set with a rose gold bracelet (₹2,58,000) set with mother-of-pearl and onyx.

Geneva Watch I

Montblanc's pink

statement

The Montblanc 1858

Geosphere Pink Dial -

launched last month and part of The Pink Dial

Project, a charity auction

to fight breast cancer -

deserves mention. With

its in-house worldtime

of the brand's female

complication, it has been assembled by one

How Czapek's new Antarctique was the star and Breitling's tribute to American sports cars from the '60s was a bold move indeed

ROSELLA STEPHEN

The contrast between Geneva Watch Days, not controlled by a consortium, and the big watch fairs couldn't be more striking. While the first, which came to a close on Friday, is informal, open to the public, and spread across hotel suites and retail showrooms across the city, the fairs are by invitation. As was Watches and Wonders earlier this year, a star-studded affair including virtual fireside chats with watch CEOs and a social media blitz. The Geneva Watch Days Instagram account, meanwhile, has just one post since the show began. That's it. But the independents are truly celebrated here, with the announcement about the pre-owned platform WatchBox investing in the Swiss watchmaker, De Bethune, creating a stir on forums and Clubhouse rooms. Meanwhile, here are some brands that made an impact:



Czapek & Cie Antarctique Rattrapante

This Swiss watchmaker made an impact last year with its luxury sports contender. In the new Rattrapante, the split-seconds chronograph movement is visible from the dial side. With the automatic calibre SXH6, icy steel case and bracelet, it has created a buzz this week. And the limited edition, 77 pieces, has been swiped up for approx CHF 46,000.



Cars Capsule

The brand has gone from Bentley to muscle cars, screamed headlines, about Breitling's Top Time capsule collection. Inspired by classic American sports cars from the 1960s - the Chevrolet Corvette, Shelby Cobra and Ford Mustang – the three new chronographs have a distinctive colour and car logo. In a 44 mm case (the Shelby is 40 mm with calibre 41) they are in limited volume, a good way to keep the interest high. Approx ₹4.1 lakh.



Bulgari Octo Roma Worldtimer A nod to international

travel picking up soon, the sporty Octo WorldTimer planned before the pandemic, says Antoine Pin, MD of the brand's watch division. With a softer and more rounded shape, it has a blue dial, steel case, and a rotating world time disc operated with the crown. With BVL257 calibre and a smaller dial that is neat on the wrist. Approx \$8,350.



Marking the brand's anniversary, the Marine Torpilleur collection has seven new models with two new movements, complications, chronographs, and enamelled dials. This is a wrist watch with all the codes and mechanics you can find on a marine chronometer. Each piece is numbered, with the moon-face complication (here) having calibre 119, a variation of 118. Approx \$8,200-\$42,400.



The chef's table goes designer

Restaurateur and chef Eeshaan Kashyap has launched his innings as a digital creator with Tablescape by Eeshaan (@tablescapebyee on Instagram), and is hosting his first pop-up starting today. The online concept store features eclectic tableware in bold shades of black, yellow and blue and will continue to "explore different materials to present usable, unique, and unexpected objects", says Kashyap, who is also commissioning orders for resorts and restaurants, and is working with chefs to develop their range of plate ware for special menus. The chef has also teamed up with Anupam Poddar for 'Artist Proof', a limited-edition collection 'of one-off pieces comprising discovered pieces made by others, mixed with the duo's own unusual takes on materiality'.

Tablescape by Eeshaan will be held at Vayu, Bikaner House, from September 4 to 14. 11 am to 6 pm.



GWD was from August 30 till September 3. Read the full story online at weekend.thehindu.com

With its luxurious settings and royal themes, India Couture Week has thrown up important questions on why we aren't diversifying, creating new markets or encouraging artisanship



The sin of







fashion week - you are ab-

solutely right. Because

while capturing the zeit-

geist, while ensuring that

they place their haute

couture in the most luxu-

rious settings, and show-

ing how their clothes

may be worn by brides,

grooms, families, and

friends, our designers

have succumbed, col-

lectively, to the sin of

Setting aside a few, al-

most all designers chose

to portray some version

of the How-To-Luxury-Wed-

ding theme, where the

clothes fell into categories

and the stories took center-

stage. Nobody spoke about

the craft of couture, except

Tarun Tahiliani and Rahul

Which brings me to this:

we are quick to take pride in

our traditional crafts, tex-

tiles, and embellishments.

We are just as quick to bring

up our deep-rooted work

with India's craft clusters at

every opportunity, most

significantly on social me-

dia. But the way we choose

to market the beautiful out-

comes of all those painstak-

ing efforts is through pander-

ing to hackneyed visions of

marital glamour. We tell sto-

ries that have nothing to do

with what we have designed

The sin of sameness manifests

Mishra.

sameness.

(Clockwise from top left) Sonam Kapoor with designer

Kunal Rawal, and designs from Shantanu and Nikhil. Rahul Mishra, Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna Anamika Khanna, and Tarun Tahiliani

in the narratives. Its devices are the following: long, lingering shots of beautiful models, their translucent dupatas flying, the richness of Indian flora represented by gulaab, mogra, and genda strewn around. There are handsome men striding in slow motion. And there are courtyards filled with beautiful friends, dancing. Stately mothers and indulgent fathers in haute couture; jewels to ransom entire countries.

Everything is royal, or a version

Here, it is India's artisanship that recedes into obscurity. We saw a form of collective outrage when Sabyasachi's mass-market H&M collaboration was launched because it didn't fulfil made-up expectations of how India's crafts should be represented worldwide. We see none of that when an entire fashion week dedicated to haute couture – a space where designers can and should explode with creativity - sells us a tired and uniform vision of The Royal Romance. Which disservice is the

greater? Is the future of our most creative minds and skilled hands to be tied to the monopoly that is the shaadi economy? Smart businesspeople are innovative. They diversity and constantly create new markets. Look at Schiapparelli. Or Marc Jacobs. Closer home, look at designers who make haute couture that's not remotely bridal or traditional. Whether they show at Couture Week or not is immaterial, but they refuse to cater solely

to old (and new) money and recognise the potential of the informed, style-conscious, and willing-to-invest younger consumers of high fashion. And they're not the only ones we need to look at

Time to shun vanilla

I often speak about respecting tradition but not being bound by it. Which is not some mind-boggling new concept, really. But when I look at haute couture in India today, I see an irony emerging.

Our social media is filled with images of truly modern ideas. There are heartwarming tales of LGBTQIA+ weddings, marriages where brides wear two-piece suits, middle-age romances, and older people marrying for love and companionship. The conversation about size has progressed to the point where designers are (slowly) getting better at featuring models of different shapes and body structures. Jewellery labels are making ads that challenge long-held notions. But our haute couture videos stubbornly depict only the most vanilla narratives. We've willingly imposed a brahminical heteronormativity on our collective creativity in the name of business. Since when did fash-

ion become so weak, so afraid? If this were a regular, physical fashion presentation where only those who can afford wedding couture were invited, all that I have said would be irrelevant. But the migration to an all-access video format outed on social media has made it relevant to even those who can't. And this means that designers now have an added responsibility - towards the continued growth of the artisanal sectors and craftspeople they work with. They have the power now to set the tone. With this in mind, we need to ask if the shaadi market. while it may sustain us economically, is enough. Are we here simply to survive? To bow to this monopoly even unto the erasure of our creative voices? Only our designers, whose very job it is to offer solutions, can answer these questions.

Varun Rana is a fashion commentator and consultant, and is currently consulting with label Shantanu & Nikhil which is mentioned in this feature.

VARUN RANA

If there's one thing that the video presentations at the recently-concluded India Couture Week said as one, it is that the designers have been thinking grand. From Falguni & Shane taking their collection to the Taj Mahal (a true feat, considering how famously inimical the babus at the ASI can be) to Gaurav Gupta's Universal Love show shot at the Taj Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad, this season was all about location, location, location.

Shantanu & Nikhil shot their lineup, Oasis, at Suryagarh in Jaisalmer. Varun Bahl's Memory / Mosaic came alive at the Andaz Aerocity and Anju Modi's The Eternal Story unfolded at The Banyan Farm, both on the outskirts of the capital. Rahul Mishra's Kam-Khab had its outing at a 300year-old haveli in Mandawa, Rajasthan.

The fact that so many of India's most creative minds thought of such locations at the same time is significant. Especially when travelling is, to put it mildly, a little more difficult than

before. It mirrors what people have been feeling for a while. Stifled, caged. Designers chose to focus on the idea of travel as their backdrop specifically because such places now offer safe and luxurious locations and experiences, not to mention great wedding packages.

A hackneved narrative If you feel I've digressed from talking about fashion – this is, after all, an op-ed on a

FOOD SPOT Tea and PATTIES Theos in Delhi-NCR has a strong savoury section on their menu



RAHUL VERMA

A cup of tea needs add-ons. I am usually happy with my two Marie biscuits, but sometimes the stomach grumbles. On one such occasion last week, I decided that we need some savouries to go with the tea. I was hoping for a warm chicken patty but knew that I couldn't order it from Wenger's, which demands advance notice for delivery services. That's when I thought of Theos.

This is a chain in Delhi-NCR known for its pastries and muffins. I'd eaten its desserts but hadn't encountered the savouries.

We decided on the chicken tikka puffs (₹110), a smoked chicken croissant



Mutton seekh roll, chicken pot pie, quiche and croissant; smoked chicken croissant (top) • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(₹195), a spinach and corn quiche (₹95), mutton seekh roll (₹160) and chicken pot pie (₹180): the puffs for tea, and the rest for dinner. My food came via Swiggy from their outlet in Sector 50, Noida (Ph: 8750242224).

Both meals were exceptional. Let me start with the chicken tikka puffs. I grew up at a time when patties largely came from Nehru Bazar in Paharganj in boxes carted by men on bicycles. Then, of course, little patisseries opened up across the city.

I have always held that Wenger's has the best patties in town; now I am willing to give it another thought. I found Theos' puffs deliciously buttery and flaky. The filling was spicy, but not overly so, with just the right amount of chilli.

Dinner that evening was different, but equally memorable. I didn't have the mutton roll, but I was told it was crispy and filling, and the meaty stuffing tasty. Accord-

ing to Theos, the casing is a Danish pastry, topped with onion seeds and fresh coriander.

I had the stuffed croissant, which was a flaky pastry with a filling of grilled smoked chicken in a cream and onion sauce. It was crispy outside, and warm and soft within. The chicken had been flavoured with some jalapeno cheese sauce, too, which ad-

ded to its piquancy. The spinach and corn quiche, again, was just right. The filling was thick, and the pastry was buttery and crisp. What I enjoyed the most was the chicken pot pie. It came in a red bowl covered with a flaky pastry. I dipped the pastry in the chicken (small chunks in a cream sauce) and finished a satisfying meal.

Theos has a comprehensive menu for savouries: it offers mushroom vol au vents, chicken and paneer patties, chicken quiches, garlic cheese croissants, and aloo puffs. The sandwich list includes a chicken salami brown bread sandwich and a brown bread coleslaw sandwich.

I think the fare is exceptionally good. I wish, though, I hadn't been so brave and turned away from its dessert list. If my meal needed anything else, it was some kind of a pudding. I am looking at its fruit and nut custard and crème brulee on the website and my fingers are itching to place an order again. I shall return.

The writer is a seasoned food critic

Maya in the Himalayas

and made.

Sanal Kumar Sasidharan on exploring themes of illusion and power in Kayattam that bagged the first 'Disruptor in Cinema' award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne

SARASWATHY NAGARAJAN

Filmmaker Sanal Kumar Sasidharan is on cloud nine after his movie, *Kayattam*, won the first 'Disruptor in Cinema' award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. "It comes as a shot in the arm," he says. "We had to take many risks to shoot Kayattam the way I had conceptualised it. However, because of the pandemic, we were unable to screen it in theatres or promote it the way we would have liked to. This award is definitely a mo-

rale booster and an honour." Both the jury and viewers were impressed by the way the film - nominated for the Kim Ji-seok Award at 2020's Busan Film Festival and screened in the Malayalam Cinema Today section of the International Film Festival of Kerala – moves away from a conventional narrative to explore philosophical aspects of the quest for happiness and identity in a surrealistic manner.

A seamless fusion of fantasy and fact, Kayattam, starring Manju War-



rier (as Maya), was shot completely on an iPhone XS Max. And with the pristine wilderness of the Himalayas as its backdrop, it explores the male gaze, voyeurism, identity, and ego through a group of strangers trekking in the snow-covered mountains. As the trip progresses, the trekkers' personalities unravel, their insecurities surface, and their egos take a beating.

Sasidharan says the theme demanded a location like the Himalayas, but the terrain also made it difficult to shoot with a large team. "The weather kept changing every hour. Rain and snow would be followed by weak sunshine. Our location was so remote that we had to trek for an hour with our equipment to reach the place," he recalls. "Since we have the technology to shoot with minimal equipment, we decided to tap its potential and work with an iPhone. Our cinematographer, Chandru Selvaraj, did a great job," he says.

This is Sasidharan's third film shot in the Himalayas. "Kayattam explores the philosophical theme of maya [illusion] and brahmam [divine power]. It is a sort of extension of my first film [Oraalppokkam, whose heroine was also named Maya] to understand the mysticism of 'maya' and what we think is reality," he says. "It assumes significance because of the

(Clockwise from left Sanal Kumar Sasidharan with his award, and Maniu Warrier • FIROZ K JAYASH



violent times we live in, when every event is viewed through a narrow perspective of selfish interests. We experience happiness, and unhappiness, when we fail to understand that what is happening is maya."

Not one to believe in bound scripts, he prefers to let a film flow with the situation and the location. It was the same with Kayattam. When the cast and crew were marooned in a remote village after a landslip, cinematographer Selvaraj was able to capture the destructive face of nature

and its aftermath. The team also developed a new language, A'hr Samsa - to 'vocalise' subtext in the film that could be unfathomable. "I made it to convey the idea of a group of people who had moved beyond the emotions of joy and sorrow. They travelled without any kind of baggage, emotional or physical," he says.

Currently, Sasidharan is working on new scripts and the post production of his Tovino Thomas-starrer, Vazhakku.

A ND-NDE

Taliban battle for final holdout province

In Panjshir Valley, forces loyal to Ahmad Massoud are reportedly fighting to repulse 'heavy assaults'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Anti-Taliban fighters in Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley said on Friday they were battling to repulse "heavy" assaults, as the Islamists seek to capture the last holdout province defying their

Efforts to strike a peace deal between the two sides have failed, and the Taliban are keen to cap their lightning military offensive which saw them seize control of the rest of Afghanistan last month.

"The Taliban have a significant advantage," said Nishank Motwani, an Afghan analyst based in Australia, saying the Islamists were emboldened by their recent victories. "They are very well armed, and they have the psychological factor in their favour in that they precipitated the fall of the government so quickly.'

The Taliban seized an enormous arsenal of weapons and military kit that the now departed U.S. provided to the defeated Afghan Army, as well as the support of prisoners they freed from



"The Taliban also have shock troops, including the use of suicide tactics," Mr. Motwani added.

Fighters from the National Resistance Front (NRF), made up of anti-Taliban militia fighters and former Afghan security forces, are understood to have significant weapon stockpiles too in the Valley, which lies around 80 km north of Kabul.

On Wednesday, senior Taliban official Amir Khan Muttaqi issued an audio message to say their forces had surrounded the Valley, calling on the people of the Panjshir to tell fighters to lay down their arms. "Those who want to fight, tell them it is enough," Muttaqi said.

The Taliban have pledged this time they will be more accommodating, but many in Panjshir are deeply sceptical.

Hours after their warning, Taliban forces launched renewed attacks, including from the south of Panjshir from Kapisa, as well as from the Khawak pass to the west of the Valley.

On Friday, a Taliban com-

cult in the Valley, however, and AFP was unable to verify the reports on the ground.

Heavy fighting

On Friday, Ali Maisam Nazary, a spokesman for the NRF, who is understood to be outside the Valley but in close contact with key leader Ahmad Massoud, said there had been more attacks by Taliban forces overnight.

"There is heavy fighting in Panjshir," Mr. Nazary said. "He (Massoud) is busy defending the Valley."

Mr. Massoud is the son of the late guerrilla commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, dubbed the "Lion of Panjshir" for holding out first against Soviet and then Taliban forces when they were power before.

He is understood to want autonomy for the region. Mr. Massoud said in a statement on Wednesday that the Taliban had offered them "one or two seats" in their new administration, but he had rejected the deal.

'The Taliban have chosen the path of war," Mr. Massoud said. (With Reuters input)

sets stage for new premier Communications are diffi-His 1-year tenure was marred by unpopular virus response ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan's PM Suga steps down,

Amid growing criticism of his handling of the pandemic, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said on Friday he won't run for the leadership of the governing party later this month, paving the way for a new Japanese leader after just a year in office.

Mr. Suga told reporters that heading Japan's pandemic response and campaigning to lead his governing Liberal Democratic Party at the same time divided his energies. "I have decided not to run for the party leadership elections, as I would like to focus on coronavirus measures," Mr. Suga told reporters who rushed to his office after the news broke.

Mr. Suga has faced criticism and nosediving public support over a coronavirus response seen as too slow and limited and for holding the Olympics despite the public's health concerns. His hope of having the Olympic festivities help turn around his plunging popularity was also dashed.



Yoshihide Suga

He said he had put all his energy into important issues including the virus response since he took office.

"But doing both takes enormous energy and I have decided that I should just choose one or the other," he said. "As I have repeatedly said, protecting people's lives and health is my responsibility as prime minister, and that's what I will dedicate myself to."

September 29 vote

The Liberal Democrats and their coalition partner have a majority in Parliament, meaning whoever wins the September 29 party vote is virtually guaranteed to become the new Prime Minis-

The official start of the party campaign is September 17. Candidacy requires factional support largely controlled by party heavyweights, and their choices may not match those favoured in public opinion survevs.

Two Cabinet Ministers in former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government have come out as potential candidates: dovish former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, currently seen as a top contender, and former Interior Minister Sanae Takaichi, who shares Mr. Abe's rightwing ideology.

Current Vaccinations Minister Taro Kono also expressed interest on Friday, saying he will make a final decision after consulting fellow lawmakers. Former Defence Miniter Shigeru Ishiba, a favorite in media surveys, and Seiko Noda, former gender equality minister, also reportedly have expressed intentions to run.

IS-inspired terrorist shot dead after New Zealand rampage

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

An Islamic State-inspired attacker injured six people in a New Zealand supermarket knife rampage on Friday, before being shot dead by undercover police officers who had him under round-theclock surveillance.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she was "gutted" the man, a Sri Lankan national, had managed to carry

out his "hateful" assault even though he was on a terror watchlist

rived in New Zealand in 2011, entered a shopping mall in suburban Auckland and seized a knife from a display before going on a stabbing spree. Six people were wounded, three critically, in the 60 seconds before officers opened fire.

Terrified shoppers fled for

shot by bystanders showed men running toward the in-She said the man, who arcident before a barrage of shots rang out.

> The attack has stirred painful memories of the Christchurch mosques shootings in March 2019, New Zealand's worst terror atrocity, when a white su-Muslim worshippers.

Amid rescue efforts, Ida toll rises to at least 48

ASSOCIATED PRESS

mander claimed they were

mighty, we are in control of

the entire Afghanistan. The

troublemakers have defeat-

ed and Panjshir is now under

Amrullah Saleh, one of the

leaders of the Opposition

forces told Tolo News televi-

sion station that reports he

had fled the country were

have inflicted heavy losses

Both sides have claimed to

Vice-President

our command," he said.

Former

on their rivals.

"By the grace of Allah Al-

in control of the Valley.

A stunned U.S. East Coast faced a rising death toll, surging rivers and tornado damage on Thursday after the remnants of Hurricane Ida walloped the region with record-breaking rain, drowning at least 46 people in their homes and cars.

At least 48 people in five States died as storm water cascaded into people's homes and engulfed automobiles, overwhelming urban drainage systems never

meant to handle so much rain in such a short time.

The toll was highest in New Jersey, where at least 25 people perished in heavy rains that began late Wednesday. A majority were people who drowned after their vehicles were caught in flash floods, some dying in their submerged cars, some getting swept away after exiting into fast-moving water.

Floodwaters and a falling tree also took lives in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New York. In New

York City, 11 people died when they were unable to escape rising water in basement apartments.

Search for the missing

Authorities said the work of searching for possible victims and identifying the dead wasn't over. Work also continued to

haul away ruined cars, clean mud and debris from streets and restore service on bedraggled transportation systems. Parts of New York Cisubway

remained offline as workers repaired flood damage. In Philadelphia, parts of

would completely reopen.

the Vine Street Expressway, a major east-west artery through the heart of the city, were still under water on Friday morning as crews worked seven large pumps to drain it. An inch-thick layer of muck was left behind in the portions that were drying out. Pennsylvania's transportation department had no estimate on when the heavily trafficked interstate

so pledged to examine whether anything could be done to prevent a catastrophe like this from happening again.

New Jersey and New York have both spent billions of dollars improving flood defences after Superstorm Sandy hit the region in 2012, but much of that work was focused on the coasts and tidal floodplains.

President Joe Biden has approved disaster declarations for both states.

⁺ Alibaba to spend \$15.5 bn for Xi's vision

ASSOCIATED PRESS

E-commerce giant Alibaba Group said on Friday it will spend \$15.5 billion to support President Xi Jinping's campaign to spread China's prosperity more evenly, adding to pledges by tech companies that are under pressure to pay for the ruling Communist Party's political initiatives.

Alibaba said it will invest in 10 projects for job creation, "care for vulnerable groups" and technology innovation. Its 100 billion yuan (\$15.5 billion) pledge includes 20 billion yuan (\$12.5 billion) for a fund to "cut income inequality" in the company's home province of Zhejiang.

Tencent promised 50 billion yuan (\$7.7 billion) last month for "common prosperity" initiatives in health care, education and rural development. That doubled the company's spending on corporate social responsibility.

ELSEWHERE



France, seeks action

MARSEILLE The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Congress opened on Friday, with warnings that humanity must tackle the risks of biodiversity loss and climate change together. The key message from IUCN is that disappearing species and the destruction of ecosystems are no less threats than global warming. "The battle against climate change is twinned with the battle to preserve and restore biodiversity," said French President Emmanuel Macron. AFP

Over 23 Myanmar troops killed near China border, say rebels Clashes broke out when troops tried to seize MNDAA base

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Myanmar ethnic rebels have killed at least 23 government soldiers in days of fighting near the Chinese border, a spokesman for the group said on Friday, in the latest clashes likely to worry powerful neighbour Beijing.

The country has been in turmoil since a military coup in February, which sparked pro-democracy protests and renewed fighting in ethnic border areas.

Clashes broke out in

gust 28 when troops tried to seize a base from the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), the group's spokesman and local media reports said.

"They came to take our base. They were hurt a lot as we were waiting at the top of the mountain. We shot them as they were coming," an MNDAA spokesman said.

Fifteen soldiers were killed on August 28 and eight more in renewed clashes on September 1, he said, adding

Mongko, Shan State, on Auone MNDAA fighter had been killed.

The military said on Monday an officer and an undisclosed number of personnel were killed in fighting with the MNDAA.

Myanmar has more than 20 ethnic rebel groups, many of which hold territory in border regions.

A messy struggle over autonomy, as well as control of lucrative drug production and natural resources, has long pitted them against each other and the military.

After N. Korea shuns vaccines, Kim orders tougher virus steps

ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un ordered officials to wage a tougher epidemic prevention campaign in "our style" after he turned down some foreign CO-VID-19 vaccines offered via the UN-backed immunisation programme.

During a Politburo meeting Thursday, Mr. Kim said officials must "bear in mind that tightening epidemic prevention is the task of paramount importance which



Kim Jong-un

must not be loosened even a moment," the official Korean Central News Agency reported Friday.

While stressing the need for material and technical means of virus prevention and increasing health workers' qualifications, Mr. Kim also called for "further rounding off our style epidemic prevention system," KCNA said.

Mr. Kim previously called for North Koreans to brace for prolonged COVID-19 restrictions, indicating the nation's borders would stay closed despite worsening economic and food condi-

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	03-09-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	58130	0.48
US Dollar	73.02	0.05
Gold	46,171	-0.04
Brent oil	72.94	-0.61

Brent oil		
NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHAN
Adani Ports	754.90	1.
Asian Paints	3338.80	37.
Axis Bank	798.00	4

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto	3757.50.	36.55
Bajaj Finserv	16734.35.	31.10
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL	491.30.	11.50
Britannia Ind	4124.20	38.10
Cipla	941.10	14.1
Coal India		
Divis Lab	5208.30	42.7
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	0003.10.	20.21
NTPC	117.00	20.0
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life State Bank		
Shree Cement Sun Pharma		
		-0.5
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.		
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan		
Illana Talah Camanas	7020 05	-22 QI
UltraTech Cement		
UPL Wipro	752.80.	-0.5

Indicative direct rat except yen at 4 p.m.		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	72.82	73.14
Euro	86.45	86.83
British Pound	100.71	101.19
Japanese Yen (100)	66.23	66.53
Chinese Yuan	11.29	11.34
Swiss Franc	79.6.	79.95
Singapore Dollar	54.23	54.47
Canadian Dollar	58.07	58.36
Malaysian Ringitt	17.56.	17.64



NCLAT issues notice on PNB plea over Jet bids

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has moved the NCLAT against the approval of bids for Jet Airways. The NCLAT bench has issued a notice on PNB's petition along with its interim plea seeking a stay over the execution of the resolution plan for Jet Airways. PTI

HDFC Life to buy Exide Life for ₹6,687 crore

HDFC Life Insurance Company has announced the acquisition of 100% stake in Company from Exide Industries in a ₹6.687 crore deal. The deal includes issuance of 8,70,22,222 shares at an issue price of ₹685 per share and a cash payout of ₹726 crore.

PMI signals fastest rebound in services activity in 18 months

'Output expands first time in 4 months, rising consumer footfall boosts sales'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's services sector expanded in August at the fastest pace in one-and-a-half years amid strong inflows of new work and improved demand conditions, a monthly survey showed on Friday.

The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index rose from 45.4 in July to 56.7 in August, as the reopening of several establishments and increased consumer footfall boosted sales.

The services sector witnessed the first expansion in output in four months and a rebound in business confidence. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a



Uneven uptrend: Despite an overall uptick, firms saw a further fall in new export orders, the survey showed. • REUTERS

print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "The service sector bounced back in August, led by the reopening of several establishments and improved client confidence

when converted into green

hydrogen, can replace pe-

trol and diesel in automo-

biles and other fuels in the

industry, helping cut down

on the use of fossil fuels, car-

bon emissions and reduce

Speaking at the Internation-

al Climate Summit 2021, Mr.

Ambani said Reliance would

pursue the target of bring-

ing down the cost of making

green hydrogen to under \$2

per kg initially and ultimate-

\$1 per kg in a decade.

import dependence.

'Initial target is \$2'

due to growing vaccine coverage," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit.

New orders placed with service providers rose in August, ending a three-month sequence of reduction. Mosion of orders was the quickmore eight-and-a-half years. However, firms saw a further decline in new export orders. The downturn was often associated with the panand demic restrictions.

"Service providers foresee a brighter outlook, with firms indicating that the economic recovery could be sustained if restrictions continue to be lifted and further waves of contamination can be avoided," Ms. De Lima added. Still, service providers again cut headcounts in August, though the rate of job shedding was marginal and the weakest since January.

FSDC asks regulators to keep steady vigil on financial sector

Council discusses financial stability, sector development

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The high-level FSDC headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday discussed a host of issues concerning the economy and underlined the need for keeping a continuous vigil on the financial sector by the government as well as different regulators.

The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) meeting was attended by various financial sector regulators, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

The 24th meeting deliberated on various mandates of the FSDC such as financial stability, financial sector development, inter-regulatory coordination, financial lite-



Nirmala Sitharaman

racy, financial inclusion, and macro prudential supervision of the economy including the functioning of large financial conglomerates, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

"It was noted that there is a need to keep a continuous vigil by government and all regulators on the financial conditions," it said.

The council also discussed issues relating to management of stressed assets, strengthening institutional mechanism for financial stability analysis, framework for resolution of financial institutions and issues related to IBC, banks' exposure to various sectors and government, data sharing mechanisms of government authorities, internationalisation of the Indian rupee and pension sector related issues.

This was the first meeting of the high-level panel in the current financial year. The previous meeting was held on December 15.

RIL targets 100 GW from renewables by 2030

Aiming for \$1/kg of hydrogen: Ambani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries will create or enable capacity to generate at least 100 gigawatts of electricity by 2030 from renewable sources, which can be converted into carbon-free green hydrogen, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said Friday as he outlined a '1-1-1 vision' to bring down the cost of hydrogen to under \$1 for one kg in one decade.

The focus on generating electricity from renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind will help cut carbon emissions in the world's third-largest greenhouse gas emitter.

The same electricity,

Maruti to recall over 1.8 lakh cars, SUVs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki on Friday announced a recall of 1.81.754 units of some petrol variants of Ciaz, Ertiga, Vitara Brezza, S-Cross and XL6 models to inspect for a possible defect related to the motor generator unit.

The carmaker said the inspection/replacement of the Motor Generator Unit in the affected vehicles will be carried out free of cost. The recall will impact units of these models manufactured between May 4, 2018 and October 27, 2020.

ly to bring it down to under "Recall campaigns are Currently, green hydroundertaken globally to rectify faults that may be pogen produced with renewatential safety defects," the ble resources costs between company said. \$3 per kg and \$6.55 a kg.

SpiceJet rejects ex-pilot's claims, defends safety record

Former staffer flags air safety risk from 'stressed crew' to PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SpiceJet on Friday asserted that the airline had a strong "safety culture and an impeccable safety record" and termed a former pilot's charges that the airline was endangering flights by operating them with 'financially stressed crew' as "an outright lie".

"A financially stressed set of crew are a flight safety threat and since they are not in the right state of mind a crash can happen anytime," former SpiceJet pilot Vinodh Loganathan wrote in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a copy of which has



been seen by The Hindu. "The current employees cannot come out in the open as SpiceJet has threatened them with termination as they had threatened me," he alleged, charging the airline of non-payment of employees' wages as well as statutory dues.

Terming the allegations "an attempt to malign the company" that would be met with the strongest legal action, a spokesman for the airline said, "SpiceJet... continues to maintain the highest standards of safety in operations with compromise on quality."

Separately, Press Trust of India reported that a section of SpieceJet employees had gone on strike at the Delhi airport on Friday morning over issues related to reduced salaries and their irregular disbursement. They had resumed work later, an airline spokesperson said.

Norway fund exits ONGC due to South Sudan

REUTERS

Norway's \$1.4-trillion wealth fund has excluded Oil and Natural Gas Corp. from its portfolio due to concerns over the firm's business in South Sudan. the fund said in a statement. Exclusions are based on advice from the fund's ethics watchdog.

The Council on Ethics' concern was over ONGC's participation in two joint ventures in South Sudan, a country where violent clashes continue even after the end of a civil war in 2018. "ONGC ... has accepted a risk of contributing to serious abuse committed to enable oil production in the country," it said.

Sachin Bansal moves Madras HC in FDI case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal has approached the Madras High Court challenging the action initiated against him now by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) for alleged violation of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy involving about ₹23,000 crore in issuance of shares to foreign investors between 2009 and 2014.

Justice R. Mahadevan on Friday questioned the enforcement directorate for the delay running to several years. He directed the department to file a detailed counter affidavit in three weeks.

GOLF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Gurugram's Manu Gandas

came with a brilliant 10-un-

der 58 to build a substantial

five-shot lead at 17-under 122

in the second round of the

Vooty & Haldi-sponsored

Golconda Masters Telangana

Open golf championship

was in second place at a total

of 12-under 127 following his

second round of seven-un-

the HGA since turning pro,

Kartik Sharma, the 21-year-

old rookie from Gurugram,

came up with a splendid, er-

ror-free nine-under 59 to be

placed tied third with a total

of 10-under 129 along with

Chandigarh's Yuvraj Singh

Sandhu, who shot a six-un-

Playing his first event at

Noida's Amardeep Malik

here on Friday.

BSNL sea cable tender favours one player: TEPC

Council flags 'repeatered segment'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promo tion Council (TEPC) has alleged that BSNL floated a tender to lay submarine fibre cable between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands with guidelines that restricted the participation to just one firm.

In a letter to the Prime Minister's Office, the TEPC said "restrictive eligibility conditions" of the tender allowed only NEC India to bid.

"By adding Repeatered section, which is only 15% of the project length, the purchaser has ensured that only three multinational com-



panies could bid," the letter dated August 31 said, adding these three work in their own regions with NEC working in Asia. The Empowered Technology Group had raised objections to the 'Repeatered segment' while consultant TCIL had pitched for repeaterless systems.

Indiabulls to raise ₹1,000 cr. via NCDs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. has announced the public issue of secured and/unsecured, redeemable, non-convertible debentures of a face value of ₹1,000 each to raise about ₹1.000 crore in tranche I.

The tranche I has a base issue size of ₹200 crore with green shoe option up to ₹800 crore, aggregating up to ₹1,000 crore.

The issue offers various options for subscription with coupon rates ranging from 8.05% to 9.75% per annum, said Gagan Banga, vice-chairman, MD& CEO, Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.

Tata Motors bets big on South, opens 70 outlets

'Highest market share is from region'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tata Motors on Friday inaugurated 70 new sales outlets across the southern India region, which accounts for about 28% of the overall pasvehicle segment volumes. "South India is an impor-

tant market for us," said Rajan Amba, VP - Sales, Marketing and Customer Service, Passenger Vehicles at Tata Motors. "While it contributes about 28% to the industry overall, for us the contribution is slightly higher," he said. "We enjoy our highest market share in this part of the country of about 12.1% with Kerala at almost



17% and in other States, it is in excess of 10%," Mr. Amba added.

He said the outlets were

spread across 53 cities. The showrooms will be home to the 'New Forever' range of passenger vehicles, including the electric vehicle (EV) portfolio.

'IT sector to see 2 lakh jobs added in FY22'

MINI TEJASWI

The Indian IT industry will report a net addition of more than 2 lakh jobs in FY22 as top players alone had a net employee addition of more than 50,000 in the April-June quarter, said Xpheno, a specialist staffing firm that tracks countrywide hiring trends.

"In the first quarter of the fiscal, IT services players had over 50,000 net headcount additions. With such a bullish beginning, the sector's net additions for the whole year is set on a trajectory of over 2 lakh," said Kamal Karanth, talent specialist and cofounder, Xpheno.

Ramkumar in quarterfinals

SPORTS BUREAU MANACOR (SPAIN)

Ramkumar Ramanathan got past fifth seed Sebastian Ofner of Austria to set up a quarterfinal clash against top seed Yasutaka Uchiyama of Japan in the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament here. Ramkumar had won the first set 7-5 when the Austrian retired with a foot injury.

Other results (quarterfinals): €44,820 Challenger, Manacor: Doubles: Sriram Balaji & Ramkumar bt Marcelo Tomas Barrios Vera (Chi) & Carlos Gomez-Herrera (Esp) 6-3, 6-0.

\$15,000 ITF men, Allershausen: Mick Veldheer (Ned) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-1, 4-6, 6-0. Doubles: Maximilian Homberg & Michael Weindl (Ger) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Manish 6-4, 6-4.

\$60,000 ITF women, Collonge-Bellerive: Amandine Hesse (Fra) & Tatjana Maria (Ger) bt Angelina Gabueva (Rus) & Sowjanya Bavisetti 6-3,



Manu sizzles, goes five shots clear

Amardeep lies second; rookie Kartik tied third; defending champion Mane misses cut

On fire: Manu Gandas ended the day in style with birdies on his last five holes. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

der 62 on Friday.

Heavy overnight rain resulted in a delayed start by one hour and also waterlogging on a couple of fairways at the HGA. As a result, hole no. 6 was reduced from par-5 to par-3 and hole no. 18 was

reduced from par-4 to par-3. Therefore, the par for the course in round two was 68 instead of the regular 71. The cut was applied at

even-par 139. Fifty profes-

made the cut.

Gandas (64, 58), the joint leader in round one, had five birdies and two bogeys on the front-nine. Gandas, still looking for

his maiden title, was on fire on the back-nine with seven birdies which included some exceptional chip-putts, a great recovery from the bunker on the 17th and a 25feet conversion on the 18th. The 25-year-old ended the day in style with birdies on his last five holes.

Malik (66, 61) made his way up from overnight tied fourth to second place after a round punctuated by an eagle, six birdies and two bogeys. Malik made a sensational chip-in from the rough for an eagle-two on the 14th. Bengaluru-based Chikka-

rangappa, the 2019 champion, was tied fifth at ninesionals and two amateurs under 130 along with Mysuru's Yashas Chandra.

PGTI Order of Merit leader Karandeep Kochhar of Chandigarh was seventh at

Olympian and defending champion Udayan Mane missed the cut as he tallied three-over 142 for two rounds to be placed tied

TV PICKS

12.15 a.m. (Sunday)

eight-under 131.

Tokyo 2020 Paralympics: DD Sports & Eurosport (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m. onwards
Sri Lanka vs South Africa: 2nd ODI, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m. **England vs India**: Fourth Test,

day 3, Sony Six & Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. F1: Dutch GP (Qualifying), SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m. **US OPEN 2021**: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m. & 3 a.m. (Sunday)

European WC 2022 Qualifiers: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), the \$12,000 event.

Sunayna gets top billing



Pride of place: Sunayna and defending champion Tanvi have

been handed the top two spots. • FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GREATER NOIDA

Sunayna Kuruvilla, Tanvi Khanna, Urwashi Joshi and Aishwarya Khubchandani will be the top four seeds in the women's event in the HCL PSA Challenger squash tournament to be played at the Shiv Nadar University from Saturday.

The eight seeds get a bye in the first round, and need to negotiate three rounds in a draw of 24 for the title in

The unseeded players

four seeds and has a prize purse of \$6,000. It is a similar draw with the eight seeds getting a bye in the first round in a field of

24 players.

will have four rounds to

The men's field has Abh-

ishek Agarwal, Aadit Zaveri,

Velavan Senthilkumar and

Abhishek Pradhan as the

Chennai had hosted the last tournament of the India Tour and the titles were bagged by Tanvi Khanna and Velavan Senthilkumar.

Praveen Kumar jumps to silver

Archer Harvinder, shooter Avani win bronze as India's medals tally swells to 13

PARALYMPICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

High jumper Praveen Kumar knocked off an Asian record for his silver, shooter Avani Lekhara scripted history again, and Harvinder Singh became India's first archer to finish on podium as the Paralympians country's raised the bar higher with unparalleled performances at the Games here on Friday.

India's overall medals tally rose to 13 (including two gold, six silver and five bronze) as the country's best ever Paralympics continued to get better.

Memorable debut

It all started with Praveen's silver in the morning. The 18year-old, competing in his debut Games, clinched the medal in the T64 high jump, setting a new Asian record with a personal best effort of 2.07m effort to finish behind Great Britain's Jonathan Broom-Edwards,

T64 classification is for athletes with a leg amputation, who compete with prosthetics in a standing

T44, the disability classification that Praveen belongs to, is for athletes with a leg deficiency, leg length difference, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in the legs. His impairment, which is congenital, affects the bones that connect his hip to his left leg.

Then came Avani to script history for the second time. The 19-year-old claimed the 50m Rifle 3 Position SH1 bronze to add to the gold she had secured earlier.

In a fiercely contested final, Avani totalled 445.9 to finish behind China's Zhang Cuiping (457.9) and Gemany's Natascha Hiltrop (457.1).

Prior to her, Joginder Singh Sodhi was the lone Indian to win multiple medals in the same edition of the Games when he won one silver (shot put) and two bronze (discus and javelin) in the 1984 medals Paralympics.

Late in the day, Harvinder etched his name in the history books with a gritty perfor-



Double delight: Avani claimed the 50m Rifle 3 Position SH1 bronze to add to the gold she had won earlier. ■FILE PHOTO

mance. Harvinder collected three shoot-off wins with the last coming against Korean Kim Min Su in the bronze play-off. Harvinder pipped Kim 6-5 (26-24, 27-29, 28-25, 25-25, 26-27) with a 10-8 win in the shoot-off. In the semifinals, Harvinder had lost to USA's Kevin Mather 6-4 (25-28, 24-24, 25-25, 25-24,

The Indian had started by edging out Italian Stefano Travisani 6-5 (10-7 shoot-off) before pipping former World No. 1 Bato Tsydendorzhiev 6-5 (8-7). In the quarters, he

24-26).

swept aside Maik Szarszewski of Germany 6-2.

In badminton, Pramod

Bhagat and Palak Kohli qualified for mixed doubles semifinals, while three singles players -Suhas Yathiraj, Tarun Dhillon and Manoj Sarkar – also made the last-four stage. Swimmers Suyash Narayan Jadhav and Niranjan Mukundan failed to qualify for the men's 50m butterfly event and the country also finished outside the medal bracket in women's canoe, men's shot put and women's



Age: 18

Native of Bapu Park, Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi.

Event & category: High jump, para athletics,

■ Ranked World No. 3 ■ Training base: Nehru

Stadium, New Delhi ■ Personal coach & national coach:

Dr. Satyapal Singh

■ Silver at Tokyo Paralympics with an Asian

para athletics junior championships, Nottwil, Switzerland, 2019

■ Gold with Asian record in World para athletics Fazza Grand Prix, Dubai 2021

One of Praveen's legs was shorter at birth. He once took part in a high jump competition for able-bodied athletes and there he came to know about para athletics. His subsequent meeting with para athletics coach Dr. Satyapal Singh at the Nehru Stadium changed his life

The Harvinder file Age: 30

Native of Ajitnagar, Kaithal,

Haryana ■ Event and category: Para

archery, Men's recurve open individual event

Ranked World No. 23 Training base: Archery Range, Punjabi University, Patiala

■ Personal coaches: Jiwanjot Singh and Gaurav Sharma (also the National coach)

■ Bronze at Tokyo Paralympics ■ Individual gold at the Asian

Para Games, 2018 ■ Team bronze at the Para Asian

Archery Championships, 2019

■ Harvinder, who belongs to a family of farmers, fell ill due to dengue when aged 1-1/2 years. Due to the adverse effect of an injection, his legs did not function properly. Harvinder took up archery after watching the 2012 London Olympics on TV. During the lockdown, his father Paramjeet turned his farm into an archery range so that his son could practice. Harvinder is pursuing a Ph.D. (economics)



'Harvinder's dedication is extraordinary'

Y.B. SARANGI

Coach Gaurav Sharma is not worried that he could not accompany his ward Harvinder Singh to Tokyo due to a stipulation on the number of accreditations. Rather, he is elated that Harvinder has made history by becoming the first Indian archer to claim a medal at the Paralympics.

"It does not matter that I could not go with him. The most heartening thing is he performed well and scripted history. Even though I was not present there, we stayed in touch through phone calls and discussed strategies. We also did video conferencing to exchange ideas. I am so delighted for him," Gaurav told *The Hindu* on Friday.

According to Gaurav, Harvinder's mental toughness helped him overcome difficult situations. "His dedication level is extraordinary and he is mentally so strong. He is very disciplined and sticks to his schedule for studies and archery," said Gauray.

Pope and Woakes return in style, give England 99-run lead

Former revives the innings with Bairstow and Moeen; the latter chips in with a half-century; Indian openers survive the day

INDIA IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ollie Pope and Chris Woakes both scored valuable halfcenturies on their return to Test cricket as England recovered from a top-order collapse to build a 99-run lead over India at The Oval on

Pope made 81 on his Surrey home ground and allrounder Woakes 50 as the hosts were dismissed for 290 in reply to India's first-innings 191 on the second day of the fourth Test.

The visitors held firm to reach 43 for no loss in their second innings at stumps, still trailing by 56. Rohit Sharma was unbeaten on 20 and K.L. Rahul on 22.

England was struggling at 62 for five earlier in the day after paceman Umesh Yadav, piaying nis nrst Test in nearly a year, removed Craig Overton and Dawid Malan quickly.

Umesh needed just 10 balls to remove nightwatchman Overton for his overnight score of one, a flashing square-cut caught by India captain Virat Kohli at first

Malan, fresh from his 70 on England recall in an innings win at Headingley last week, had added just five when the left-hander, squared up by Umesh, was well caught by a diving Rohit Sharma at second slip.

But Pope revived the innings as he shared partnerships of 89 and 71 with Jonny Bairstow (37) and Moeen Ali

After a cautious start, Pope hit three fours in four balls off Thakur - a classic on-drive followed by a clip through mid-on before a short delivery was pulled through midwicket.

Counterattack

Runs started to flow as Bairstow, too, counterattacked from the other end.

Kohli brought on left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja in a bid to break the partnership.

it was Monammed Siraj, however, who reduced England to 151 to six when Bairstow was lbw playing down the wrong line to a ball that nipped back off the pitch.

But Pope leg-glanced the paceman for four to complete a 92-ball fifty – the 23year-old's sixth in a 20-Test career that has yielded a



lone century. It was Pope's first half-century in 16 Test innings after his 62 against Pakistan in Manchester last year. The knock also extended his excellent record at The Oval where, prior to Friday, he had scored 1,410 runs at an average of 100.71 in 18 First Class innings.

Moeen, on 14, was struck on the toe by a Jasprit Bumrah yorker. But India, believing he had dug the ball out with his bat, did not appeal, with replays suggesting the all-rounder might have been lbw. The left-hander was in good touch before he gave his wicket away when he

U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Spanish ninth seed Garbine

Muguruza outlasted 18th

seed Victoria Azarenka of

Belarus on Friday at the U.S.

Open in a showdown of two-

time Grand Slam champions

and former World number

Muguruza matched her

best Open showing from

2017 by defeating three-time

Open runner-up Azarenka

6-4, 3-6, 6-2 in the only Slam

where the Spaniard hasn't

I've been struggling," Mugu-

ruza said. "This year it's

working so I want to keep

na Halep, a two-time Grand

Slam champion battling back

after an injury layoff, ousted

19th seed Elena Rybakina of

Kazakhstan 7-6(11), 4-6, 6-3

after two hours and 25

Former number one Halep,

her right thigh taped after an

injury two weeks ago, failed

on six set points before Ryba-

kina, who lost four set points

herself, double faulted to

end a 17-minute tie-breaker

Romanian 12th seed Simo-

"It's a Grand Slam where

reached the final.

going."

minutes.

Pulling through

skied a catch to Rohit at cover off Jadeja.

Woakes was unbeaten on 17 when No. 11 James Anderson walked to the crease, but was run out. Anderson was unbeaten on one, the England great's 100th not out in

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS 191 in 61.3 overs

ENGLAND - IST INNINGS Rory Burns b Bumrah 5 (11b), Haseeb Hameed c Pant b Bumrah O (12b), Dawid Malan c Rohit b Umesh 31 (67b, 5x4), Joe Root b Umesh 21 (25b, 4x4), Craig Overton c Kohli b Umesh 1 (12b), Ollie Pope b Shardul 81 (159b, 6x4), Jonny Bairstow lbw b Siraj 37 (77b, 7x4), Moeen Ali c Rohit b Jadeja 35 (71b, 7x4), Chris Woakes run out 50 (60b, 11x4), Ollie Robinson b Jadeja 5 (6b), James Anderson (not out) 1 (12b); Extras (b-1, lb-14, nb-8): 23; Total (in 84 overs): 290.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-5 (Burns, 3.2 overs), 2-6 (Hameed, 3.6), 3-52 (Root, 15.3), 4-53 (Overton, 18.4), 5-62 (Malan, 24.3), 6-151 (Bairstow, 46.5), 7-222 (Moeen, 67.2), 8-250 (Pope, 76.1), 9-255 (Robinson, 77.1)

INDIA BOWLING Umesh 19-2-76-3, Bumrah 21--67-2, Shardul 15-2-54-1, Sira 12-4-42-1, Jadeja 17-1-36-2

INDIA - 2ND INNINGS

Rohit Sharma (batting) 20 (56b 2x4), K.L. Rahul (batting) 22 (41b. 4x4): Extras (nb-1): 1: Total (for no loss in 16 overs):

ENGLAND BOWLING Anderson 6-1-13-0, Robinson 4-0-21-0, Woakes 5-1-8-0, Overton 1-0-1-0

We could have done better, admits Umesh

Feels that the bowlers 'tried too much'



Roaring start: Umesh took two quick wickets in the morning before England clawed its way back into the contest. • AP

S. DIPAK RAGAV

Despite conceding a 99-run lead, pacer Umesh Yadav felt India can still fight back in The Oval Test

"In the first innings, there was a bit of moisture on the wicket, there was a bit of bounce and the weather conditions were a bit diffe-

"The way our batsmen are batting in the second innings, I feel they will do well and we will make a good score this time," said Umesh.

Asked about India letting England off the hook after having the home team down

at 62 for five, Umesh conceded that the bowlers could have done better. He said it was a result of the bowlers "trying too much."

"Thanks to the way we started bowling, we took two wickets within 40 mi-

"After that, we let things drift as we conceded 40-45 runs in seven or eight overs. The batsmen got their rhythm back and knew

what had to be done. "We tried everything, but there was no support from the wicket. Once they hit boundaries, the batsmen get the upper hand and want to be dominant."

Latham's effort not enough for NZ



Tom Latham. ■ AFP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangladesh overcame a brilliant unbeaten 49-ball 65 from New Zealand captain Tom Latham to clinch a four-run victory on Friday in the second T20I and take a 2-0 series lead.

New Zealand needed six off the last ball of pacer Mustafizur Rahman, but Latham only managed a single to bring the score to 137 for five in reply to Bangladesh's 141 for six.

Bangladesh won the opener of the five-match series by seven wickets, bowling New Zealand out for its joint lowest ever T20I score of 60.

The scores: Bangladesh 141/6 in 20 overs (Mohammad Naim 39, Liton Das 33, Mahmudullah 37 n.o., Rachin Ravindra 3/ 22) bt New Zealand 137/5 in 20 overs (Tom Latham 65 n.o., Mahedi Hasan 2/12, Sha-kib Al Hasan 2/29).

Soumyadeep asked me to fix a match: Manika

AMOL KARHADKAR MUMBAI

Denying the charges levelled against her by the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) after refusing to let National coach Soumyadeep Roy advise her during her singles matches at the Tokyo Olympics, ace paddler Manika Batra has alleged that the coach was involved in match-fixing. Manika's five-page res-

ponse, accessed by The Hindu, was sent to the TTFI on August 26, a day before the seven-day deadline the TTFI had set while issuing the notice on August 20. She has accused Soumyadeep of pressurising her into conceding the Olympic qualification match to his personal ward (Sutirtha Mukherjee) in Doha in March.

"I have been falsely charged with 'bringing disrepute to the country by the sight of an empty chair of the coach'. But the truth is that the 'empty chair' was the result of the National coach's pressure tactics for match-fixing and TTFI's inaction to act on my prompt reporting of that incident and not the result of my socalled 'indiscipline,'" Manika wrote in her reply to the show-cause notice served by the TTFI.



"It is such pressure tactics, inaction and the consequent sub-optimal performance of a player that would have actually brought disrepute to the country,"

"Contrary to false propaganda, it was not at all a show of disrespect or displeasure by me. I had to take that decision as I did not wish to lose in the lower rounds by buckling under unethical pressure," Manika stated in the reply.



■ FILE PHOTO

she further wrote.

TTFI secretary general Arun Kumar Banerjee told The Hindu that a response has been sought from Soumyadeep. "We have asked Soumyadeep to submit his reply to the allegations. The issue will be discussed at the next TTFI executive committee meeting that will be convened at the earliest."

the pair added 35 before he

Test cricket.

Muguruza overcomes Azarenka's challenge

Halep advances; Djokovic stays on course for calendar Slam; Barty and Zverev move ahead

Calling the shots: Garbine Muguruza came out on top against Victoria Azarenka in a showdown

third-round date with 2014

and drop the first set after 64 minutes. Rybakina forced a third set but Halep held firm for the win.

between two-time Grand Slam champions.

Meanwhile on Thursday, World No.1 Novak Djokovic moved five matches closer to completing the first men's singles calendar-year Grand Slam in 52 years by advancing to the third round of the U.S. Open on Friday.

The 34-year-old Serbian

cruised past 121st-ranked

Dutchman Tallon Grieks-

poor 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 at Arthur

Ashe Stadium to book a

runner-up Kei Nishikori of "I'm as motivated as ever

to do well," Djokovic said. "I'm not the only player that wants to go deep in the tournament and put his hands on the trophy. I'm trying to be my best every day and let's see what happens." A fourth US Open crown

would bring Djokovic his 21st career Grand Slam crown, giving him the men's all-time record, one more than the mark he now shares with

dal, both absent with injuries. Attendance was off as New

Roger Federer and Rafael Na-

York struggled to recover from a deadly storm and flash flooding. Fewer spectators than normal saw Tokyo Olympic champion Alexander Zverev and top-ranked Ashleigh Barty roll into the third round. Barty dispatched Danish teen Clara Tauson 6-1, 7-5 while fourth seed Zverev ripped 33rdranked Spaniard Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-1, 6-0, 6-3.

IMPORTANT RESULTS Men: Third round: Gojowczyk

(Ger) bt Laaksonen (Sui) 3-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-4.

Second round: 1-Diokovic (Srb) bt Griekspoor (Ned) 6-2, 6-3. 6-2; Seppi (Ita) bt 10-Hurkacz (Pol) 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6(6); 6-Berrettini (Ita) bt Moutet (Fra) 7-6(2), 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; 4-Zverev (Ger) bt Ramos (Esp) 6-1, 6-0, 6-3; Sock (USA) bt 31-Bublik (Kaz) 7-6(3), 6-7(2), 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; 17-Monfils (Fra) bt Johnson (USA) 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; 13-Sinner (Ita) bt Svajda (USA) 6-3, 7-62), 6-7(6), 6-4; Basilashvili (Geo) bt Cressy (USA) 7-6(3), 6-3, 7-5; 22-Opelka (USA) bt Musetti (Ita) 7-6(1), 7-5, 6-4; 7-Shapovalov (Can) bt Carballes (Esp) 7-6(7), 6-3, 6-0. Women: Third round: 12-Halep

(Rom) bt 19-Rvbakina (Kaz) 7-6 (11), 4-6, 6-3; 9-Muguruza (Esp) bt 18-Azarenka (Blr) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

Second round: 23-Pegula (USA) bt Doi (Jpn) 6-3, 6-2; 7-Swiatek (Pol) bt Ferro (Fra) 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-0; 4-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) bt Anisimova (USA) 7-5, 6-7(5), 7-6(7); Tomljanovic (Aus) bt 30-Martic (Cro) 7-6(6), 6-4; 14-Pavlyuchenkova Schmiedlova (Svk) 6-2, 5-7, 6-2; 10-Kvitova (Cze) bt Kristyna Pliskova (Cze) 7-6(4), 6-2; 6-Andreescu (Can) bt Davis (USA) 6-4, 6-4; 16-Kerber (Ger) bt Kalinina (Ukr) 6-3, 6-2, Fallen seeds: Men: 10-Hurkacz.

31-Bublik; Women: 18-Azarenka, 19-Rybakina, 30-Martic.

Not the ideal homecoming for Italy | Leclerc, Sainz give Ferrari 1-2

Held by Bulgaria; England hammers Hungary; Sweden stuns Spain

WC QUALIFIERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy came back down to earth in its first game as European champion. Less than two months after winning the Euro at Wembley, it was held to a 1-1 draw in Group C by Bulgaria in a World Cup Qualifier on Thursday.

That ended Italy's perfect start to the qualifying campaign but nevertheless matched Spain's record run of 35 matches unbeaten, set between 2007 and 2009.

Spain lost 1-2 away to Sweden to drop to second place in Group B, while England and Belgium earned big wins to consolidate their lead at the top of their groups.

Federico Chiesa gave Italy the lead after a dominant start but the Azzurri conceded their first goal in the qualifiers when Atanas Iliev levelled at the end of the first-half. Some great stops by Bulgaria goalkeeper Georgi Georgiev prevented Italy from restoring its lead.

Only the group winners directly qualify. Secondplace finishers face a playoff.

Carlos Soler scored five minutes into his debut for Spain, but Aleksander Isak levelled seconds later. Viktor Claesson put Sweden ahead for good in the 57th. Only some desperate defending by Spain denied Isak a chance to add another goal on the counter-attack.

Sweden has a perfect nine points from three games, while Spain fell to second with seven from four games.

Kosovo moved to third after beating Georgia 1-0 while Lithuania is at the bottom.

Lukaku's double

In Group E, Romelu Lukaku scored twice as top-ranked Belgium came from a goal deficit to beat Estonia 5-2 and stay on top. Estonia mid-



Marksman: Atanas Iliev, left, scored Bulgaria's equaliser against Italy. • AFP

fielder Mattias Kait put the host ahead in the second minute but the heavily favoured Red Devils were quick to turn things around.

With 10 points from four games, Belgium retained a three-point lead in the group ahead of the Czech Republic, which defeated Belarus 1-0.

England weathered a hostile atmosphere to beat Hungary 4-0 in Group I. Raheem Sterling, Harry Kane and Harry Maguire scored in a 14minute flurry and Declan Rice added a second-half goal as England secured a fourth straight win in the group to extend its lead to five points.

Poland is second after beating Albania 4-1 while Andorra earned its first win by beating fellow minnow San Marino 2-0 at home.

Germany in second

In Group J, Germany downed Liechtenstein 2-0 to move into second, a point behind surprise leader

Goals in each half from Timo Werner and Leroy Sané helped Germany to a labored

win in its first match under new coach Hansi Flick.

Armenia dropped its first points of the campaign with a 0-0 draw against North Macedonia, which remained third. It is three points behind Armenia and a point above Romania after it won 2-0 in Iceland.

The results: EUROPE: Group A: Niger O lost to Burkina Faso 2 (L. Traore 76-pen, Konate 79); Algeria 8 (Slimani 5, 25-pen, 46, 53, Bensebaini 26, Bounedjah 40-pen, Mahrez 67, Zerrouki 69) bt Djibouti O.

Group B: Georgia O lost to Kosovo 1 (Muriqi 18); Sweden 2 (Isak 6, Claesson 57) bt Spain 1 Group C: Lithuania 1 (Baravykas

55) lost to Northern Ireland 4

(Ballard 20, Washington 52pen, Lavery 67, McNair 82pen); Italy 1 (Chiesa 16) drew with Bulgaria 1 (A. Iliev 40). Group E: Estonia 2 (Kait 2, Sorga 83) lost to Belgium 5 (Vana-

65, Foket 76); Czech Republic 1 (Barak 34) bt Belarus O; Kenya O drew with Uganda O. Group H: Namibia 1 (Hambira 24) drew with Congo Brazza-

ken 22, Lukaku 29, 52, Witsel

ville 1 (Hambira 57-og). Group I: Andorra 2 (Vales 18, lost to England 4 (Sterling 55, Kane 63, Maguire 69, Rice 87); Poland 4 (Lewandowski 12. Buksa 44, Krychowiak 54, Linetty 89) bt Albania 1 (Cikalleshi 25); Morocco 2 (Aguerd 10, Ahmed 53-og) bt Sudan 0.

Group J: Liechtenstein O lost to Germany 2 (Werner 41, Sane 77); North Macedonia O drew with Armenia O; Iceland O lost to Romania 2 (Man 47. Stanciu 83); DR Congo 1 (Mbokani 23) drew with Tanzania 1 (Msuva 36): Madagascar O lost to Benin 1 (Mounie 22) [Niger, Namibia played at neutral venues as they lack international-standard stadiums].

SOUTH AMERICA: Bolivia 1 (Saucedo 83) drew with Colombia 1 (R. Martinez 69); Ecuador 2 (Torres 88, Estrada 90+5) bt Paraguay O. Venezuela 1 (Soteldo 90+4)

lost to Argentina 3 (L. Martinez 45+2, J. Correa 71, A. Correa Chile O lost to Brazil 1 (Ribei-

ro 64); Peru 1 (Tapia 24) drew with Uruguay 1 (de Arrascaeta CONCACAF: Canada 1 (Larin 66-

pen) drew with Honduras 1 (Ro-

driguez 40-pen); Panama 0

drew with Costa Rica O; El Sal-

vador O drew with USA O; Mex-

ico 2 (Vega 50, Martin 89) bt

Jamaica 1 (Nicholson 65)

Tennis Association on Friday. Kriish, Manognya win titles GUWAHATI: Kriish beat his doubles partner Debasis

tennis tournament

Bharat Hockey Academy

Upadhyay in a 2-0 win over

One Thousand Hockey Legs.

Kriish Tyagi and Manognya

Madasu won the boys and

girls titles respectively in the

AITA Super series under-16

organised by the All Assam

owed it to scorer Vikas

Hamilton fastest in morning before car breaks down

DUTCH GP

REUTERS ZANDVOORT

Ferrari drivers Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz led one-two at the top of the practice timesheets after a stoppage-hit opening day at the first Dutch Formula One GP in 36 years on Friday.

Red Bull's home favourite and title contender Max Verstappen, with tens of thousands of orange-shirted fans packing the grandstands, was second in the morning session and then fifth in the afternoon.

Mercedes' seven-time World champion Lewis Hamilton, who is three points clear of his Dutch rival, was fastest in a red-flagged and disrupted opening session before his car broke down in the second.

The breakdown brought out red flags, with a further stoppage caused by Haas's Nikita Mazepin going into



Burning rubber: Charles Leclerc whizzing around the Zandvoort circuit. • AFP

the gravel. Leclerc's fastest lap of one minute 10.902 seconds was 0.154 quicker than Sainz, with Alpine's Esteban Ocon third.

Problem for Vettel

More than 35 minutes of the opening hour at the seaside circuit were lost after Sebastian Vettel's Mercedes-powered Aston Martin suffered a power unit failure and stopped, leaving a trail of oil.

Vettel grabbed a fire extinguisher as smoke came from the back but the car appeared to remain electrically live and could not be removed until it was declared safe by a marshal in protective clothing.

By the time the process was complete, only six minutes remained and a roar went up from the crowd as the cars returned to the track in a final rush.

All three days have been sold out, with 70,000 spectators allowed to attend on each and nearly all supporting Verstappen or his team at an old-school track with some standout banked

Krishan Kumar breaks Jinson's 800m record

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Army's Krishan Kumar, the National inter-State champion, broke international Jinson Johnson's 800m meet record as he won the gold with a personal best 1:48.02s in the 70th Services athletics championships at Bhubaneswar.

It was the fastest time by an Indian in the two-lapper this year.

The gold medallists: Men: 200m: Muhammed Aimal (Navv) 21.24s. 400m: Muhammed Ajmal (Navy) 46.91s; 800m: Krishan Kumar (Army) 1:48.02s (MR, OR: Jinson Johnson's 1:48.11). 5000m: Karthik Kumar (Army) 14:16.15s; **110m** hurdles: T.S. Bhatia (AF) 14.37s; Pole vault: S. Siva (Army) 5.20m.

Discus: Gagandeep Singh (Navy) 58.26m MR (OR 58.17 (Dharmaraj Yadav); Shot put: Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Navy) 18.07m. 20km race walk: Devender Singh (Army) 1:32,24s. 50km race walk: Resham Midhun (Army) 4:30.02s.

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Union Academy wins title NEW DELHI: Union Academy defeated Ashok Nagar Hockey Stadium 2-1 to win the Delhi state junior hockey championship at the National Stadium here. Govind Singh and Harsh Singh scored for Union Academy before Rohit found the target for Ashok Nagar. For the third place, Jai

Triumphant: The victorious Union Academy team. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sahoo 6-3, 6-0 in the boys final. Manognya beat Nainika Reddy 6-4, 6-1 for the girls trophy.

The results: Under-16 boys (final): Kriish Tyagi bt Debasis Sahoo 6-3, 6-0; semifinals: Debasis Sahoo bt Shanker Heisnam 6-3, 6-0; Kriish Tyagi bt Smit Patel 6-4, 6-2. Doubles (final): Shanker

Heisnam & Bhicky Sagolsem bt Debasis Sahoo & Kriish Tyagi 6-3, 3-6, [10-6].

Under-16 girls (final): Manognya Madasu bt Nainika Reddy 6-4, 6-1; semifinals: Manognya Madasu bt Sohini Mohanty 6-4, 6-2; Nainika Reddy bt Tania Kumari 6-2, 6-7(5), 7-5.

Doubles (final): Vennela

Gaarugupati & Saiiavani Banerjee bt Millee Chug & Dhvani Kavad 6-2, 6-1. Lakshit in quarterfinals

gurugram: Fourth seed Lakshit Sood beat Dhruv Hirpara 6-3, 7-6(4) to set up a quarterfinal against Jagmeet Singh in the AITA men's ranking tennis tournament, organised by Pradhan Tennis Academy,

here on Friday. The results (pre-quarterfinals): Chandril Sood bt Ayyoque Khan 6-2, 6-3; Chinmay Dev Chauhan bt Ajay Kundu 6-2, 6-2; Neeraj Yashpaul bt Tanik Gupta 6-2, 6-4; Fardeen Qamar bt Gourav Gulia 6-2, 6-2; Lakshit Sood bt Dhruv Hirpara 6-3, 7-6(4): Jagmeet Singh bt Siddharth Asaudha 6-2, 6-3; Anuj Malik bt Yashdeep Duggal 6-4, 6-2;

Amit Bzad bt Anurag Agarwal

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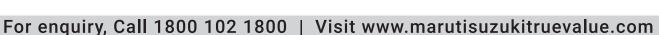
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