Farmers gear up for



show of strength at Muzaffarnagar



Punjab breathes innovation, finds gainful uses for paddy stubble

on Sunday



Ardern vows to tighten

Rohit and Pujara lead India's fightback in Oval Test



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New Zealand terrorism laws after knife attack

page 16

in Valley amid shutdown

A spontaneous shutdown was

observed in parts of the

Kashmir Valley on Saturday

as life started limping back

tion of mobile and Internet

Ali Shah Geelani's death.

to normalcy with the restora-

services three days after Syed

ECI declares bypolls, ends Bengal suspense

To remain CM, Mamata has to win Assembly seat by Nov. 5

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The byelection in the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency in West Bengal, from where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is expected to contest, will be held on September 30, the Election Commission of India announced on Saturday.

Ms. Banerjee, who lost from Nandigram in the Assembly election held earlier this year, should get elected by November 5 to continue as Chief Minister.

The election to the Samserganj and Jangipur Assembly seats, also in West Bengal, and Pipli in Odisha too will be held on September 30. The election to the three seats was adjourned after the death of candidates and later deferred in view of the second wave of CO-VID-19. The counting of votes in all four constituen-

Twists and turns

A look at the events leading up to Saturday's announcement

Trinamool Congress, led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, swept the West Bengal Assembly election held in March-April this year, she lost to her former protege-turned-rival Suvendu Adhikari in Nandigram

■ After the election results, Sovandeb Chattopadhyay, the Trinamool MLA Bhabanipur, from Bhabanipur amserganj and constituency, vacated the seat to allow Ms. Banerjee to contest from

cies will be held on October 3. The nominations are to be filed from September 6 to 13.

sembly seats have, however, been kept on hold. The commission, in a statement, said the Chief Secretaries of Odisha and West Bengal informed it that the COVID-19 situation was un-

der control. The West Ben-

gal Chief Secretary said the

The byelections to three

Lok Sabha and 31 other As-

State was ready to hold election. "He also informed [the commission1 that in view of the administrative exigencies and public interest and to avoid a vacuum in the State, byelection for 159-Bhabanipur, Kolkata from where Ms. Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister, intends to contest elections may be conducted," the statement said

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Gold rush continues at Paralympics

Shooter Narwal, shuttler Bhagat clinch the yellow metal to take India to 26th spot

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India's tryst with medals at the Tokyo Paralympics continued on Saturday, the penultimate day of the quadrennial championship. Indian athletes excelled in badminton and shooting, gaining a vield of two golds, one silver and a lone bronze.

Overall, India stayed at the 26th position with a consolidated medal haul of four golds, seven silvers and six bronzes.

Pramod Bhagat led the charge in badminton, clinching gold in the men's SL3 category. In the final, Bhagat defeated Great Britain's Daniel Bethell 21-14, 21-17 during a clash that lasted 45 minutes. With badminton just making its debut in the paralympic circuit, Bhagat also became the maiden champion in this segment.

Meanwhile, India's Manoj Sarkar secured the bronze in the same men's SL3 badminton section. Sarkar defeated Japan's Daisuke Fujihara 22-

the Taliban's requests during

the meeting, the Ministry of

External Affairs said India

had brought up the safety of

Indian nationals and Afghan

minorities wishing to visit In-

dia, as well as India's con-



20, 21-13 in a duel that stretched across 47 minutes.

In shooting, Manish Narwal excelled in the P4 mixed 50m air pistol SH1 competition. The 19-year-old scripted a Paralympic record, clocking 218.2 points and In-

dia's cup of joy brimmed as

Singhraj Adhana emerged

second-best to win the silver at 216.7 points, while Russian Sergey Malyshev got the bronze.

The Indian contingent has a lot to look forward to on Sunday especially in badminton and shooting. Suhas Yathiraj and Krishna Nagar compete in the badminton men's singles SL4 and SH6 finals respectively. And in shooting, Sidhartha Babu, Deepak and Avani Lekhara will compete in the R6 -Mixed 50m Rifle Prone SH1 qualification segment's

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 16

Peace deal inked to end Karbi unrest

MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES

CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGE 4

Asian Granito India Ltd.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A tripartite agreement insurgent five groups of Assam, the Centre and the State government was signed on Saturday to end years of violence in the Karbi Anglong region.

The insurgent groups which signed the peace accord include the Karbi Longri North Cachar Hills Liberation Front, the People's Democratic Council of Kar bi Longri, the United People's Liberation Army and the Karbi People's Liberation Tigers factions. Under the peace accord, more than 1,000 armed cadres have abjured violence and ioined the mainstream. The agreement provides for their rehabilitation.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Talks with Taliban 'reassuring': Shringla

India remains watchful of govt. formation in Kabul as Haqqanis press for bigger role

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Four days after announcing that the Indian government has held talks with the Taliban in Doha, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said in Washington on Friday that the Taliban thus far had been "reassuring" and "reasonable", but he stressed that the government continued to approach the new regime in Kabul cautiously.

His comments came as the Taliban continued to work on government formation, which was delayed for the second day, amid reports of differences between various factions.

"I think they [Taliban] have...made reassuring noises from their side. Our engagement with them has been limited, and it's not that we've a robust conversation. But for whatever conversations



Crowd control: A Taliban fighter walks in front of people

we have had so far, the Taliban seem to indicate they will be reasonable in the way they handle things," Mr. Shringla told presspersons, indicating that there had been more than one such engagement with the group.

According to the government's statements, the meeting with Taliban Political Of-

cern that Afghan soil should not be used for anti-Indian activities. Despite the sanguine aporoach, officials told The Hindu they are watching events surrounding the government formation in Afghanistan very closely tor signals that could indicate fice chief Muhammad Sher more worries for India.

Abbas Stanekzai and Indian

Ambassador to Qatar Dee-

pak Mittal on Tuesday was

held at the Indian Embassy

at the Taliban's request. Offi-

cials indicated that it was

part of the Taliban's desire to

reach out to countries with

While giving no details of

an interest in Afghanistan.

To begin with, the delay in government formation by the Taliban could indicate that the Haqqani Network, which has often targeted Indian interests, is jockeying for a bigger role in the government.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Good law and order must for freedoms, says Shah

He says campaign on to malign police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said for a successful democracy, it was vital to protect freedom of expression and individual liberty, and this could not be ensured if law and order was not good enough.

He said a campaign was going on to malign the image of the police by exaggerating a few untoward incidents and not highlighting

Bureau of Police Research and Development, the Minister asked it to take initiatives for improving the image of the police. He said the good work and sacrifices of police personnel should be highlighted and recognised. Mr. Shah said more than

Speaking at the 51st Rais-

ing Day celebrations of the

35,000 police personnel had sacrificed their lives since Independence

Few women make it to the top, says CJI

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Saturday lamented that "very few women find representation at the top" and admitted that even a "mere" 11% representation of women on the Bench of the Supreme Court was achieved with "great difficulty". Ideally, women should have got at least 50% representation at all levels after 75 years of In-

Central Vista Avenue to be ready soon

Plan to construct Secretariat buildings has run into delays at the tendering stage

DAMINI NATH

The construction of the new Parliament building and redevelopment of Central Vista Avenue could be completed ahead of schedule, while the project to construct the first three of the 10 proposed Secretariat buildings has run into delays at the tendering stage, according to Central Public Works Department (CPWD) officials.

The new Parliament, which is supposed to be completed by November 2022, should be ready in time for the Winter Session next year, according to an of-

The Central Vista Avenue too would be ready ahead of its deadline in time for the Republic Day parade in

2022, the official said. The official added that though there had been some delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the backlog had been made up with additional shifts of workers being deployed. Another CPWD official said the projects were likely to be completed before the deadlines.

The revamp of the Central Vista, which stretches from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to In-



dia Gate, is expected to be in full swing in 2023, when India is set to host the G-20

summit for world leaders.

The last elements of the larger plan, including construction of a new convention centre and refurbishment of North and South Block to be used as the National Museum, are scheduled to be completed in

While the first two projects - the Parliament building and Central Vista Avenue revamp – are progressing,

the last date for bids and opening of bids for the first three Common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings six times. The bids were to be opened on Friday, but on Thursday the CPWD cited "administrative reasons" to push the deadline to September 17.

the CPWD has postponed

Tender modified The CPWD has modified the tender multiple times due to issues raised by potential bidders. The ₹3,463-crore

project includes construction and five-vear maintenance contract for three CCS buildings to be made on the site of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, which has been shifted to a temporary location at the erstwhile Janpath Hotel. The Central Vista project includes the construction of

a new residence for the Vice-President, for which the CPWD has invited bids, and a new residence and office for the Prime Minister, which are yet to be finalised.

Congress wins 670 panchayat samiti seats in Rajasthan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Congress on Saturday won 670 panchayat samiti seats and the BJP trailed behind with 551 seats in the elections held in six districts of Rajasthan. Polling for electing 1,564 members of 78 panchayat samitis and 200 members of six zila parishads was held in three phases.

While the Congress obtained the majority in the panchayat samitis, the BJP was leading in the zila parishad polls by winning 55 of the 115 seats for which the results were announced till late Saturday evening. The Congress won 52 zila parishad seats and the Bahujan Samaj Party three.

The Rashtriya Loktantrik Party, a former ally of the farm laws last year, won 40 while Independents bagged

The polls were held in

BJP in Rajasthan which quit the NDA over the issue of panchayat samiti seats 290 seats. The BSP won 11 panchayat samiti seats.

the districts of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bharatpur, Sawai Madhopur, Dausa and Sirohi.

their good deeds. **CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8 **DETAILS ON ▶** PAGE 9 SHUBHRA RANJAN

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3 held in visa, passport fraud case at IGIA

STAFF REPORTER

Three men have been arrested for their alleged involvement in passport and visa forgery cases, the police said on Saturday. A total of 99 agents or masterminds involved in passport and visa forgery cases have been nabbed by IGI Airport police during a special drive in 2020 and 2021, they said.

DCP (Airport) Vikram Porwal said the accused have been identified as Mehboob Khan, resident of Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, Mahesh Kumar, resident of Gurugram and Saif Bari, a resident of Jamia Nagar.

Four passengers arrived as deportees from Armenia via Sharjah on the ground of holding fake visas. On the complaint from immigration officials, a case was registered and all the four accused were arrested. They disclosed that the fake e-visas were arranged by the three accused.

Man stabbed to death for objecting to noise

The accused were travelling in an e-rickshaw with victim

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by two persons after he asked them to not make noise when they were travelling in an e-rickshaw in Outer Delhi's Mohan Garden, the police said on Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Parvinder Singh said that the accused have been identified as Lav Kumar (21), a resident of Mohan Garden, Sainik Enclave, and Deepak (23), a resident of Faridkot in Punjab. The victim has been identified as Dalip, resident of Roorkee, the police said.

The police said that on Friday, a PCR call was received at Ranhola police station around 11.30 p.m. regarding murder at main Gandhi Chowk in Mohan Garden. "When the police reached the spot, they found a man was lying on the

PARK AVENUE

PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.

WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)

JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road,Opp. Metro Pillar 543

ground in a pool of blood. The injured was immediately shifted to DDU Hospital where he was declared dead," the officer said.

Tried to escape

The police said that Dalip received three stab injuries on the chest, waist and thigh. An eyewitness, Gopal, who said that he works as a watchman at Jayswal Vatika said that around 11 p.m., he was standing at Gandhi Chowk where he saw that a person with golden hair was beating the victim. Meanwhile, the other person standing there took a knife and stabbed him a few times. When the injured fell down, the assailants tried to escape, however, Gopal tried to stop them and managed to catch hold of one of the accused, the DCP said.

The police said that a case was registered under Sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC at Ranhola police station.

Lav Kumar allegedly revealed that he and his friend Deepak were returning to Mohan Garden from a birthday party in Dwarka.

"They boarded an e-rickshaw in which the victim was also sitting who was regularly interrupting them not to make noise, and and using foul language. An argument broke out when all of them got down at Gandhi Chowk. The accused stabbed the victim. When the accused realised that Dalip has grievously injured, they tried to flee. However, one of them was caught," Mr. Singh said.

Knife recovered

CCTV footages of nearby areas were checked and co-Deepak nabbed. The knife used in the crime has been recovered, the police said.

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THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

No place to call home



Afghan refugees protest outside the UNHCR office demanding resettlement options and assurance of security from the global body, in New Delhi on Saturday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

Delhi govt. identifies 9 road stretches for beautification

Will push to remove illegal parking from bus lanes: Jain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Satyendar Iain held a meeting with department consultants and officials to take stock of the ongoing streetscaping project in the Capital here on Saturday.

The Delhi government has identified nine stretches of roads for redevelopment. Mr. Jain said that the Delhi government will make separate lanes for buses on 540 km length of roads identified for streetscaping.

The government will push to remove illegal parking from bus lanes and that special lighting will be installed to intensify the beauty of redesigned roads, he said.

Mr. Jain discussed decongestion of roads to ensure smooth movement of traffic.

The government stated it is planning to redesign and decongest nine roads which include Sri Aurobindo Marg, a 3-km stretch from Majlis



Satyendar Jain

Park to Azadpur, K.N. Katju Marg, Road no. 58 near Leela Hotel, Shanti Van road, Road opposite India Habitat Centre, Tikri border entry, Road no. 59 near Signature Bridge and Nelson Mandela

Best to be replicated These roads will be deve-

loped keeping the aesthetics of their surroundings in mind on a pilot basis and the best-designed road will be replicated at other places, the government stated.

"We are planning to redesign and decongest 540 km length of roads in Delhi. For this, we will make separate lanes for buses and goods transport on roads. This will decongest roads and ease the flow of traffic," Mr. Jain was quoted as having said.

Mr. Jain also asserted the importance of impact-based output to the officials and said that they should think of ways to integrate surprise elements into the landscape.

Special lighting systems, Mr. Jain stated, will be made with the help of lighting consultants and installed on roads to make sure that the aesthetics of the roads are visible during the night and additionally will also eliminate the chances of black spots.

Mr. Jain further directed the officials to revamp the aesthetics of roads, keeping environmental prospects in mind. He stressed planting different varieties of trees

JNU to reopen in phases from tomorrow

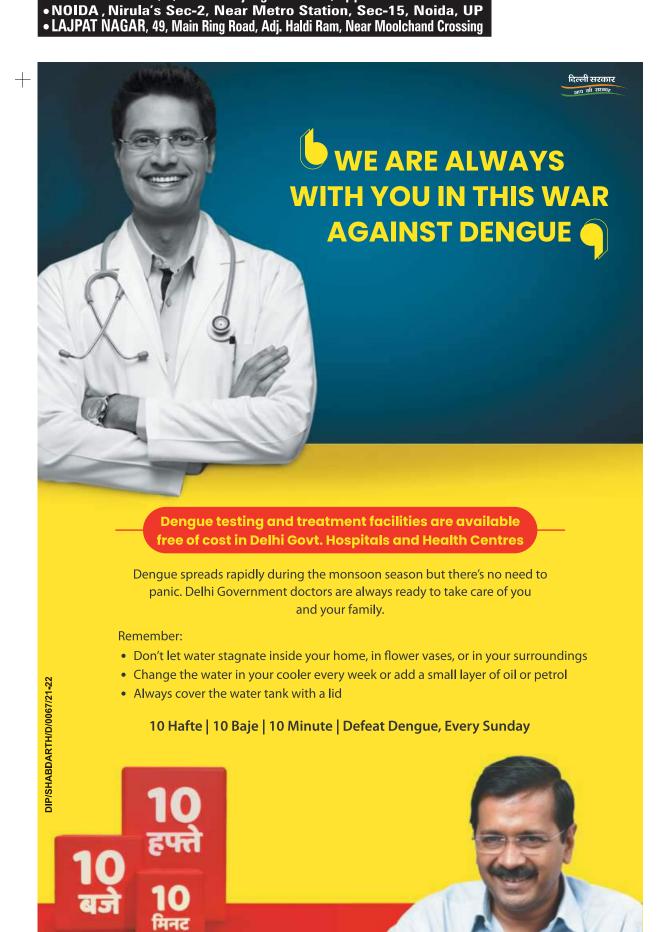
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jawaharlal Nehru University on Saturday said its campus will reopen in phases starting from September 6.

The campus will first reopen for PhD research scholars who have to submit their thesis by the end of this year.

The university said upon arrival on the campus, every student will produce a negative RT-PCR test report not earlier than 72 hours prior to arrival.

"All final-year PhD research scholars are allowed to enter into the campus. PhD students with disabilities are allowed to enter into the campus," the university said. The central library will be sanitised and seating arrangements of reading halls with 50% capacity will be made before reopening the library. Teaching-learning will continue to be in online mode, while school centre level librar-



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STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE. Follow Physical







Five arrested as illegal arms factory busted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GHAZIABAD

Five men have also been arrested after the police busted an illegal arms factory here and seized a huge cache of weapons and ammunition, an officer said on Saturday. Two of their accomplices are absconding. the police said.

The illegal arms factory was being run near the culvert of Shahzadpur village road of Muradnagar town here, the police said.

ies shall remain closed.

Senior Superintendent of Police Pawan Kumar said that five pistols of .32 bore, 72 cartridges, 20 half-furnished pistols, 55 barrels of 32 bore, 13 magazines, 250 magazine springs, 10 semiprepared magazines, 90 side plates, 17 trigger guards along with manufacturing instruments and other parts of pistols have been seized.

'Stay updated

about latest

crime trends'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Delhi Police Commissioner

Rakesh Asthana on Satur-

day exhorted the newly re-

cruited constables to re-

main updated on latest

crime trends and make op-

timal use of technology in

conducting investigation,

gathering evidence and for

He was addressing the passing out parade at Police Training College, Jharo-

The 116th batch of 312

constables completed their

training and will now be joining various districts

According to a state-

ment released by the pol-

ice, 171 candidates have

been appointed on com-

passionate grounds in the

place of their blood rela-

tions, who lost their lives

and units of Delhi Police.

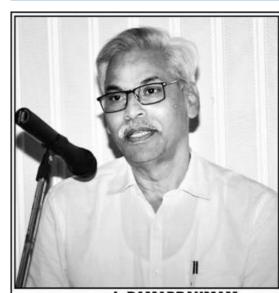
prosecution procedures.

NEW DELHI

da Kalan.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE



Professor I. RAMABRAHMAM

The values you taught us, remain the biggest source of inspiration. The courage you gave us, remains our driving force.

Your radiant personality, full of energy, compassion and positivity is sorely missed by us. Your words and laughter will echo in our minds forever We promise to uphold every virtue you passed on as a mentor, a guide, a father, a friend and more than everything, a teacher, for the rest of our lives.

We miss you a lot, Naanna. You left us too soon. Love,

Lakshmi, Archana, Anupama and all your beloved students

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



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Anuradha Devarajulu .D. Saraswathy, E.D. Ragha

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while discharging duty. There are 11 postgraduates, 116 graduates, three people with BTech, one with BBA and one BCA among these recruits.

THE HINDU DELHI SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

3



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INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BRIDES WANTED BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

Assamese

Awadhi Bengali

Bhojpuri Bihari Chhattisgarhi

English

Guiarati Haryanv Hindi

Kashmiri

Konkani Malayalam

Manipuri Marathi

Marwari Nepali

Oriva Parsi

Punjabi Saurashtra

Sindhi Tamil

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Girl Job Bangalore seeks suitable alliance 9417208744

GROOM WANTED for IIM/29/177 fair Girl 25 Lakhs annually Naidu. Un-consummated innocent divorce from suitable employees Prefereblly Mum-

rai, Thulam, B Tech, MS Data Science, working in USA, seeks, Groom working in USA, Call 9204657704, email: rdpkumar328@gmail.com

RC, CHRISTIAN, MBBS MS (OBG), Reputed school, college, 26 yrs, Fair, Good looking, Affluent, lives in Chennai, parents well educated, Father own Industry with 200 employees, Seeks doctors from god fearing Family. Whatsapp pro-file – 7550065082 Mail id :

HINDU. SC/AD. Bride - Age 24, MBBS MBBS, MD. Doctor, Chennai, Seeks: MBBS, M Doctor Grooms, Cont: 9710840909

RC MUDALIYAR, 29Yrs, Doctor Girl. Seeks Doctor Groom, IAS, IPS, IFS, Group I. Pillai, Vanniyar No bar, Contact: 94422 10729.

Bride MD (GM) 31/167 Fair Vishagam groom Ct: 9445964285

MUDALIAR (SENGUNTHAR) 30/155. Bha-CSI NADAR Gynaecologist (MS) 32/5.8, Chennai seeks Doctor, B.E rani, B.Tech, Working in US (H1B) Seeks Software Prof. Groom with Clean Habits.Call: 9840697596. in MNC, 9940543201

yrs Chennai good established family seeks MCh/DMDNB/MS/MD groom having vitiligo seeks suitable MBC/BC/FC good family. Chenga ngam@gmail.com/9677010005

CM YK

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

YADHAVA NAIDU Telugu Girl , Magam 27/152 , CTS salary 65k seeking groom (Any Telugu/Tamil Naidu preferable) Mobile: 9884001366 ,

WANTED ANGLO-INDIAN BOY for our daughter : Anglo-Indian girl, 24, 152, B-Tech, Software Engineer in leading MNC (Trivandrum posting). We ding MNC (Trivandrum posting). We are seeking suitably qualified, well settled Angio-Indian boy from India / seeks suitable groom. Ct:94436-80973 settled Anglo-Indian boy from India settled abroad. Ph: 9745251362 9447777246.

✓ ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN family busi-The state of the s 9443387006

NAIR GIRL Anizham 23/153 Diploma in Cardio Vascular Tech. Employed/AF seeks suitable Groom, Ct:8985589604

NAIR GIRL Pooram 23/155 BE, TCS seeks Educated Employed Groom. Contact: 9488956976

M.TECH, WELL employed Nair Girl, Middle Class, Vegetarian, Punartham, 25, 165 c.m, Fair (Fa-ther Nambiar, Mother Ezhava, both Graduates) Whatsapp profile to 9847036869.

HINDU EZHAVA Doctor girl MBBS; Doing MD in AllMS, 156 cm, 21/06/94 1.09 pm, Progressive family, Seeking alliance from professionals, preferably doctors. 9847390318, 9446059997, mynasandram@gmail.com

NAIR GIRL 26/156, M.TECH/ Uthrattathi / Working as Research Associates. Seeking alliance from yell educated Nair family Mob-09480167540 WERASAIV.

SM4 Nair boy Delhi/abroad 4 delhite Nair girl 31/5'2/Avitam,MBA HR.Em-ployed Mother central Govt Gztd offi-. cer Email : leaguepact@gmail.com

CSI NADAR, 36/155/10L PA, parents seek alliances from Chennai based Protestant Grooms, Contact/ Whatsapp: 9345202020

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514 tact: 9841182514

VERY RICH and renowned Christian Next HICH and renowned Christian Nadar family with a large business background, wish to have a groom for their beautiful daughter (31 Years) who has finished her MBA in a foreign University. The groom should be well educated from an Very rich family with their own business/Corporate group. Contact

HINDU SC. AD, Mesham, Bharani, 33yrs B.E. MBA, SBI Manager. Seeks Suitable Educated Groom. Ct: DOCTOR GIRL in chennal 32 seeks tamil speaking Hindu affluent edu-Educated 8056104103

DENTIST MDS 28/167 FAIR GOOD LOOK ING,SWATHI, Parkavakulam Udaiyar, seeks suitable alliance from Doc-Professionals, well placed. families. CNB whatsapp 9867906702

HINDU NADAR, 30/153, BE, MBA Sr.Consultant/ SWE/Bangalore, Pooram, 16L/PA Seeks suitable Pooram, 16L/PA groom 9442126376

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR (Vellore), Elite Family, 29/165, PG, Working HR in MNC Seeks MS/ M.Tech Groom 9176780777

MUDALIYAR 39/163 BE Mech Emp Chennai Divorcee Revathi Wheatish seeks caring clean habit, CNB, 9444254061

ALLIANCE FOR Doctor Girl Rich 17/ 10/1990 /153cm Hastham/Kanni, MBBS, MS(OBG) Working in Pvt College, Chennai, Vegetarian Family Karkatharpillai share your details 9841039515

HINDU YADAVA 33, MBA, Bharani, Wheatish, Working @ Infosys, Seeks Groom Prefer IT. 9962601864/ 9884191464

Phil., looking for a 36-40yr old, well qualified & settled groom

HINDU/SC-AD 31/160 MBA, ESIC(Govt)

HINDU NADAR, 29/160, M.Res(UK),

Mail: vishnusuresh9816@gmail.com

seeks suitable groom(Govt. erred) from SC-AD family,

from Vellalar/Mudhaliyar commu contact :8072553100,6379881605

well

Ct:9941887824

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR Kongu Parayar, 30 BE, M.Tech, Ph.D Seeks Educated preferably settled in US. Sub

ProfnI Groom. 87608 83559/89733 caste no bar. 89393 85948 45370

bai/ Bangalore 9176396307

SENGUNTHA MUDALIAR, 30/157, Chithirai, Thulam, B Tech, MS Data Scimseeks suitable Yadava Record Technology (Junior Asst.) / Seeks Suitable Associated Groom:7010056280

HINDU PILLAI 28/167 MS Employed PILLAI 29/163 Aswini wheatish M.E. Netherland seeks suitable groom working in Europe.Caste no bar 9884721659 MNC Chennai 10Lpa. Seeks Corporate Professional Grooms Ct: 98407 40707

BL,ML, Chennai seeks educated Well-settld groom.9940671899/9940343483 Oriented Bridegroom from Hosur/Ben-galuru/Europe with any of the be-low Compatible Stars – Bharani, HINDU NADAR Poosam Kadagam 24/ 153, Fair, B.Tech seeks Well Educated Chennai Based Groom.Ct:9840942228 Thiruvathirai. Poosam. WORKING PROFESSIONAL ,36,M.A(Eng)M.

Castes/Intercaste

30 YEARS old HINDU VANNIAR innocent divorcee DOCTOR, good looking homely with a female child looking for a suitable bride groom doctor/engineer/ business/ MBA man. Kind-

09663313500 #gobinath tharmarajan@g

HINDU NADAR 25/ 163 Pooram M.Arch Fair Seeks Educated well Employed/ Business. Ct: 94444 31363

HINDU PILLAI Avittam Makara Rasi Fair 29/170 MBBS MD Bride from a Reputed family seeks Doctor Groom from Tamilnadu with similar family background. CT: 99447-08563.

(MBA) Fair seeks Educated Chennai Based Wellsettled Family.9840366663

suitable VELLALAR PILLAI / Mudaliar Barani having vitiligo seeks suitable VELLALAR PILLAI / Mudaliar Barani Groom from Coimbatore. CT: 93900 33/162 Govt Dr. MD(Ped) 3rd year seeks suitable groom. 9944227062

ful, MBA, Bank Job, 420000.PA,Well Settled, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIYA, AGE 27.BE, MHRM, 165, Belongs to Chennai based a reputed business family seeks well educated, Business with habite from elite affluent family. Mob: 9444147147

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIYA, AGE 29. M.Sc Psychology, 174, Belongs to Chennai based a reputed business family seeks well educated, Business with clean habits from elite affluent family. Mob: 9445093070

HINDU VANNIAR 37/160 thiruvathirai MBBS DGO Govt Wheetish seeks prof. groom 7812876681,8754390535

HINDU RAJAKULA AGAMUDAYAR girl, US rindo Hajakuta Agalimoda Hal gili, by Visa, seek Citizen, 25 / 57, fair, MS from Princeton University, employed, seeks equally qualified groom from the same community, currently working and residing in the US. What-sApp No: +001 6154984448, VM95Family@gmail.com HINDU PILLAI 50/179 Eng Dip, Self

TN GOVT Group A officer 54/163 goodlooking unmarried Hindu AD Pillai from CNB good groom below 60 Govt/ Professional sreemadhu321@ VISWAKARMA THIRUVATHIRAI 27/169Cm, gmail.com

ELITE MUDALIAR 22/M.B.A., Own3 Textile Mills Coimbatore Only daughseeks groom. Ct: 9444457862

GROOM WANTED DOCTOR MBBS MD 36/167 Fair

Protestant Tamil Christian Nadar BC innocent divorcee no issues seeks **Doctor Groom/PGs/ Professional Earning** 2 Lakhs per month. Caste no bar

Christian girl, tamil, BE, CTS, 30/168, Chennai, seeks groom from CSI, Born again, caste no bar, Ct: 9884201013.

Ph: 98435 26370

Tamil Vanniyar girl, Canadian Citizer 25 seeks professional groom below 25 seeks professional groom below 30. Send to: kpue1995@outlook.com

Exclusive matchmaking service for the elite

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 29, 6ft, Businessman, Masters in Engineering from a reputed Institute. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN, 30, 5ft 8", Management Professional, CA from a premier Institute. Lives in Chennai. Father has passed away. Family is financially well off. Looking for

a compatible well educated match from the same nmunity. Contact: 6366448343 MUDALIYAR/CASTE NO BAR, 28, 6ft, Engineering Manager, Masters in Computer Science. Lives in USA. Father is an affluent Businessman with a

good net worth. Looking for an amiable well educated match. Contact: 6366448346 KAMMA NAIDU, 30, 6ft 1", Businessman, BE from a

reputed Institute. Lives in Chennai. Father is retired. Looking for a compatible well educated match fron the same community. Contact: 6366448344

DEVANGA CHETTIAR/CASTE NO BAR, 33, 5ft 7".

Divorced, Businessman, MBA from a premier Institute. Lives in Kanchipuram. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448345

From BharatMatrimony

ELITE GROOMS WANTED BRAHMIN, 25, 5ft 8", Teaching Professional, MA in Yoga from a premier Institute. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable well educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448343

good net worth. Looking for a like minded well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

CASTE NO BAR, 32, 5ft 1", Accounts Director, Bachelor of Arts from a premier Institute. Lives in Singapore. Father is a working Professional, Looking suitable well educated match. Contact

IYER,VADAMA, 40YEAR. Self Employed Chartered Accountant. Right leg slightly short. He can walk and drive vehicle normally. Need suit-able Bride. Call 9994934568 Consultant, MBA from a premier Institute. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448344

Call for Free Consultation © 99629 76000

COSMOPOLITAN

GROOM WANTED KONGU VELLALAR (Nattugounder) Girl, 30 Yrs , Slim , Fair Doctor - M.D. (Path)

Working in Corporate Hospital Bangalore, Looking for **Suitable Groom from**

same or equal Community

9443059274/8838112270



The Big Affluent and Rich Business Family wish to have alliance for their beautiful girl (28 yrs) who has finished her masters from a well known

The Boy should be tall and from big business family / corporate group kssgrand20@gmail.com

GAVARA/BALLIA AVITTAM Kumbam 28

Fair-Good Looking,BE (E&I)seeks Suitable Groom India/ Abroad Sub-Caste No Bar. Ct:8056093838/ RICH NAIDU 27/M.B.A., OwnGranite

well to do 51/ 5.7 seeks Govt em-ployed below 58 Well settled Tel-ugu Widower / Divorcee. Ct: 8807703450 NAIDU: 23/165 V.Fair M.Sc Having Own Textile Showroom, Kalyana Ma-hal, Construction, Elite Family, Seeks Groom- Business / Doctor -

8939012419 SEEKING UK based South Indian Brahmin preferably PG from Law School for a Telugu brahmin girl PG law Oxford 25/168 Koushika from be-

LOOKING FOR a suitable cosmopoli- CHRISTIAN MUDALIYAR, 39yrs, Dian match for my son currently working tan match for my son currently working in Europe as a Robotics Engineer. Educated at premier institutes in Singapore & USA; Masters in Aeronautics & Aerospace Engineering. Has a penchant for building things, outdoor sports & reading. Born Nov 1989; parents in Mumbai, email: hippocraticoath21@gmail.com MNC Bangalore, 35L / annum seeks Employed, Fair Bride, Ct: 9994247184. CHRISTIAN NADAR BE MS(USA) 30

32/ MALE, Doctor, looking for bride She should be working. Caste/ drskmarriage@gmail.com

PILLAI, 47, 170 cms, IT Mgr, Chennai, Looking for compatible & educated bride with/without child. Ph 9841284563, 8122870610

ANDHRA BRAHMIN Ex Military Officer Pilot Divorcee 54 yrs Seeks Al-liance: 8978586650

28 YR, Surgeon, M.S, MCh, AIIMS New Delhi, Seeks South Indian Doc-tor bride (less than 27 yrs)(Caste no Bar) Ph: 8618607705.

THEVAR Agamudayar 29/159 Thiruvonam, MDS Practice at Coimbatore, seeks suitable bride. CT: 9944496853.

NANCE / BANKING 28 YRS. Dy Mgr @SBI 12 LPA Atheist,

Famil seeks employed intellectual-y inclined Tamil/Malayali Woman ., iloined ramii/ivialayali Woman 23–29 years.Caste/religion no bar. WA:9789227517

HINDU GSB boy aged 27 years star-swati residing in Chennai 5'5" MUDALIAR HASTHAM Kanni 28/182 swati residing in Chennai 5'5" DEEE graduate working in RoyalEn-

fie**l**d 7299881503

NAIR BOY, 36, B.Tech. (IIT M), MBA (IIMC), 170cm, Thrikketta, working in private sector, Chennai, family at Tri-vandrum, financially sound. Conta-ct: 8281325227 VANNAN TAMIL 29 BE Software Engi-neer Seeks working girl Preferably BE contact 7598951763 vandrum, financially sound. Contact: 8281325227

NADAR, 22, 5ft 7", pursuing M.Sc from a reputed Institute. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match in Chennai. Contact: 6366448345

IYAR 30 Atreya Thiruvonam Tall, Fair,Handsome BCom MBA Well em-ployed Chennai Wanted Goodlooking qualified employed Girl 9340045460, 6380357575

Ct:9840864534

BRAHMIN, 40. Associate Project Man ager HCL Technologies Mac Seeks any Brahmin Girl, 9487851429

TAMIL VISHWAKARMA 27Yrs, 168cm, M.Sc, MBA, Aries, Karthigai. Works in a Reputed Hospital, Seeks

98431 82058

Suitable Bride.

BRIDE WANTED

CSI Christian Nadar, age 27, 185cm, Good personality. Graduated with Masters in Architecture, USA and working in Sanfrancisco, USA. Seeking suitable God fearing, working Bride. Parents settled in the USA also can contact.

ma Private Chennai seeks SameCaste Homely Bride. Contact: 97109 40735 Christian) but he has no religious beliefs. Caste no bar. Writes free-

94433 83302

HINDU SC,AD Magam 39/172 Diplo

NAIDUP POOSAM Age-39, Height-177, B.E Working at Cisco Systems Bangalore Technical Leader 45 lacs per annum Seeking educated good looking girl from good family. Cast No Bar. Contact: 9349222324. MBA,Employed preferred.Subcaste no bar. CT: 94894-66070, 94861-85436.

Age: 32years Own Software Col Chennai. Contact: 93444 29752. HINDU THIRUVADHIRAI Age 30/167 BE.MBA Pvt Bank Chennai 60K seeks BE Graduate Goodlooking Bride.Caste No Bar. Contact : 9445991958 NAIDU, 26/180CM, BTech, MS, Pu-

ow/Divorcee. Ct:

gmail.com

ratathi , Working in Sweden. Seek-ing Bride from any sub sect of Naidu or Reddy, Contact 8220014155 VAANIYAR - 35 Visagam / 175cm / MS (Sweeden) Working Sweeden. 60L/pa. (Swedish Citizen Ship) Seeks BE/MS Prof. Bride CNB. Ct: 9790913450 ROYAL NAIDU 27/B.E (Builders & Flat promoters)Own commercial com-plex Mount road Anna Ngr etc 500 Crores family seeks Rich Bride HINDU AD - 28 yrs /174cms, Fair BE

(SW), MNC only son, Affluent Decent family, Vellore - seeking any degree, Good family, Age 23 to 25, Ht: 5.0 to 5.5ft Ct: 8124071315, 9489740959. 9884510761 NAIDU HINDU Boy, 39 Yr, B.Com MBA, Asst. Mgr (Big 4), Veg, seeks Reli-gious, Educated Girl. Ct: MUDALIAR: 26/180, Handsome, B.E. 9790925350

MBA, Polymer Industry, Construction Business, Elite Family, Only YADAVA,TELUGU 32 yrs,168 cm,M.Tech 85K pm Chennai good networth seeks qualified fair bride 9677003920

RICH MUDALIYAR 27/B.E., M.S. Own(5 Star Hotel-3) Own (Hospital-4)Business Etc., very elite Family Seeks Rich Bride Ct: 7200067015

WANTED BRIDE for boy 35 yrs, lywanted by the start of th ✓ WANTED BRIDE for boy 35 yrs, ly-er, Vadhool, Vadamal, Ashwini, work-ing in MNC, Contact 9704171783 ed family. (Same caste/ caste no bar).Contact with (Astrological) details 9443447268 (both mobile IYER VADAMAL Kashyapa/Bharani Mesham 39/180 B.Com MCA CTS Manager 24.8 L PA Fair Handsome with Genand wats app same number) or Email to jaikrishnaduraisamy93@gmai

tle Pleasing Manners Seeking Bride well Educated/Employed re REDDY 37 191CMS issueless divorcee MDS from SRMC Employed in private 2 to 3 lakhs annually Own flat in Chennai seeks good looking tall girl in and around Chennai. CNB, Ph:9003060330. spectable family Subsect no bar. Ct: 9445098487 NAIDU Poorattadhi 31/164 ME Asst Professor Chen - Divorcee seeks Bride unmarried/Divorcee-no issue,Mudaliar. Naidu pref. 9445689306 /9443052596

man, seeks caring 9444691469/9445110208 PILLAI CENTRAL Govt M.Phil 33 seeks Govt brides all India CNB call 8220311836 GAJULU BALIJA Unmarried Boy only Son of Retired Professor, Self Employ-

ed, Own House, aged 35 years, Requi HINDU PILLAI, 42, 30,000 p.m seeks suitable Bride. Divorcee or Widow, res Educated and Cultured Beautiful
Girl from a Respectable Family, Kindly
married. Best Rib matched. Contact: 9341273990.

RICH MUDALIAR 28/B.E. M.S. own Bus 59, FAIR, Educated, Well Settled. WANTED Fair looking Graduate Bride Transport 100yrsBusiness etc.Elite Seeks Good Looking, Issueless Wid- for re-marriage for a Bridegroom for re-marriage for a Bridegroom working at Bank, Caste No Bar. Age between 32 to 36 from a good family. Contact: 91503-33107 (Coimbatore based in particular) aaramam900@

based is preferable). NAIDU GAVARA 36/162 wheatish Punarpoosam (1) Raghu, Kethu BE Web Designer, BOSCH-Coimbatore, 10-12L, Father Retd-Professor seeks bride with Preferred Degree - BE/MCA/

TELUGU BRAHMIN 6000 NIYOGI Koundiya – 33 yrs, 172 cms BE – Asst Mgr (4.2 L PA) Seeks Suitable Alliance Si 9620999580 Subsect No Bar.

URDU SPEAKING- Chennai Sunni Muslim parents invite alliance for their son 30/170 Dentist MDS. Seek-ing educated and religious girl 25 years & above. Email: sa45462@

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

GROOM / BRIDE from Elite Family

A well established Builder and affluent Hindu Family living in Indiranagar, Bangalore, invites well decipliant family for their Daughter B. Tech. MS(UK) BE (MIT)

MARRIAGE BUREAU

SITUATIONS

VACANT

30 Years

175 cm

70 kg Well built & 56 kg Slim, Fai NAIDU, 35/178, BE., MBA., Business-& beautiful handsome bride. ontact: 9845489161 / 99800799

married. 7200176211

32 Years

165 cm

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT

CITATION U/s 283, INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 192 In the matter of TEST CASE NO. D.M., slim fair good looking 45/ 175 own hospital 5lac p.m. well settled clean habits rich family 63/2021 PANKAJ MANIKTALLA

All Concerned

In the matter of estate of Late. SI

rendra Pal S/o Late Sh. Hira Nand. R/o

CA/5C, DDA Flats, Munirka Phase-I New Delhi-110067 Whereas Pankaj Maniktalla S/o Late Sh Surendra Pal, R/O CA/5C. DDA Flats Munirka, South West Delhi-110067 has

Pal, deceased. And whereas the aforesaid case is fixed for hearing on 28.09.2021 at 11:.00 A.M before the Joint Registrar (Judicial) of this Hon'ble Court. This Citation is issued, in terms of Section 283 of the said Act to all persons claiming to have any interest in the properties of the sai ceased to come to this Court. file proceedings on the date specified abov

for the grant of probate iven under my hand and the seal of this Court, in terms of the order dated 16.08.2021



for REGISTRAR GENERAL

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS OUR EXPORT and Retail Business

looks for Financial /Working part-ner on Monthly Profit sharing. 6381095123.

FINANCE **Financer / Investor for prop, project,** NPA agent cont,7703886032.

ONLINE / contact class usg / echo

SITUATIONS

VACANT

cosmetology - 9940212129

Email- sharanjay@protonmail.com Mobile - +91 9043511120 THEMAHINDU

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that one male namely Baddu, S/o Sh. Sukhdev, R/o Khasra No. Chaudhary Colony, West Kamal Vihar, Burari, Delhi, **Age:** 80 years,

has been registered at P.S. Burari, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out

Website: http://cbi.nic.in E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in SHO Fax: 011-24368639

Ph.: 011-27616844, 27616845

seek alliance from ProfessionIs 29/ 5'7" Chauhan Anshik Manglik

DOCTOR GIRL 26/167, MBBS SC SC-AD Hindu Tiruvadhirai 34/162 BA, HINDU MUKKULATHORE, Magam Star, 26/ sambavar, parayan, Christian, seeks Groom from Doctors only Contact:

jesuschrist0014@gmail.com

Fair, Revathy seeks qualified employed India / Abroad Groom in same caste. Ct: 94864 86810. TAMIL VISWAKARMA Govt Doctor HINDU PILLAI Ayilyam 25/172 BE TCS 40K Chennai seeks Educated Employed Groom.Cont: 98842 19327 Seeks Doctors / Govt Officer Bride-

DOCTOR MS(GS) doing MCh plast 28

MUDALIAR DIVORCE, 30/164 Beauti-

CHETTIAR (CNB): 25/173, Very Fair, B.Tech, Father Business, AffluentFamily, See India / Abroad 9994915406/ 7358510790

INVITING VANNIYARKULA Shathrivar Bride Groom from Decent Family for Bride 28 / 162 / wheatish / PhD. Contact, 9840495355 HINDU, PILLAI, 26/178CM, B.E (CSE)

working in IT sector seeks well Educated Groom working Abroad (US/UK/Canada) Ct: 9790690593

Emp, Karthigai, 1st Patham, decent fa-mily, 1st Marriage, delay due to com-mitment, seeks Groom below 55yrs with clean habits from decent family preferably from Chennai/Divorcee/ 2nd Marriage avoid Whatsapp Bio-data 94422 73407.

B.E Girl Own House, Seeking Educat-WhatsApp/Call: tile Mills Coimbatore Only daughter Rich Family seeks

Groom9884510869

HASTHAM 33, 154 Fair MCA Upper Middle Class Seek Mudaliar/Pillai Pro-Qualified Groom, 8925640261 REDDY DIVORCEE 1980 Hastham Kanni, Bcom, FCA, Manager Chennai 2Lpm, seeks suitable employed profession-al. Call: 9442370784

Analyst Good looking Seeks Educated ,Settled. fairkumar@gmail.com.9445145455 DKV 29YRS 164/58 MBA(IIT) fair working in MNC Seeks for bright bridegroom from educated family

AGAMUDIYAR 26/165 M.com Fin.

VEERASAIVAM (ANY Subcaste) Fair, Good looking,25 yrs, Msc B ED,Star-Pooram, looking for Groom, CT-VANIYA CHETTIAR Girl Magam 26 ears /156 cm M.Sc Chemistry Chennai Native Rajapalayam seeks Groom from Same Caste Well Educated with Good Family Values. Contact:

INTER-CASTE, INTERFAITH (F-CSI, M-

Saiva Pillai) Parents, Daughter-Kumbha (Aquarius), Poorattathi, 26, Fair, 165, Good Looking, BE &

PGDM from Reputed Institutes, Man

9443415793 / 9486083271

ager, 25 Lakhs PA, Parents are Se-nior Officers in Govt., Upper Mid-dle Class, Lives in Chennai, Lookfor Compatible Well Educated tch from descent Hindu/Christian family, Contact : yogala9651@ gmail.com or WhatsApp 88381 25737 with photo and details. DOCTOR (PAEDIATRICS) GOVT SERVICE

DOB:1991 Vellore(TN) Hindu-SC (Caste no bar) Contact:9443685770/ 9840509914 Doctors/Civil servants

MUDALIAR: 25/165, V.Fair, MBBS, MS, Doing, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks Groom - Doctor / Eng 7305810258

preferred

7550245659

tamil speaking Hindu affluent edu-cated groom. Caste no bar Ct: 9884202884 ASST. PROF. TULUVA VELLAL MUDALIAR Good looking Girl 33, Uthirat-tathy, Meenam, Ph.D(Physics), Fami-ly Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged – 36 Yrs, Employed, Caste r. Contact : After 7 PM

MUDALIAR 25 B.E. MBA, 162cm, Good Looking, well Settled Family CNB.Ct: 8778514465/ 7200866346 MUDALIAR 34/PURAM/164/ B.E/ Divorcee/ (with in Month) suitable Profesnlyqualified.

devimoogambikai@gmail.com

Engineering Colleges ,Arts & Nurs-ingColleges well settled family seeksRich Groom Profiles Ct: 7200067015 AD 25/163 BHMS Doctor Pvt. Hospital seeks Tamil-cultured Well-Edu-cated Settled Dr./Engr/Govt./Bank Officer Groom with Age 30 & Below.

RICH MUDALIYAR/PILLAI 22/B F Own

MUDALIAR, 24/ 153, fair, MA, work-ARUNTHATHIYAR, 1986 Born / M.Sc., R Ed M. Phil. Working in TN

170cm, HR Analyst Bengaluru, Seeks Professionally Qualified, Family Swathi. Anusam, Thiruvonam, Sadhayam, Uthirattathi, Pooram, Hastham, Sub Castes/Intercaste acceptable #

apply to Post Box No. 112,

HINDU NADAR Pooratadhi 22/165 BE

aurocratic family Ph: 9448092780

MUDALIYAR, 27, 5ft 5", Medical Professional, Masters in Medicine from a premier Institute. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a

6366448346 CHRISTIAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC, 28, 5ft 4"

> rai, Rs. 30.000/pm, Ct: 98945 72404, NADAR, 33/173CM, BE, MBA(IIM)

175cm Smart Working in Canada Seeks Bride Preferably in Canada 8610774283 Contact SC, CHRISTIAN, AD, 42/5.4' unmar ried DEEE, Dip in Sound Engg super visor in DE-Addiction cente visor in DE-Addiction center 16500. Caste, Religion No Bar. seeks below 36 yrs employed bride

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unmarried or widow with no child,

tact 9600174846 Hindu ISAI VELLALAR 44 M.Com Govt. 90000/- pm. Seeks divorcee / widow bride w/o issues. Sub caste no bar, 97880 58370

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Suitable

36,170cm, M.B.B.S, D.L.O Govt. Doc-

lance on movies as a hobby. Con-

CASTE NO Bar 1978/170 DCE well set-Midunam, Mirugaseri ness seeks bride.

9360379051

(First Marriage) 6.2 ft h, 31 Yrs, born to inter-religious parents, working at UK, (Caste/Religious/Social Status NO Bar). Contact: kumareshmrg@gmail.com

BE,TCS,SWE Affluent Family Chenna seeks Educated Bride, Ct:9629276108

IYER KAUSHIKA 29/178 MEng UFT Man-

ager Gov Canada, bride 20–25yrs kanthiparam91@gmail.com, 9841092618.

NEW DELHI

GENERAL

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the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Burari, Delhi DP/1464/N/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING Seneral public is hereby informed

15.08.2021. In this regard a DD No. 41A, dated 19.08.2021

A ND-NDE

Industries well settled fairseeks Groom 9884510761 9087865951 1985/175CM. IT. 25 Lakhs PA. Chen-MUDALIAR 34y/165cm Mca Poonar-posam Emp Tirupur Wheatish Seeks Bride CNB 9486247057. TELUGU JOGI Kirthigai 37/152 M.Com, B.Ed.Veg seek Employed groom CasteNoBar, BC,MBC prefd. Ct: 8056012713 nai, Father Doctor, Seeks well edu cated bride, WhatsApp: 96290 12248 PUNJABI/KHATRI MBA, 165/30 own GRADUATED BRIDE Wanted for IT boy nouse. own Business s**l**im / fair BALIJA NAIDU Widow No encumbrance Ph: 9603895009.

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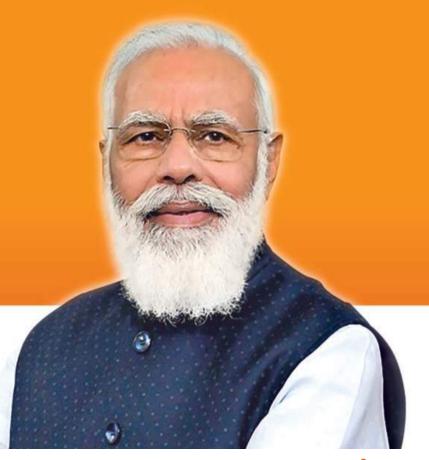
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Timings **DELHI**

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 TUESDAY, SEP. 07 RISE 06:03 SET 18:36

RISE 06:04 SET 19:08 **Delhi Weather** max mir

Delhi Palam Today

Delhi City

35°C Rise in day temperature likely. A spell of light rain and some places

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 35°C Warm and humid day would prevail with cloudy sky Light rain and thunderstorm may occur at some areas.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019 All rights reserved.

Capital records zero deaths, 55 fresh cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Delhi did not report any death due to COVID-19 for the fourth consecutive day on Saturday while the number of new infections was 55 with a positivity rate of 0.08%, according to data shared by the city health department.

After showing gradual fall, the number of cases has again risen, with Saturday's count being the highest in the last 15 days, data showed.

The new cases took the national capital's infection tally to 14,37,929. Over 14.12 lakh patients have recovered from the virus.

The death toll due to the coronavirus infection in Delhi stood at 25,082.

Nearly 4,000 await govt.'s ₹50,000 COVID-19 relief

Over 6,000 people who lost kin to deadly virus have applied for scheme; pendency largely due to procedural bottlenecks

NIKHIL M BABU

NEW DELHI In September last year, 69year-old Rukhmani Devi watched helplessly as her husband was rushed to a hospital after he tested positive for COVID-19. She never saw him again.

Her husband, 74-year-old Sardar Singh, died a couple of days later on September 20. "After he died, I never got the chance to see his face," Ms. Devi said as she welled up at her two-room house in Shahabad Mohammadpur.

"I am unwell and survive on my husband's pension, my son doesn't give me anything. The officials who came to our house said that we will get money [under the Delhi government's relief scheme for people who have lost a family member to CO-VID-19], but it has been more than two months and we are yet to get anything," said the frail septuagenarian.

According to official data seen by The Hindu, a total of 6,036 people have applied for compensation of ₹50,000 under the scheme. Out of this, 66% (3,995) of the applications were not approved as of Saturday. Most of 3,995 applications are pending approval due to conditions not being met even after filing the request, said officials.

Only 10.9% got money The government has released money to only 10.9% of the applicants till now.

When contacted, a Delhi government spokesperson said some people were facing difficulties in getting the required documents.

The Social Welfare Minister recently asked officials to expedite the process of issuing necessary documents.

"The approvals will pick



Rukhmani Devi, 69, in her two-room house in Shahabad Mohammadpur. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

up soon as the Minister has already given directions," the spokesperson said.

The Mukhyamantri CO-VID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahavata Yojna was notified around two and a half months ago to "provide immediate financial relief" to families who have lost their dear ones to COVID-19.

The beneficiaries include children who have lost one or both parents to COVID-19. There are 6,200 children who are left with a single parent and 292 left orphaned as on August 16 due to CO-VID-19, as per a status report filed by the Delhi government to the High Court.

On August 23, the High Court had said that it "would be unfair to expect children, who lost their parents, to be I am unwell and conditions have to be fulfilled: The death must be cersurvive on my tified as COVID-19 death as husband's pension. per a list by the Ministry of The officials who Home Affairs (MHA). Else, came to our house the death must have hapsaid I will get the pened within one month of money, but it has testing positive for COVID-19 been more than two plus it has to be verified as months and we are COVID-19 death by the Health yet to get anything Department of the Delhi go-

vernment.

This condition is proving able to procure documents to be a bottleneck for approvand avail benefits" and diing cases, officials said. rected the government to fix issues in the process to get

"If the name of the deceased is not part of the MHA list, the file is sent to the Health Department for verification," an official said.

The government is trying to help people with the procedure at every step and the scheme is the "government's topmost priority" at this

A close look at the scheme

Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojna

₹50,000 each to people whose family members died due to

₹2,500 per month to some categories of people who have lost their family members to

 Beneficiaries of both assistances include children who have lost one or both parents

A lengthy process Though both assistance is under a person eligible for both has to apply separately.

 An applicant has to submit five documents online. Some of these documents take time to be issued.

Even after submitting required documents online, one of these two conditions have to be fulfilled: The death must be

certified as COVID-19 death as per a list by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). If not then, the death must have happened within one month of testing positive plus it has to be verified as COVID-19 death by the Health Department.

point, said officials.

A Delhi government source said authorities are looking at tweaking this requirement of verification by the Health Department to speed up the process.

Some people are also finding it difficult to get a surviving member certificate, which is one of the five required documents.

"The process takes time as we have to also make sure that no one is making fake certificates to get the money," another official said.

No data

Under the same scheme, a monthly assistance of ₹2,500 to specific categories of people who have lost their family members to COVID-19 is to be given. But a separate form has to be submitted online to avail this benefit. The government started sanctioning this amount to people around Thursday and the numbers are still low, said sources.

The Delhi government did not provide exact figures on

how many people have applied for the relief of ₹2,500/ month and how many have been approved.

Ms. Devi lives with her grandson whose parents died when he was young.

"I have been living with my grandparents since I was a child and now it is just the two of us. I am doing my third year in college and the only income we have is my grandfather's pension, which is ₹6,500. He had taken a loan for his sister's wedding and that's why his pension is less. He used to work for the electricity department," said Sagar Saini.

"Two teachers had come to our place about two months ago and now we are entering the third month. It will be really helpful if we get some money from the government," he added.

When asked whether they face any financial issues, Ms. Devi said: "We have a house, but we cannot break the house and eat when we are hungry, right?"

Atishi questions Delhi Police

122 teachers to get awards for work during pandemic

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi government will honour 122 teachers with the State Teachers Award for outstanding work during the pandemic on the occasion of Teacher's Day.

"The teachers of Delhi

have played an important role in the tough times of COVID. They have not only worked shoulder to shoulder with the administration but have also done remarkable work in vaccination, quarantine centre, distribution of food, mask enforcement, airport duty. And along with these duties, while performing their basic duty, they also continued the work of online teaching and did not let the children's education stop," Education Minister Manish Sisodia said. He said during the pandemic, many children went to other States but the teachers not only worked to find these children but also called them to Delhi at their own expense. They also gave devices to the children for online classes and got their Internet connection recharged.

"Our teachers have contributed a lot to our lives. Therefore, on the occasion of Teacher's Day, call at least one of your teachers and express gratitude towards them. Tomorrow, along with Teacher's Day, also celebrate Teacher's Gratitude

start their day with mindful-

Govt. of Jharkhand OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department, Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 e-mail--- eercdapfsdran-jhr@nic.in

e-Procurement very Short Notice

_ <u>e</u>	-Tender Reference NoRCD/F	SD /AP/ RAN/ 21 /21-22 Dated 03.09.2021				
1-	Name of Work	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project				
		Report (DPR) for Construction of ten (10) numbers of H.L.				
		bridges in different roads at Ranchi, Khunti and Gumla				
		District in the state of Jharkhandfrom Consultants				
		empanelled in Category- II with the Road Construction				
		Department , Government of Jharkhand vide letter no -				
		686 dated 29-01-2019				
2-	Tentative Length of Work	90m,10m,40m,12m,10m,28m,80m,28m,30m and				
		90m				
3	Work completion time	45 Days				
4	Date and Time of Publishing of	06.09.2021, 05.00 PM				
	Tender on official website					
5-	Last date and Time of submission of	14.09.2021, 12.30 PM				
	Tender					
	(With Tender Fee and EMD)					
6-	Date and Timing of Bid opening	15.09.2021, 12.30 PM				
7-	Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer, Field Survey Division,				
		Advance Planning, RCD, Ranchi, Nirupan				
		Bhavan, 56 set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002,				
		Mobile No-9431591027				
8-	Bid Submission Address	Chief Engineer (Communication), Road				
		Construction Department, 1st Floor, Engineer				
		Hostel No-2, Dhurwa,Ranchi-834004				
9-	Mode of Bid Submission	e-Tendering (<u>http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</u>)				

For further information please go through the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in **Executive Engineer** Field Survey Division, A.P Road Construction Department, Ranchi

PR 252717(Road)21-22*D



H.P. STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD "HIM PARIVESH", PHASE III,

NEW SHIMLA-171009

Public Notice

According to the provisions of EIA Notification No. SO 1533 dated 14-09-2006, HP State Pollution Control Board invites suggestions, views, comments and objections on the proposal of Shri Rakesh Kumar & Sh. Ajay Singh, Village & Post Office Ladori Indora, Tehsil Nurpur & Indora, Distt Kangra, HP for extraction of Sand, Stone & Bajri (Mining of minor minerals) @ 5,42,425 MT for lease period of 5 years at Khasra No 1499/96 and 673 (Government land, River Bed), falling in Mauza/Mohal-Bhaddal Uperli, Tehsil Dehra, Distt Kangra, over an area of 25-25-47 Hectares. The aforesaid Project Proponent has submitted Executive Summary (both in Hindi and English) and Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Draft EIA Report) (in English only) related to the aforesaid unit for the purpose of perusal by all concerned

Local affected persons and others having plausible stake in the environmental impacts of the project may inspect the Executive Summary available (both in Hindi and English) and Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan (in English only) as submitted by the project proponent in the offices of : (i) Director (Environment, S&T), Department of Environment, Science 8 Technology, Paryavaran Bhawan, Near U.S. Club, Shimla H.P.- 171001. (ii) District Magistrate, Kangra at Dharamshala, H.P. (iii) Chairman, Zila Parishad, Kangra at Dharamshala (iv) District Industries Centre Dharamshala, Distt Kangra. (v) Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Pearson Road, FR Campus, New Forest, Dehradun-248006. (vi) Regional Officer, H.P. State Pollution Control Board Dharamshala, Distt. kangra, H.P. (vii) Headquarter of the H.P. State Pollution Control Board, "Him Parivesh" Phase-III, New Shimla-171009 during normal working hours on any working day till the Public Hearing is over. In addition to this, these documents are also available in the office of the Sub Divisiona Magistrate, Dehra, Distt. Kangra H.P. and also on the website of the State Board (www.hppcb.nic.in) Suggestions, views, comments and objections from local affected persons and others having plausible stakes in the environment impacts of the project will be accepted by the State Board up to 07-10-2021.

Environmental Public Hearing related to the above-mentioned unit is proposed at Community Hall (Samudayak Bhawan), Gram Panchyat Bhaddal, Post Office Thore, Tehsil Dehra, Distt Kangra, H.P. on

Local affected persons and others having plausible stake in the environment impacts of the projects are also invited to participate in the aforesaid Public Hearing. The traveling and incidental costs to attend the Public Hearing shall be borne by the participants themselves

(APOORV DEVGAN, I.A.S.) **MEMBER SECRETARY** H.P. STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

THEMOHINDU

compensation.

For getting the compensa-

tion, a person has to submit

five documents online, in-

cluding death certificate and

But even after submitting

the documents, one of two

proof of COVID-19 death.

DCM, e-Tender Notice No. & Date: CA11-OOH-BAROB-CRZ-II-11 dated 01.09.2021, Work and location: Bulk advertising rights at Bandra ROB- Coastal Region Zone Location (Group-II) At southeast of ROB near harbor Line track for display of advertisements by dismantling existing hoarding structures & replacing with erection of new hoarding structure of size 40' x 40' (1) facing East, for a period of five years, Aprox. cost of Work (For 5 Years) Rs.: ₹. 6,60,58,578/-(excluding taxes etc.), EMD Rs.: ₹. 13,21,200/-, Website where Tender form available: www.ireps.gov.in Date & Time of closing of online submission: Upto 15.00 hrs on website www.ireps.gov.in to download further details. 2. Cost of tender and EMD shall be accepted only through online net panking or E-payment gateway. 3. Bidder should regularly visit website to keep

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U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION **CORPORATION LTD. E-Tender** Notice S.No.-1.Spec.No. ESD-8/167,Equipment-624KV Surge Arrester, EMD (in Rs.)-14000.00. S.No.-2,Spec.No. ESD-8/168,Equipment-245KV & 45KV Circuit Breaker,EMD(in Rs.)-45000.00, S.No.-3,Spec.No. ESD-8/169, Equipment-765KV Bus Post Insulator.EMD(in Rs.)-11000.00,Online e-Bids are invited for supply of above equipments against Tender Specn. no. as mentioned above. E-tender uploaded on 04.09.2021 on https://etender. up.nic.in. Tender Fee of each tenders is Rs. 4,720.00 will be deposited through RTGS/NEFT. _ast date for submission of tender s 04.10.2021 at 16:00 Hrs and opening of part-I is 06.10.2021 at 16:00 Hrs. Total Quantity tender specification and other terms and conditions is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Undersigned reserve the right to cancel the e-Bids without assigning reason. Corrigendum. Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above vebsite. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. Superintending Engineer, Electy. 765/400KV SDC, 11th floor,

Shakti Bhawan Extn, Lucknow.

Civic body polls: BJP to launch outreach programme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

it's campaign for the next year's civic body polls by launching a massive outreach programme later this month and connecting with voters across the city through 11,000 small and medium public meetings.

The party has already strengthened nearly 14,000 booth-level units by forming 21-membered committees, which will play a crucial role in reaching out to each household starting from September 15, said Delhi BJP general secretary Harsh Malhotra on Saturday. The BJP, which has been ruling the three municipal corporations since 2007, is going to the elections with an upbeat AAP trying to unseat it. "The programme will be based on two way communication between our workers and the residents in their neighbourhood," he said.

unavoidable circumstances.

Janasanyog /CF/1206/21

Workshop Sub Division Pampore

2.Tender ID: 2021_PWD_118598_1

tendering; DATE: -26.02.2021

DIP/K-7781/21

The Delhi BJP will kick-start

The Aam Aadmi Party on

executive

STAFF REPORTER

Saturday alleged that the Delhi Police is not conducting proper investigations in cases related to the northeast riots. It said out of the 750 cases, chargesheets have been filed in only 35 cases.

"Not just AAP, all the courts too are raising questions on the Delhi Police's investigations. It is clear that the police does not want to investigate the Delhi riots properly. The courts have refused to accept statements of Delhi Police's witnesses multiple times and observed that they seem to be planted," senior AAP leader Atishi said.

She said it was "crystal clear" that the police and Lieutenant-Governor under the BIP do not want to investigate riot cases. "Delhi Police has no intention of

- Sd-

(Director Agriculture)



Out of 750 cases related to riots, chargesheets filed in 35: AAP

AAP leader Atishi •

catching the real culprits. I want to ask the police, who are they trying to protect? Why can't they present proper witnesses, proof and carry out a legitimate investigation even after 1.5 years," she asked.

The party also alleged that the BIP-ruled New Delhi Municipal Corporation is giving away land worth thousands of crores to private clinics and people are known to them free of cost.

'Land to pvt. clinics'

which the BJP-ruled civic bodies will be giving land to its own people has been passed in the NDMC Standing Committee on September 1," said AAP chief spokesperson Bhardwaj "BJP Delhi State presi-

"The resolution through

dent Adesh Gupta needs to tell why the BJP is bringing such a cheap policy, why are they going to give land worth crores to their leaders for free," he added.

Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said this week's NDMC Standing Committee proposal to hand over few vacant health department premises to charitable NGOs for running charitable health dispensaries is in line with decades-old tradition.

"It is sad that AAP is trying to malign this good scheme with a political vendetta," he said.



Cyclist seen riding during a spell of rain near Seemapuri on

Rain lashes parts of Capital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI Rains lashed parts of the national capital on Saturday afternoon bringing the mercury down. The city recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2 degrees Celsius, one notch below the season's average, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. It had issued a yellow alert for Delhi for Saturday, predicting light rains or thundershowers. Rains were wit-

nessed in the north-east, north and central parts of Delhi. The weather department has predicted partly cloudy sky with possibility of development of thunder and lightning on

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DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE

KRISHI BHAWAN, G.S ROAD, KHANAPARA, GHY-22

Tender cancellation Notice

Tender Reference No AIF-RFP-2021-22 , ID_ 2021

DAASC_22680_1, published on 26th Aug 2021 in

assamtenders.gov.in for hiring of "Service Provider for

establishment of PMU for implementation of Agriculture

Infrastructure Fund in Assam" is hereby cancelled due to

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY

MECHANICAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR

Tel: 0194-2497056 Email: xenmds@gmail.com

CANCELLATION NOTICE

Subject: Fabrication of fixed wedge ploughs for 08 no. tractors at

References: 1. This office e- NIT No. MDS/TS /2020-21/224/e-

Due to adminstrative reasons, the above referred eNIT is hereby

Executive Enginee Mechanical Division,Srinaga

Who are you trying to protect,

Day...," he said. Mr. Sisodia also said mindfulness has become a turning point in the lives of students studying in Delhi government schools and every day, 16 lakh students

Heavy rain inundates many places in Hyderabad

Heavy downpour of two hours in the southern and eastern parts of Hyderabad on Saturday has led to inundation of roads, severe flooding of colonies and tedious traffic jams in several

INSPIRESat-1 primed for launch, says IIST

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM INSPIRESat-1 CubeSat, developed under the International Satellite Program in Research and Education (INSPIRE), is ready for launch, the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) has said. The small satellite that weighs less than 10 kg will be launched aboard an upcoming Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation

Minor girl in A.P. 'sexually assaulted' by 3 persons

A 15-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by two youth and a juvenile in Kruthivennu mandal of Andhra Pradesh. The girl reportedly came out without the knowledge of the parents to meet her friend in Vijayawada. The accused, who reportedly assured to help the girl, took her to an abandoned area and allegedly committed the crime.

Kerala water transport resumes boat service

ALAPPUZHA

The Kerala Water Transport Department has resumed the operation of Vega II, a tourist boat service connecting Alappuzha and Kumarakom. Officials said the service. which was restarted last week, was drawing tourists in good numbers. Vega II was launched in March 2020.

Will propose altered course of action against COVID: Pinarayi

Kerala CM says restoring normalcy is the government's uppermost priority

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday said the government would on Tuesday weigh an altered course of action to bridle CO-VID-19 and restore the economy at a stroke. The night curfew (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.) and Sunday lockdown would continue till then.

He said restoring normalcy was the government's uppermost priority. Kerala had to learn to live with CO-VID-19. The pandemic was likely to linger well after the State achieved 100% vaccination. Blunting the pandemic was expected to be a long haul. Kerala should prepare for it. It should not slide back into pre-COVID era compla-



Long wait: A file photo of people waiting to get vaccinated at a camp in Thiruvananthapuram. • s. манімsна

cency. The mask and physical distancing mandate would endure, he said.

Mr. Vijayan mooted hyper-local surveillance by neighbourhood watch groups and local self-government officials to ensure that the infected persons remained effectively quarantined. Those who broke quarantine would risk a heavy fine and prosecution. The police would forcibly move

them to government shel-

ters. The administration

would charge the violators

for bread, boarding and

Mr. Vijayan said sectoral magistrates and the police should ensure pandemic control activities at the village and municipal ward level. Local self-governments would identify areas that had fallen behind in vaccination and organise special inoculation drives. They should ensure no family in quarantine starved, lacked in medicine, and other essentials. The emphasis was on home delivery and use of volunteers to run odd jobs for quarantined families.

He said the police would impose strict curbs on social life, retail, and mobility in localities that reported an above 7% Weekly Infection Population Ratio (WIPR).

Nipah surfaces in Kozhikode after a year

Nipah has surfaced in Kerala again for the third time, that too after a gap of one year.

Further details about the case are not known.

vived the infection.

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Nipah has been confirmed in a 12-year-old admitted to a private hospital in Kozhikode with encephalitis, the Additional Director of Health Services (Public Health) said here late on Saturday night. The sample had been tested at the NIV unit in Alappuzha.

Kerala's first tryst with Nipah had been in May-June 2018 and this was the first recorded outbreak in South India. The outbreak identified 23 cases, though only 18 were lab-confirmed. Of the 23 cases identified, only two sur-

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa, coastal & interior Karnataka, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

Agartala	Kozhikode 7 28.4 23.1
Ahmedabad	Kurnool 32.6 24.5
: Aizawl	Lucknow
Allahabad 87.832.423.2	Madurai 0.2 33.2 24.9
: Bengaluru 0.126.620.4	Mangaluru 53.8 26.8 22.4
Bhopal 0.630.424.4	Mumbai 54 31.3 24.0
Bhubaneswar 26.233.225.5	Mysuru – 29.0 20.4
Chandigarh – 33.1 25.9	New Delhi 0.133.226.1
Chennai 5 31.9 24.6	Patna 35.2 26.4
: Coimbatore 0.530.422.3	Port Blair 2629.823.4
Dehradun 2 29.6 24.3	Puducherry 0.4 29.6 23.2
: Gangtok	Pune
Goa 329.423.8	Raipur – 33.6 24.4
: Guwahati	Ranchi 331.223.2
Hubballi	Shillong 124.716.6
Hyderabad 430.622.0	Shimla
Imphal 132.0 –	Srinagar
Jaipur – 33.5 25.7	Thiruvananthapuram 1030.424.2
: Kochi 6 27.8 24.2	Tiruchi
Kohima 9 25.8 18.2	Vijayawada 0.633.625.2
Kolkata 35.1 27.6	Visakhapatnam – 33.8 25.4
: (Painfall data in mm: temperature in	n Calsius)

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 prematur death in people with heart or lung disease

4 years on, charges yet to be framed in Gauri Lankesh case

Progress in M.M. Kalburgi murder case has also been tardy

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ

Four years have passed since the assassination of activisteditor Gauri Lankesh on September 5, 2017, and nearly three years since the chargesheet was filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT). However, the courts are yet to frame charges against the accused, not just in this case but also in the M.M. Kalburgi murder case where the charge sheet was filed two years ago.

The prosecution blames the COVID-19 pandemic and "delay tactics" deployed by the defence to prolong trial, an allegation the defence



counsel has denied.

"In both cases, Hearing Before Charges (HBC) is ongoing in the respective courts and we are confident charges will be framed and trial will begin very soon," said M.N. Anucheth, Chief Investigation Officer, SIT.

Meanwhile, application of the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCO-CA), 2000, to all the accused in the Gauri Lankesh murder case hinges on the Supreme Court order, expected on September 8.

The Karnataka High Court had in April, 2021, quashed KCOCA 2000 charges against one of the accused Mohan Naik saying the Act can be applied only against those accused with two or more cases against them previously.

Gauri's sister Kavita Lankesh approached the apex court challenging the High

Karnataka decides to ban online gambling

Lottery, horse races not included

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Saturday decided to ban online gambling or betting, and for that, amend the Karnataka Police Act, 1963.

The ban, however, would not include lottery or betting on horse races, said Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy, briefing the media on the decisions taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj

HC's nudge

The decision was taken following the High Court of Karnataka repeatedly asking

the State government to take a stand on online betting, Mr. Madhuswamy clarified.

The Cabinet approved a draft Bill to amend the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, and the Bill would be introduced in the coming session of the legislature beginning on September 13.

The draft Bill defined online games as "involving all forms of wagering or betting including in the form of tokens valued in terms of money paid before or after the issue of it, or electronic means and virtual currency, electronic transfer of funds in connection with any game of chance".

NORTH & EAST

Five stray dogs killed in acid attack in M.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

At least five stray dogs died after some unidentified persons poured acid on them in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, prompting the police to register a case after animal lovers raised concerns over the barbaric act, an officer said on Saturday.

An offence under section 428 (commits mischief by killing animals) and other relevant provisions of the IPC was registered at Nagjhiri police station on Friday, the officer said. The matter came to light when an animal rights group in Indore received a call on its helpline that some strays had been attacked with acid, it was stated.

Amarinder hits out at Akali Dal

'Badals are at the root of the problem, co-conspirators of the anti-farmer agenda'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday ridiculed the Shiromani Akali Dal's decision to set up a panel to hold talks with the State's farmers, saying no overtures could absolve the "Badals" of their responsibility in thrusting the laws on the farming community.

'Akalis' apathy'

He said that the Badals themselves were at the root of the problem, and the coconspirators of the Centre's anti-farmer agenda, and hence the Akalis neither deserve nor can expect any understanding or forgiveness from the farmers.



Capt. Amarinder Singh

"The Akalis' apathy towards the farmers was evident from the fact that even now, instead of understanding and relating with the pain of the farmers, SAD president Sukhbir Badal was refusing to simply recognise the protestors as







farmers and was insulting them by alleging that they the Congress," said Capt. Amarinder in a statement.

owed allegiance to other political parties, including

the SAD president. 'Akalis rejected'

He termed Mr. Badal's announcement of suspension of the SAD's election out-

reach programme and formation of the panel to engage with the farmers as a desperate measure to woo Punjab's voters ahead of the 2022 Assembly polls.

"But the farmers, and the people of Punjab are not fools, and your attempts to befool them with lies will backfire on you," he warned

Capt. Amarinder added that the State had completely and unequivocally rejected the Akalis, who had misruled the State for 10 years in coalition with the Bharatiya Janata Party and then worked hand in glove with them to impose the farm laws on the farmers.

by six days SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH Amid protests by farmers

its 100-day yatra

during its ongoing "100-day vatra", the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has decided to reschedule the tour by six days to facilitate a dialogue with representatives of farmers' organisations.

To take on the ruling Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ahead of the Assembly election in Punjab, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal last month started the yatra across 100 constituencies. The campaign has been named Gal Punjab *Di*.

Mr. Badal said a threemember committee of se-

Party reschedules nior SAD leaders had been a deep-rooted conspiracy by farmers' organisations to reiterate the party's unflinching support to their movement and to eliminate any possibility of misunder-

'With the farmers'

SAD to hold dialogue with farmers

standing.

"We are totally with the farmers' movement and have been backing it firmly. We have also backed all calls given by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha and will continue to do so. We are ready to answer each and every question posed by any of its representatives at any place of their choosing. We do not want to come into any confrontation with farmers," he stated.

The campaign would resume from Amloh on September 11.

He alleged that there was

set up, which will talk to the anti-Punjab, anti-farmer and anti-Sikh forces to vitiate the atmosphere of peace and communal harmony in the State. These forces were acting at the behest of Central agencies and had the active support of the Congress and the AAP.

The Congress and the AAP were acting out of frustration over the rousing response of Punjabis to the SAD campaign. "They have read the writing on the wall and want to scuttle the impending mandate of the people of Punjab by creating conditions of unrest and instability. All this is being done to create a justification for the imposition of the President's Rule," he said.

He accused the BJP of conspiracies.

Odisha amends 65-year-old urban development Act

The new Bill is said to be practical and progressive

STAFF REPORTER

BHUBANESWAR The Odisha Assembly on Saturday passed the Odisha Town Planning and Improvement Trust (Amendment) Bill, 2021, by amending the 65-year-old the Odisha Town Planning and Improvement Trust Act,

The new bill on urban development is touted to be practical, progressive and relevant to the contempor-

According to the Housing and Urban Development department, the archaic and redundant provisions concerning to the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, have been done away with. Modern concepts of planning such as



Naveen Patnaik

transferable development rights have been introduced. Common application

forms to ensure uniformity and single window disposal system and the state-of-theart online building plan approval system across all the urban local bodies of the State have been proposed. Moreover, standardising

the planning norms across the State by bringing the Odisha Town Planning and Improvement Trust Act, 1956 at par with the Odisha Development Authority Act, 1982 is a major feature of the new

As per the new amendments, town planning function has been delegated to all the urban local bodies in accordance with the 74th Constitutional Amendment

With introduction of provisions of demolition of unauthorised construction, the new law is expected to ensure better enforcement me-

Bypoll to Pipili Assembly constituency to be held on September 30

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

The bypoll to Pipili Assembly constituency in Odisha's Puri district will be held on September 30.

This is the third time bypoll date for Pipili has been announced. The bypoll scheduled on April 17 had to be postponed following death of Congress candidate Ajit Mangaraj three days before the day of poll.

Subsequently, the bypoll was rescheduled on May 16. However, it was deferred again on account of rising COVID-19 cases. The bypoll was necessi-

tated due to death of BJD

MLA Pradip Moharathy who

died of COVID-19 in October

2020. Now, the result would

be announced on October 3.

The BJD has nominated Rudra Pratap Maharathy, son of Pradip Maharathy, as its candidate while the BJP has chosen Asrit Pattanayak. Mr. Pattanayak had lost the poll in 2019 against Pradip Maharathy.

Pipili is a politically sensitive constituency. Pradeep Maharathy had won the seat 7 times. The poll process was often violence-ridden. As the three parties would face panchayat and urban polls early next year, the bypoll assumes importance.

The Election Commission has put strict restrictions on campaign process. Public meetings have been prohibited and only three vehicles would be permitted within 100 meters of the returning officer's office.

Odisha STF seizes over 1 kg of brown sugar, arrests one

Kolkata-based dealers smuggle heroin into Odisha, Jharkhand

STAFF REPORTER

The Special Task Force of the Odisha police arrested an engineering graduate and seized 1.034 kg brown sugar from him.

Based on intelligence input, a raid was conducted by team of STF, Bhubaneswar Kumabasta Patrol Pump, Khordha. A youth identified as Manoranjan Das, a B.Tech graduate of Gurujanga, Khordha was ta-

ken into custody. According to STF, during the search, brown sugar weighing 1.034 kg and other incriminating materials were recovered from his

possession. "The accused could not produce any valid authority

such contraband materials, for which the accused person was arrested and forwarded to the court," said an STF officer.

in support of possession of

Drug menace

The drug menace has become major headache for the State police. The high valued drug such as heroin was unheard of in the State a couple years ago. But now, the drug nuisance has penetrated into villages.

On August 27, the STF had arrested a drug peddler identified as Seikh Raju of Balasore. During investigation, he was found to be a noted inter-State drug peddler. About 2 kg of brown sugar was seized from him.

smugglers based in Kolkata procure heroin from unknown sources and then they try to smuggle it into States like Odisha and Jharkhand. Often children are used to carry to narcotics by train to Odisha. The STF has tasted good

amount of success during

past two years by cultivating

informers on the ground.

During past two years, the

STF has been regularly

Drug racketeers and

tracking the movement of brown sugar movement. Since 2020, the STF in a special drive against narcotic drugs has seized more than 39 kg of brown sugar and heroin. More than 100

drug dealers and peddlers have been arrested.

FROM PAGE ONE

ECI declares bypolls, ends Bengal suspense

He cited Article 164 (4) of the Constitution, saying that a Minister who is not an MLA for six consecutive months shall cease to be a Minister at the end of that period.

"Considering the constitutional exigency and special request from State of West Bengal, it has decided to hold by-election in 159-Bhabanipur AC," the statement said.

Stricter norms

Stricter norms had been put in place, including limiting attendance at indoor meetings to 30% of the allowed capacity or 200 persons, whichever is less, it added.

The Election Commission had held a meeting with State officials Wednesday.

The Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and the Adviser of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu informed it of the flood-related constraints, festivals and the COVID-19 situation, the statement said.

"They suggested that it would be advisable to have by elections after the festival season ends," it added.

Good law and order must for freedoms: Shah

Mr. Shah said democracy was not just about elections and government formation. Its objective was to ensure that the 130 crore countrymen were able to avail themselves of opportunities in accordance with their abilities to progress.

The Home Minister also felicitated felicitated Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu, who has been appointed Additional SP in Manipur.

Mr. Shah highlighted the

importance of the 'beat' system of policing, which instilled a sense of security among the common man. He said there was a need to revitalise it through application of technology.

The Home Minister identified challenges like cyber offences, drone attacks, drug smuggling and 'hawala' syndicates, which he said needed to be addressed by the BPR&D by adopting best practices and expediting their implementation.

Talks with Taliban 'reassuring': Shringla

"India should be worried if the Hagganis get their way, as that will curtail any plans for Indian diplomacy. It will be difficult for India to have on ground presence if a group as controlled by Pakistan and inimical to India takes major positions in the government," said Kabir Taneja, senior fellow of the Observer Research Founda-

The arrival of ISI chief Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed in Kabul on Saturday, reportedly at the invitation of the new Taliban regime, to witness the announcement of the government has surprised many, particularly as it indicates that it is Pakistan's military not the civilian government that is attending the occasion, and was met with some consternation in Kabul as well.

"Today we see the ISI chief arriving in Kabul as part of a delegation overseeing the government formation. We hear Pakistani Ministers speak as if they represent the government of Afghanistan as well as Pakistan," said former Minister Nargis Nehan, who participated in an online discussion held by the Kautilya School of Public Policy, from Oslo, where she fled to last month.

When asked, Mr. Shringla said that U.S. officials were, like India "watching carefully and watching Pakistan's

actions with a fine toothcomb". In particular, the government will not be comfortable if the Pakistani "advisory" presence in Kabul becomes a more permanent one, say officials, as commitments that the Taliban may give on not allowing anti-India terror groups would not amount to much.

Kashmir and China

Comments made by various Taliban leaders on the issue of Kashmir, have been confusing. On Friday, Taliban spokesperson Suhail Shaheen said the Taliban "have the right to raise their voice for Muslims in Kashmir", India or any other country. "We will raise our voice and say that Muslims are your own people, your own citizens. They are entitled to equal rights under your laws," he was quoted as saying by BBC Urdu.

Another worrying signal would be the new government's engagement with China, especially after Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid's statement that the new government hopes to "rely on funding" from Beijing, which is "ready" to rebuild the Afghan economy.

Above all, Mr. Shringla said India would take a 'wait and watch" approach to grant recognition for a Taliban government.

(With inputs from Sriram Lakshman in Washington)

Peace deal inked to end Karbi unrest in Assam

The Centre will make available a special development package of ₹1,000 crore over the next five years, for the Assam government to undertake specific projects for the development of Karbi

The memorandum of settlement would ensure greater devolution of autonomy to the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), protection of identity, language and culture of the Karbi people and focused development of the Council area, without affecting the territorial and administrative integrity of Assam, said the government.

Under the agreement, the Assam government will set up a Karbi Welfare Council

for focused development of Karbi people living outside the KAAC area. The Consolidated Fund of the State will be augmented to supplement the resources of KAAC. "Overall, the present settlement proposes to give more legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers to KAAC," it said.

The State government would consider favourably the proposal to notify Karbi as the official language of KAAC, said Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. English, Hindi and Assamese would continue to be used for official purposes. Under the agreement, the hill tribes would be entitled

to reservation. (With inputs from PTI)

Amid a shutdown, Kashmir is limping back to normalcy

Restrictions on assembly of people have not been withdrawn yet, says official

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

A spontaneous shutdown was observed in parts of the Kashmir Valley on Saturday as life started limping back to normalcy with the restoration of mobile calling and broadband Internet services, three days after separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani

Most shops and commercial hubs in Srinagar's main markets remained closed. However, private traffic plied normally.

A family member of Geelani said the security forces continued to impose restrictions around the residence and disallowed supporters of the leader to visit the family. The graveyard in Srinagar's Hyderpora, where Geelani was buried in a pre-dawn funeral on Thursday, is also out of bounds for people.

With the improvement in situation, mobile calling and Internet services were restored on Friday night. "Mobile Internet service will be



Slow return: The clampdown imposed after the death of Syed Ali Shah Geelani was eased on Saturday. • NISSAR AHMAD

restored on Sunday afternoon," Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

Officials said there were no reports of any major stone throwing or violence in any part of the Valley. Traffic on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway that connects the Valley with Jammu, which was disrupted in the past two days, resumed. As a precautionary measure, the universities and the J&K Board of School Education (BOSE) have postponed all examinations scheduled for Sunday.

Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said the authorities' move not to allow people to participate in the funeral prayers of Geelani was "extremely shameful

Police file FIR over slogans against India

The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) police on Saturday lodged a First Information Report (FIR) in Budgam district of central Kashmir against the family members and "miscreants" who raised anti-India slogans and wrapped the body of deceased separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani in a Pakistani flag on September 1 and 2.

and exposed the authoritarian mindset".

The Mirwaiz, who remains under house arrest, was also not allowed to visit Geelani's house.

National Conference president and MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah also expressed profound grief over the demise of "prominent political leader".

Promote yoga break among staff, says Centre

Ayush Ministry has designed Y-break

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

nistry order.

The Centre has asked all its departments to promote a five-minute yoga break, or 'Y-break', among employees to refresh, de-stress and refocus them with enhanced efficiency at the workplace, according to a Personnel Mi-

The Ayush Ministry had designed and developed a five-minute yoga protocol for the workplace with the assistance of an expert committee in 2019 and the module was launched in January 2020 on a pilot basis in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kolkata with the help of various stakeholders.

"Feedback of the same was very encouraging," it said.

Consequent on this success, the Ministry developed an Android-based application Y-break and the same was made available recently in Google Play Store for access by public, said the order issued to all Union government departments.

To spread awareness of access and usage of the Y-



The Centre's plan is to refresh and de-stress employees.

break protocol/app among workforce of public and private organisations, the Ministries and government departments are requested to promote its usage among the employees, the Ministry said.

campaign launched to spread awareness of the same to provide access and usage of Y-break protocol/app among people at workplaces with a view to refresh, de-stress and refocus them with enhanced efficiency and productivity at workplaces, the order ad-

Two killed, 5 hurt in blast at Palghar textile factory

Explosion occurred in thermic fluid heater

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Two workers were killed and five others were injured in an explosion and resultant fire at a textile factory in Tarapur industrial area in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Saturday morning, an official said.

The incident took place at Jakharia Industries at 5.50 a.m., said district Disaster Management Cell chief Vivekanand Kadam.

Injured in hospital

The explosion took place in a 'thermic fluid heater' used to circulate hot thermic fluid for drying of textiles, Mr. Kadam said. The injured were admitted to a local hospital and were said to be out of danger.

Teams of MIDC Tarapur fire brigade reached the spot by 6 a.m. and extinguished the blaze within an hour, Mr. Kadam said.

The deceased workers were identified as Mithilesh Rajwanshi (34) and Chhotelal Saroj (36). Both died due to burn injuries, the official

said.

The police were conducting further probe, he added.

The sound of the explosion was so loud that it was heard four to five kilometres away.

The explosion triggered a major fire at the unit located in Tarapur Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation in Boisar, the official said.

Two workers missing

"Two people were killed in the incident, while five others suffered injuries and have been admitted to a local hospital," he said, adding that two factory workers have reportedly gone missing after the incident and efforts were on to find them.

The fire brigade personnel and police rushed to the spot on being alerted and launched a rescue operation, Mr. Kadam said.

As per the information available, the explosion occurred in one of the units of the factory, the official said.

Reinstate 3 dropped texts, say Delhi University Professors

They object to varsity statement on revised English syllabus

diversity and inclusion can be

done without consideration

of religion, caste and creed

when by definition diversity

and inclusion mean including

It is rather shocking that Delhi University

makes a statement in which it says that

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Professors of English from several colleges across Delhi University (DU) have objected to a statement issued by the university administration on the revised English syllabus in which certain texts were dropped. A statement, endorsed by more than 100 professors, demanded the reinstatement of the three texts that were dropped.

The university had recently dropped texts by Mahasweta Devi, Bama and Sukirtharini from the syllabus.

'Democratic process'

In the statement, the Professors said the English Honours syllabus had been passed through a democratic process "until the entire process was flagrantly violated and bypassed by the Oversight Committee [OC]."

"Due to the interference of the OC, at the beginning of almost every semester since July 2019, there is no

official syllabus available to students and teachers, costing us precious time and mental resources. This past month, the OC has put paid to every democratic deliberation and due process that we had ensured our syllabus came through," the statement read.

diverse voices

A GROUP OF PROFESS UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Following criticism, the university had earlier issued a statement which said the current syllabus was "inclusive and diverse.'

Responding to the varsity's stance, the statement endorsed by English Department Professors from various colleges read, "It is

University makes a statement in which it says that diversity and inclusion can be done without consideration of religion, caste and creed when by definition diversity and inclusion mean including diverse voices."

rather shocking that Delhi

Literary studies

Referring to the university's statement on the "language course," the Professors said the English literature department and its research and specialisations belonged to the "field of literary studies" and was "not a language teaching course".

Cong. seeks probe into JEE scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Congress on Saturday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the alleged manipulation of JEE (Mains) after the CBI arrested seven persons in this connection.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the nation owed the hard-working students a fair JEE, but the government "is better at providing cover-ups".

"JEE (Main) Exam has been breached. Students appearing for such competitive exams prepare very hard, battling difficulties of various kinds. We, as a nation, owe them a fair exam. Government of India is better at providing coverups," Mr. Gandhi said on Twitter.

The Opposition party al so demanded answers from the BJP government, saving the Education Ministry and the National Testing Agency (NTA) are responsible for conducting examinations in a transparent manner and why they are not held accountable.

Athawale for one child policy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AHMEDABAD

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale said on Saturday that there should be a one child norm in the country as a measure to control population growth.

"There is a need to control the population for the development of the country, irrespective of whether it is the population of Hindus or Muslims or other religions," said the Minister of State of Social Justice and Empowerment, whose Republican Party of India is part of the NDA government at the Centre.

"For now we have "hum do, hamare do". Our party's stand is that to reduce population, there should be a law for 'hum do, hamara ek' or one family, one child," the Minister said.

However, he said it was

the stand of his party and not that of the government of India. "I do not think there is any question of Hindu population declining. Hindus remain Hindu and Muslims remain Muslim. Hardly one or two Hindus or Muslims convert," he said, adding "the Constitution gives people the right to do what they like, but nobody can force any person to convert."

K-drama make-up looks, food demo steal show at webinar

K-drama fans discuss their love for all things South Korean

STAFF REPORTER

A panel of K-drama fans from diverse fields came together to discuss their love for all things South Korean on 'K-drama Talk Studio', an experiential webinar organised by The Hindu Weekend for The Hindu, association with the Korean Tourism Organisation, on Friday. "K-dramas have brought

people together and, over the last one year, virtual friendships have been formed thanks to the shared love for these shows. This spans across generations as well," said Puja Talwar, executive editor of entertainment and lifestyle, Good Times, as she kick-started the webinar. From food demonstrations to recreating K-drama make-up looks, the one-hour webinar beyond just talk.

A big fan of the shows and Korean food, Pooja Dhingra, chef and founder, Le 15 Patisserie, recalled how it had been tough to source Korean ingredients in India till a short while ago. "Things are now changing, and the food and snacks are everywhere,"

Ms. Dhingra recently



launched a range of merchandise inspired by her love of K-dramas, and said that in times of uncertainty, many were able to find some comfort in these shows.

Putting a Korean twist on the much-loved chicken tikka, Dhruv Oberoi, executive chef, Olive Qutub, explained how to make a kimchi chicken tikka. "Korean flavours are good for the Indian palate and one of the highlights of watching K-dramas for me is how their cuisine is constantly shown on screen," he said. Chef Dhruv also demonstrated how to make a burger with the popular Korean fried chicken paired with kimchi and a caramelised apple glaze.

With K-Beauty and makeup extremely popular in India now, Annalia Zhimomi, a popular make-up artist, did a live demonstration of actor Seo Yea-Ji's look from the Kdrama 'It's Okay to Not be Okay'. "Korean skincare routines are extensive, and it is important for them that they take good care of their skin," she said.

Nishat Fatima, photographer and writer, focused on the on-screen fashion in Kdramas and pointed out that it was a good balance of street wear and looks straight from the runways.

"A K-drama addiction is the healthiest one can have because no one expects a recovery," said actor Anu Menon, who brought in a touch of humour with her take on the shows

The audience asked the panellists a range of questions from recommendations for K-Beauty and makeup, as well as Korean dishes. Speaking about the Hallyu wave taking over India in the

past year, Choi Young-Geul, Director, Korea Tourism Organisation, said K-dramas in particular were a good gateinto many of the popular aspects

South Korea

and its cul-

ture.

Unemployment rate in Haryana low, says CM

Manohar Lal disputes CMIE's claim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Harvana Chief Minister Manohar Lal said here on Saturday that the latest report of the National Statistical Organisation put the unemployment rate of Haryana at 9.9% as against the national figure of 13.3%.

"Haryana's unemployment rate is much lower than that of the neighbouring States of Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab," he said, adding that the NSO data showed that the unemployment rate was 12% in Delhi, 15.1% in Rajasthan, 13.4% in Uttar Pradesh and 10.8% in Punjab.

Hitting out at the Opposition parties and the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Mr. Lal said their claims that the unemplovment rate in Harvana had increased were not based on facts.

'Not transparent' "The CMIE has shown one-

third of the people of Haryana to be unemployed. Those specialising in the field of employment believe that the data displayed by the CMIE can't be called fair and transparent. Its survey has many flaws related to design, size, data, question-



naire, etc. Employability, workforce and manpower have not been made the basis in this. It covers only 0.028% of the total households. Also, during the lockdown in April 2020, CMIE data had put the unemployment rate in the State at 26.7%. This rate should have ideally declined after the lockdown restrictions were lifted and factories started working. However, even after that, CMIE is showing the unemployment rate to be increasing and in the latest report, this rate was further increased to 35.7% in Haryana," he said in a statement.

Mr. Lal said many employed youth in search of better opportunities too had registered themselves at the Employment Department, raising the unemployment figure.

Thinking cap: BJP sees red in SP's 'lal topi', Akhilesh doffs it to 'revolution'

CM Yogi Adityanath has linked the headgear worn by SP men to goondas

In 2018, soon after the BJP captured the Left bastion of Tripura, Uttar Pradesh Chief Yogi Adityanath told his opponents that after bringing down the "red flag" in the northeastern State, his party would also bring down the "red *topi*" in his State.

The attack was targeted not at the Communist parties, which have a negligible electoral presence in U.P., but at the Samajwadi Party

Perhaps, Mr. Adityanath had taken note of the increased visibility of the 'lal topi' (red cap) on the heads of SP legislators.

"The red cap will not work anymore. The time for saffron is here. Saffron is the symbol of development and generosity," Mr. Adityanath, who was wearing his signatures saffron robes, declared then on the floor of the Assembly.

Mr. Adityanath's attempt to link the red flag of the Communist ideology with the 'lal topi' of the SP, which espouses the cause of social justice politics and socialism, and juxtaposing it with the saffron, a marker of Hindutva for the BIP, triggered a war of words between the two parties, which resurfaced again this year.

The symbolic battle between the red and the saffron has since then taken centre stage in the colour-coded political landscape of the State as it heads to the polls next year. A lot of it had to be with the resurrection of the red cap into the daily politics of the SP ever since Akhilesh Yadav took over its reins in 2017.

In the same period, the saffron also became more visible after Mr. Adityanath was made Chief Minister.

SP leaders point out that the top leadership, especially patriarch Mulayam Singh, had for long donned the 'lal topi', a motif of socialist politics linked with Jai Prakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia, at political events or during elections. However, ever since his son, Mr. Akhilesh Yadav, took control, the red headgear has become a part of daily politics and now even the ordinary party workers can be seen flaunting them, both traditional and new styles, and not just during special events.

'A distinct identity'

Since Mr. Akhilesh Yadav started to regularly wear the 'lal topi' in public in recent years, the party workers also started following him, said Rajendra Chaudhary, spokesperson, when asked if there was a concerted effort by the top leadership to promote the cap. The veteran socialist leader was happy that the head-



Radiating red: The Samajwadi Party's penchant for red can be traced back to its roots in socialist politics. •PTI

gear provided his party colleagues a distinct identity they much needed in a space dominated by saffron.

But what does the red, labelled by the BJP as a sign of Left-wing politics, signify for Mr. Yadav?

In February, when Mr. Adityanath ridiculed the SP MLAs for donning the cap in the Assembly and linked the headgear to 'goondas', Mr. Yadav responding by saying,

"Red is the colour of 'kranti' [revolution], of our blood." He went on to add that the colour represented emo-

'Drama company'

"Our faces turn red when we are happy, sad or crying," he said, even as he joked that Mr. Adityanath was irritated at the sight of red because maybe he had eaten red chillies as a child.

fresh exchange of barbs over the red 'topi'. Mr. Adityanath, while pointing to the different coloured caps worn in the House by Opposition legislators, said the Assembly resembled a "drama company" and advised Leader of the Opposition and senior SP leader Ram Govind Chaudhary to replace his cap with a traditional *safa* or a *pagdi* (turban).

The retort came amid a

He then narrated a story about his visit to an 'annaprasan' ceremony of a baby where some members of the SP wearing *topis* reached to stage protest. A child less than three years old, standing with his mother, noticed them and said, "Mummy, mummy dekho, who gunda, gunda," he said.

This evoked a heated response from the SP legislators and Mr. Yadav later himself changed his profile pictures on social media sites, replacing them with an image of him flaunting the red topi.

The marked promotion of the red 'topi' by Mr. Yadav has also coincided with his shift from a developmentbased "kaam bolta hai" narrative to one that embraces social justice issues, evident from his eagerness to stitch together alliances with smaller non-Yadav OBCbased parties following the 2017 setback and failed alliance with the BSP in 2019.

BJP's take

BJP's U.P. secretary Chandramohan, however, sees the red as a "colour of terror", criminals and disruption. In contrast, U.P. has become a "riot-free" State under the rule of a "bhagwadari," he said, referring to the saffron-clad Mr. Aditya-

Asked if he was trying to link the SP with the Communist ideology, Mr. Chandramohan said, "People know whose symbol is red."

SP leaders did not explain why the red 'topi' was re-

vived despite a political narrative linking the colour to Naxals and the alleged "urban naxals". They said it had long been in use by SP leaders. Mr. Chaudhary said the 'lal topi' was the identity of ideology and struggle of the SP. "The BJP gets irritated because its ideology is communal," he alleged.

Black caps

Marinder Mishra, a socialist researcher associated with the SP, said since the followers of Lohia like Janeshwar Mishra, Brij Bhushan Tiwari, Mohan Singh and others were frontline leaders of the SP when it was founded in 1992, the red 'topi' was adopted. The opponent of the Socialists then, the Congress, donned the white cap, he noted.

Udaiveer Singh, SP MLC, however, said the battle was between the red and the black, in a dig at the headgear of the RSS. "They need to justify why they wear black caps," he observed.

Trinamool eyes a thumping victory for CM in Bhabanipur

BJP raises questions on holding the byelection to only a few constituencies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Trinamool Congress leadership on Saturday said party chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee would win the byelection from Bhabanipur with a record margin.

"We announced our party's candidate from Bhabanipur quite some time ago, and that is Mamata Banerjee... We can say right now, she will win from Bhabanipur with a record margin," senior Trinamool leader and Minister Partha Chatterjeee said.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday announced elections to the Samserjang and Jangipur seats in Murshidabad and Bhabanipur in Kolkata. They will go to the polls on September 30. Counting of votes will be on October 3.



Game on: A man pulling his rickshaw in front of hoardings of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Saturday. • PTI

Soon after the announcement, Trinamool Congress supporters started painting graffiti in Bhabanipur seeking votes for Ms. Banerjee. The Chief Minister, who was scheduled to visit north Bengal in the next few days, has cancelled her trip. In the recent Assembly polls, she contested and lost from Nandigram by 1,956 votes.

Ms. Banerjee has to be

elected to the Assembly within six months of the polls to continue as Chief Mi-

nister. The bypoll announcement has come as a relief for the Trinamool, which had sent several delegations to the ECI demanding that byelections be held at the earliest. The State unit of the BJP raised questions over why the ECI announced bypoll to Bhabanipur and not to all constituencies where polls are pending.

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh said, "Why elections are held in three Assembly constituencies and not in all the seven, where bypolls are pending. Is it an election to help the Chief Minister retain her post.'

State BJP spokesperson Shamik Bhattacharya said a decision of not holding polls in other constituencies where bypolls were pending did not go well with the reputation of ECI.

Bypolls to Dinhata and Santipur are pending after BIP MPs Nisith Pramanik and Jaganath Sarkar elected from the seats did not take oath as MLAs. Gosaba in South 24 Parganas and Khardah in North 24 Parganas are vacant following the death of the winning candidates.

Few women make it to the top: CJI

N.V. Ramana says legal profession is yet to whole-heartedly welcome women

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Saturday lamented that "very few women find representation at the top" and admitted that even a "mere" 11% representation of women on the Bench of the Supreme Court was achieved with "great dif-

Ideally, women should have got at least 50% representation at all levels after 75 years of Independence, he said.

The CJI's remarks come within days of the Supreme Court Collegium led by him scripting history by successfully recommending three women judges to the court in one go. The court has four women judges now, the highest ever.

"After 75 years of Independence, one would expect at least 50% representation for women at all levels, but I must admit, with great difficulty, we have now achieved

After 75 years of Independence, one would expect at least 50% representation for women at all levels, but I must admit, with great difficulty, we have now achieved a mere 11% representation of women on the Bench of the Supreme Court CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

tate him. Women lawyers' woes

a mere 11% representation of

women on the Bench of the

Supreme Court," he stated at

an event organised by the

Bar Council of India to felici-

A majority of women lawyers suffered within the profession and continued to face significant challenges even after they reached the top. Women lacked basic amenities in court complex-

"Women do not have restrooms in lower courts... It is difficult for them to wait for long hours in the court corridors," the CJI pointed out.

The reality remained that the legal professions was yet to whole-heartedly welcome women into its fold, he not-

The CJI refused to accept sole credit for the recent appointment of nine judges to the Supreme Court in one shot. The Collegium, led by the CJI, had followed this feat by recommending a whopping 68 judges to 12 High Courts, again in one go. Lawyers had referred to him as "Sachin Tendulkar" for repeatedly creating history within so short a time of taking charge as top judge in April 2021.

"A while ago, I was re-

ferred to as Sachin Tendulkar. I must correct the perception here. Like any game, it's a team effort. Here, I must place on record my sincere thanks to my colleagues in the Collegium - Brothers U.U. Lalit, A.M. Khanwilkar, D.Y. Chandrachud and L. Nageswara Rao - who have become active and constructive partners in this endeavour," he observed.

Judicial appointments was an "ongoing process". The Collegium intended to "live up to the herculean task of filling up 41% of vacancies existing in all the High Courts", he asserted.

At one point, commending the "young and dynamic" Law Minister, Kiren Rijiju, who was present on the dais, and the government, for quickly approving the nine names recommended for the Supreme Court, the CJI said "in another one month, we expect 90% of the vacancies filled in this country".

Opposition strength shrinking by the day in West Bengal

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

With BIP MLA from Kaliganj in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur Soumen Roy on Saturday joining the Trinamool Congress, the number of BJP MLAs who have defected to the ruling party has risen to four in the past four months since the bitterly contested Assembly

Defection as a political phenomenon was never as commonplace in Bengal as it has been since Trinamool Congress came to power in 2011. In the first term of the Trinamool Congress government (2011- 2016), 23 MLAs from the Opposition

MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/13

as described in the Bidding Document.

project website http://mpsdp.mp.gov.in

parties – 17 from Congress and six from the Left Front – joined the ruling party.

Between 2016 and 2021, 18 Congress and four Left MLAs had switched sides to join the ruling party. This has led to a situation described by political observers as the "shrinking Opposition space" in West

Bengal, where not only MLAs, but also councillors and gram panchayat members have jumped ship in large numbers.

Professor of Political Science at Rabindra Bharati University Biswanath Chakraborty, in his recently paper Opposition Space in West Bengal Politics: A Diagonistic Study argued that in the past 10 years, the State has witnessed the an emergence of "a ruling party society".

Senior Congress leader Abdul Mannan feels that defection of large numbers of MLAs was one of the reasons the marginalised position of the Congress in West Bengal. Both Left parties and Congress have not been able to win a single seat in the 2021 Assembly

Despite several MLAs having defected over the last few years, there has been no action taken against any of them under the anti-defection law.



IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

Registration for admissions extended upto 12.09.2021.

For further details, please visit website www.imu.edu.in

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24,09,2021

Yes Bank founder's kin granted bail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A special CBI court on Saturday granted bail to Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor's daughter and wife in the cheating and corruption case against them.

An FIR was registered against them in March 2020 and the chargesheet by the CBI named Mr. Kapoor's daughter Roshni along with Belief Realtors Private Limited, RKW Developers Private Limited; DOIT Urban Ventures (India) Private Limited, a company registered in the name of Mr. Kapoor's daughters in the chargesh-

eet in June 2020. On May 6, 2020, the ED had also filed a chargesheet against Mr. Kapoor, his wife and three daughters for charges of laundering ₹5,050 crore. For the debentures, Mr. Kapoor and his family members got a kickback of ₹600 crore from Kapil Wadhawan. promoter of the DHFL.

Mr. Kapoor is currently lodged at the Taloja jail.

office of the Project Director, Madhya Pradesh Skills **Development Project, Directorate of Skill Development,** Madhya Pradesh **Invitation for Bids**

Date:01/09/2021

Loan/Grant No. and Title: Loan No.: 371 0-IND/ Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project Contract Package (NCB) No. and Title: Supply of the Machinery & equipment's for Industrial Training Institutes to enhance Technical and Vocational Skills among the youth of

Madhya Pradesh under following packages: Package No. MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/07 Procurement of Automobile Lab Equipment for 6 ITIs MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/11 Procurement of LMV Cars for 6 ITIs MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/12 Procurement of HMV Truck for 6 ITIs MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/16 Procurement of HMV Tractor for 6 ITIs MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/17 Procurement of Apparel for 6 ITIs MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/08 R1 Procurement of Civil Lab Equipment for 6 ITIs MPSDP/ITI/Equipment/08 R2 | Mechanical Civil Lab Equipment

for 6 ITIs The Government of India has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of "Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project" and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to the payment under the Contract Package named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

Procurement of Electrical & Electronics Equipments

The "The Project Director, Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project, Directorate of Skill Development, Madhya Pradesh represented by The Director ("the Purchaser") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Machinery & equipment's including installation and commissioning at the Industrial Training Institutes

National Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-

stage: Two- envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries

- To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact: The Project Director Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project (MPSDP), Directorate of Skill Development, 1st Floor, Global Skills Park - City Campus, ITI Campus Govindpura, City: Bhopal, District: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh ZIP code: 462023 Country: India, Telephone 07552926671 and 0755-2986606, Email - proc.mpsdp@gmail.com. The MPSDP reserves right to change/amend the bid, which will be uploaded on the
- Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding as per schedule:
- Deadline of bid Package Invitation upload MPSDP/ITI/ Re- MPSDP/ October 05. October 05 of Automobile Lab Equipmen for 6 ITIs 2, 2021 2021, 13:30 hrs (IST) hrs (IST) September 0ctober 08, 2021, 11:30 hrs (IST) October 08, 2021, 13:30 hrs (IST) October 08, 2021, 14:00 hrs (IST) MPSDP/ITI of LMV Cars for 6 ITIs 2021-22 October 12, 2021, MPSDP/ITI IPSDP/9 October 12 2021, 11:30 hrs 2021, 13:30 hrs (IST) 2021-22 14:00 hrs (IST) for 6 ITIs MPSDP/IT MPSDP/1 2021-22 October 13 2021, 11:30 hrs 2021, 13:30 for 6 ITIs hrs (IST) (IST) MPSDP/ITI eptember 21, October 14 October 14, Procureme of Apparel 6 2021, 11:30 hrs 2021, 13:30 hrs (IST) 14:00 hrs (IST) MPSDP/ ITI MPSDP/12/ of CivilLab Equipment for 6, 2021 2021, 13:30 2021, 14:00 hr 2021-22 11:30 hrs (IST) hrs (IST) (IST) 6 iTis MPSDP/ITI Mechanical October 22, October 22 Lab MPSDP/13/ 2021 . 13:30 2021. 14:00 11:30 hrs (IST) hrs (IST) MPSDP/14/ of Electrical 24, 2021, 11:30 2021, 13:30 2021, 14:00 hrs & Electronics 2021-22 hrs (IST) hrs (IST)
- To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should write or visit at the office of the Purchaser at address stated above and pay a non-refundable fee of INR 5,000 in the form of Bank Demand Draft. In case of written request, the document will be sent by post and no liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery The eligible bidders may otherwise purchase the bidding document in English language by downloading the document from the website http://mpsdp.mp.gov.in. Such bidders shall be required to submit INR 5,000 with their bid in the form of Bank demand

draft in the name of the Project Director Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project Directorate of Skill Development, Bhopal towards the cost of purchasing the bidding document following provisions in the bidding document (Section 2: Bid Data Sheet

- Deliver your bid to the address above on or before the deadline together with Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document and stated at point No 05. Bids will be opened on above mentioned scheduled date and time (point No. 05) in the presence of Bidders representatives who choose to attend.

 The Purchaser will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by the
- bidder in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids

G-16473/2021 **Directorate of Skill Development**



कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता, जल संसाधन सम्भाग कोटा -::संशोधन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01 वर्ष 2021-22 ::-इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 8543 दि. 11.08.2021 से ई-निविदा सचना सं.01 वर्ष

M. P. PASCHIM KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN Co. Ltd.,

(Email: - sepurchase06@gmail.com, CIN-U40109MP2002SGC015121)

GPH COMPOUND, P OLOGROUND, INDORE (Ph. No: 0731-2426144, 2426111, 2426204)

2021-22, जो 3 निर्माण कार्यों के लिये आमंत्रित की गई है। निविदा दि.12.08.2021 से दि 02.09.2021 को समय 18.00 बजे तक डाउनलोड / अपलोड करने व दि.03.09.2021 को सायं 3.00 बजे तकनीकी बिड खोली जानी निर्धारित थी। अब इन तीनों कार्यों की निवदाये दि. 12.08.2021 से दि.20.09.2021 तक समय 18.00 बजे तक डाउनलाड/ अपलोड़ की जा सकेगी एवं ई-ग्रास चालान आदि समस्त दस्तावेज दि. 21.09.2021 को समय 12.30 बजे तक इस कार्यालय में अधी. अभि., रा.प्र.सा. एवं ज.सा. बाँध वृत, कोटा एवं अधि.अभि.ज.स.ख. बूंदी कार्यालय में जमा कराये जायेंगे। तकनीकी बिड दि. 21.09.2021 को समय 15.00 बजे से ऑनलाईन खोली जायेगी। शेष शर्ते यथावत रहेगी।

1. UBN S.No. 1. WRD2122WLOB00695 UBN S.No. 3. WRD2122WLOB00697

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5000 MAH battery. Rapid Chargers and Spare Batteries towards utilizing the same at outside Temple of TTD". DATE OF OPENING TENDER: (1) Bid Document download start date & time 03-09-2021 @ 05-00 PM (2) Bid submission closing date & time 22-09-2021 @ 04-00 PM (3) Pre-Bid meeting 09-09-2021 @ 11-00 AM

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cc2acvsottd@gmail.com Roc.No.PR4/13934/Adv.No.148/PR0/2021/Dated:04-09-2021 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Punjab breathes innovation, finds gainful uses for paddy stubble

To prevent burning of crop residue that worsens air pollution, State promoting straw as a resource that can be used in mills, distilleries and breweries

VIKAS VASUDEVA CHANDIGARH

Close to autumn every year, stubble burning returns to worsen air pollution across India's northern plains.

However, to curb the menace during the paddy harvesting season, Puniab, the key grain-producing State, is all set this year to promote paddy straw as a "resource to create wealth".

The State government is working to present "paddy straw" as a resource that creates value and wealth for industry and the farming community, rather than being a waste product of paddy cultivation.

While farmer outfits have welcomed the move, some industry bodies have their reservations.

The government recently decided to permit certain categories of industries to install paddy straw-fired boilers, for which the industries will be given fiscal in-

centives. The industries included in this scheme are sugar mills, pulp and paper mills, besides any industry having boiler installation with steam-generating capacity more than 25 tonnes per hour (TPH).

Also, new and existing units of distilleries and breweries, proposing replacement of old boilers or expansion with installation of new boilers, are required to use paddy straw as fuel in

Fiscal incentives

To spur the use of straw, the government has decided to provide cumulative fiscal incentives of ₹25 crore to the first 50 existing industries on 'first come, first served' basis. Besides, the government has also approved non-fiscal incentives to industries in terms of availability of 'panchayat' land for storage of paddy straw with lease agreement of up to 33

Asserting that Punjab is very seriously cognisant of the stubble burning issue, Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan told *The Hindu* that the State is taking all measures possible to promote both insitu and ex-situ management of paddy straw.

"For ex-situ management in particular we have come out with innovative measures. Under this, to promote the use of paddy straw in boilers as fuel, several incentives are being extended to the industry. We look forward to the industry to respond positively to these measures so that we are able to productively use this biomass. We are hoping that paddy straw can be demonstrated as a reasonably good source of energy. We have been in touch with the Power Ministry to request that NTPC also increase the use of paddy straw in their thermal plants," Ms. Mahajan



Old habits: A farmer burning straw stubble in a field near Amritsar in October 2020. • AFP

said. The paddy crop, which is harvested with combine harvester machines leaves behind a stubble in the

To destroy this stubble many farmers find burning the residue the most effective and cheap method as they want to prepare their

fields for the next winter crop. The short time-window between paddy harvesting and sowing the wheat crop - just about three weeks - is one of the primary reasons why farmresort to stubble

In Punjab and Haryana,

paddy harvesting is usually done between the second half of September till the end of October. The sowing of wheat crop normally starts from the first week of November and continues for over a month and a half.

Wealth, not waste

Krunesh Garg, member secretary of the Punjab Pollution Control Board said the whole idea behind promoting ex-situ management is to present 'paddy straw' to the industry and the farmers as a resource that creates value and wealth.

"Till the time paddy straw is considered as waste, it's difficult to curb the menace. The idea is to present it as resource which will create wealth, and it's primarily possible through ex-situ management. Paddy straw has to be established as fuel resource or product before the industry. We have 5-6 industries in Pun-

jab, which consume around 3 lakh tonnes of paddy straw as fuel. We are hopeful that after the new incentives, more industries will start using paddy straw as fuel for boilers. Already a few industries have shown interest and we are expecting the consumption of paddy straw as fuel will rise to 5 lakh tonnes this season," he

However, expressing concern over the government's move, Badish Jindal, president, Federation of Punjab Small Industries Association said the paddy straw contains a lot of mud and cleaning it is not an easy process.

"The government should purchase and process the stubble from farmers and provide it to the industry free of cost. Also, the paddy straw contains silica, and hence the metallurgy for boilers needs to be chromebased, which makes it costlier," he said.

Jagmohan Singh, general secretary of the Bhartiya Kisan Union-Ekta (Dakonda) welcomed the government's decision. "It's a positive step and but its success shall depend only if the farmer is given a suitable price for the stubble," he said.

Despite the ban on stubble burning and action against those burning crop residue under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, farmers continue to resort to the practice, claiming lack of alternatives.

According to the government data, in 2020 as many as 76,590 cases of farm fires were reported in Punjab. In 2019, there were 52,991 such incidents and 51,766 incidents were recorded in 2018. It is estimated that over 15 million tonnes of paddy straw is burnt in the open fields ahead of the winter

HC upholds woman's right to live with partner

Family objected to trans companion

SONAM SAIGAL

The Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court recently directed the Commissioner of Aurangabad to safeguard and protect a girl until she was able to join her transgender partner.

A Division Bench of Justices Sunil Deshmukh and Nitin Suryawanshi was hearing a criminal petition filed through advocate Sutej Jadhav on behalf of a 29-yearold transgender who has chosen male as his gender.

He is from Rajasthan, works in the hospitality sector in Goa and is currently staying in a shelter home for transgenders in Mumbai.

He met a girl on social media in June 2019 and they

However, when lockdown after the onset of the pandemic, the girl moved to Osmanabad to be with her

Pressure to marry

As the girl was under pressure to get married, she contacted the person she loved and asked for his help to leave the house. They took a train to Allahabad, where she was pursuing her studies. She called her mother and told her she did not wish to return to Osmanabad, but her parents filed a missing person report with the local police and reached Allahabad the next day. She was then taken back home.

According to the girl, her parents subjected her to

SUDOKU

The girl is a major and appears to be resolute and is at liberty to act as per her wish

AURANGABAD BENCH OF BOMBAY HC

"mental torture" and made her undergo humiliating medical tests to "cure her sexual orientation". She managed to leave with her boyfriend to live with his parents in Kota, Rajasthan, but the police traced her to her new location.

Legal battle

In June 2021, a lawyer in Kota filed an application before a Chief Judicial Magistrate to set the girl at liberty according to her wishes. However, she was directed to go to her parents' home by the court. She filed an application before the District and Sessions Court in Kota. However, her parents took her back and have kept her in their custody against her wishes, she said.

The High Court judges met the girl who said she did not want to go with her parents.

The court then recorded, "The girl is a major and appears to be resolute and is at liberty to act as per her wish. However, considering the apprehension expressed by the girl, the Commissioner of Police, Aurangabad, is directed to safeguard and protect the girl up to the destination she wishes to

Muzaffarnagar gears up for show of strength

We want to prove government, media wrong for describing us as 'a handful of farmers', says BKU

A sea of farmers is expected in Muzaffarnagar on Sunday to participate in the mahapanchayat called by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, in a show of strength against the three contentious farm laws.

"The government and a section of media have been describing us as mutthi bhar kisan (a handful of farmers). We want to prove them wrong," said Rajveer Singh, State vice-president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union. He said the mahapanchayat would remain apolitical but it against the anti-farmer policurrent of the dispensation.

'Price hike too late'

The last-minute attempt of the State government to reach out to farmers with the promise of increasing sugarcane prices doesn't seem to be working. "It is a lollipop that has come too late in the day," said Gaurav Tomar of



BKU workers on their way to Muzaffarnagar on Saturday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Desh Khap that has 84 villages in Baghpat and surrounding districts. "It is an attempt to distract the farmers of West U.P. from the core issue," he said.

Shokhendra Chaudhary of Battisa Khap in Shamli said on Friday the local sugar mill had put the cane arrears of February this year in farmers' account. "This government has suddenly woken up to our demands after four years. A word is being spread that cases of stubble burning would be taken back but to our demands."

farmers won't forget the humiliation so easily.'

Ghulam Jaula, a contemporary of Mahendra Singh Tikait, who leads the Muslim section of farmers in the region, said the wounds of Muzaffarnagar riots had not been forgotten. "Every village is sending a bus. Around 500 temporary dhabas are working to feed the participants. We are spending our money to make this mahapanchayat happen so that the deaf and dumb government wakes up

flower petals from a helicopter but sources in the administration said the permission was cancelled. "As he was not supposed to land in Muzaffarnagar, he was asked to approach the Air Traffic Control," said a senior official. Surendra Singh Ramala,

Rasthriya Lok Dal and Sa-

majwadi Party have declared

their support to the meeting.

RLD president Jayant Chaud-

hary is expected to shower

the BJP MLA from Chhaprauli, said political parties were misguiding farmers. "They call the mahapanchayat apolitical but everybody knows that RLD workers are working overtime to make up the

On the State government suddenly waking up to the demands, Mr. Ramala said both the central and State governments were ready for the talk. "But Rakesh Tikait and the RLD see a political opportunity in keeping the protests alive," he added.

The cane prices, Mr. Ra-

mala said, could not be raised earlier because, during the pandemic, the demand for sugar plummeted. "I feel there will be substantial rise soon," he added.

Keeping the inclement weather in mind, a waterproof tent with a capacity to make space for 200 farmer leaders underneath has been erected at the Government Inter College ground. The mahapanchayat will

be held under the gaze of 250 CCTV cameras and drones. Six companies of Provincial Armed Constabulary and two companies of Rapid Action Force have been deployed to support the local police. "Circle officers and magistrates would man the entry and exit gates to the city," said Amit Kumar, Additional District Magistrate (City). Apart from the two existing exit points. he said, two more have been "Mobile medical vans, ambulances, mobile toilets, and fire tenders have already been pressed into service," said Mr. Kumar.

BJP to do 'acts of service' for PM's birthday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The BIP will mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on September 17 with a "service and dedication programme" from that day to October 7, party general secretary Arun Singh said on Friday.

In an internal letter, Mr. Singh said the programme had been approved by party president J.P. Nadda. Along with Mr. Modi's 71st birthday, this year also marks the 20th anniversary of him becoming Gujarat Chief Minister on October 7, 2001, he said.

The programme would include exhibitions on Mr. Modi's life at all State and district offices of the party, a virtual exhibition on the NaMo app, distribution of fruits to the poor and sanitation drives. Party workers should visit COVID-19 vaccination centres to spread awareness and carry out acts of service, the

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Philippines lifts travel ban on India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Philippines on Saturday decided to welcome travellers from India and nine other countries from September 6, according to Presidential Palace announcement.

International travellers coming from the 10 countries shall, however, comply with the appropriate entry, testing and quarantine protocols, depending on their approved "listing".

Travel to Turkey

People travelling from India to Turkey will be required from Saturday to submit a negative CO-VID-19 report from RT-PCR test done not more than 72 hours before arrival, the Turkish Embassy in New Delhi said.

The requirements are not applicable to transit and/or transfer passengers, the Embassy said.

The rule will also apply to those passengers who have been in India in the 14 days prior to their travel to Turkey. The Embassy said that

effective from September 4, passengers who certify that they have had at least two doses (single dose for Johnson & Johnson) of the vaccines approved for emergency use by the World Health Organization or Turkey, provided that at least 14 days have passed since the last dose, will be exempted from mandatory quarantine.

President lauds teachers for responding to new challenges

The pandemic has changed pedagogy, says Kovind

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday greeted educators across the country on the eve of Teachers' Day and lauded them for their efforts to enable uninterrupted education of students during the COVID-induced lockdown.

He said the occasion honoured the dedicated services of all the teachers who played a leading role in the intellectual and moral development of children.

"In the Indian tradition, teachers are placed on the same pedestal as God," Mr. Kovind said.

Since the onset of the pan-



Ramnath Kovind

demic, the pedagogy adopted by teachers also underwent a major change, the President said.

"During lockdown, our teachers accepted every challenge associated with the introduction of online medium of education. They took effective steps to enable uninterrupted education of the students," he said.

"On this occasion, let us all express our gratitude to the entire teaching community for its invaluable contribution towards building a strong and prosperous nation," Mr. Kovind said.

"Teachers' Day is observed on the birthday of a great educationist, philosopher and former President of India, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all teachers on the occasion of Teachers' Day," the President said.

College student, two teachers test positive for COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CUDDALORE/THANJAVUR

Two teachers and a college student have tested positive for COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu.

A teacher attached to the Government High School at Periyanesalur near Cuddalore tested positive on Saturday. With this, four teachers in the district have tested positive since the reopening of schools on September 1. According to an Educacome to the school for the next two days, and her sample was collected on Thursday after her neighbour tested positive. The sample returned positive on Saturday. The teacher has been admitted to the Cuddalore Government General Hospi-

Wednesday. She did not

A teacher working at a government school in the Tiruppur Corporation limits tested positive for COVID-19 tion Department official, the on Saturday, becoming the teacher reported for duty on first case to be reported

from schools in the district since they reopened. Meanwhile, a college stu-

dent hailing from a village in

Thanjavur taluk tested positive for the infection. Sources said the young woman is a final-year B.Com student at a women's arts college in Thanjavur. Her sample was taken on September 1, when the college reopened. She did not turn up for classes on Friday. On Saturday morning, she called her lecturer and said she had tested positive for the infection.

CBI seeks to invoke UAPA in Dabholkar murder case

'Accused sought to strike terror in society'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Central Bureau of Investigation has argued in a court that the five accused in the 2013 murder case of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar be tried under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for striking "terror among a section of people".

The arguments over framing of charges against the five accused - Virendrasinh Tawde, Sharad Kalaskar, Sachin Andure, advocate Sanjeev Punalekar and Vikram Bhave - began before Additional Sessions judge (special court judge) S.R. Navandar here on

Special public prosecutor Prakash Suryawanshi, on behalf of the CBI, said the accused had been charged under IPC Sections 120 B (criminal conspiracy), 120 B read with 302 (murder), relevant Sections of the Arms Act and Section 16 (punishment for the terrorist) of the UAPA.

He pressed for Section 16 of the UAPA and argued how invoking it was justified in the case.

"The definition of Section 15 of the UAPA is to strike terror in the mind of the society or section of people in the society. So our argument in the present case is that firearms were used to murder Dabholkar to strike terror among a section of people, here a group of people, that is members of the

Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti [founded by Dabholkar], so Section 16 of the UAPA is attracted in the case," he

He added that the CBI had received sanction from the Maharashtra government to invoke Section 16 of the UAPA.

Counsel opposes move

Defence counsel Virendra Ichalkaranjikar, however, opposed the prosecution's demand to invoke Section 16 of the UAPA.

"We oppose the pressing of Section 16 of the UAPA as the prosecution has been stating since 2016 through their various documents that Tawde used to despise Dabholkar and he had killed him as a fallout of that. So where does the question of terror arise?" he said.

Defence counsel added that they sought exactly what charges the prosecution wanted to frame against Tawde as in the initial probe of the CBI, they had claimed that Sarang Akolkar and Vinay Pawar had shot Dabholkar dead and had termed Tawde as the conspirator, but later came up with another theory before the court that Andure and Kalaskar had shot Dabholkar dead, in which they again named Tawde as the conspirator. "How can this be the same? There has to be only one theory," he said.

The court posted the matter to September 7.

A ND-NDE

Taliban, opposition battle for Panjshir

New government will be announced next week, say Taliban; global community in a flurry of diplomacy

REUTERS

Fresh fighting was reported on Saturday between the Taliban and resistance forces in Afghanistan's Panishir Valley, as the hardline Islamists are in the process of finalising a government that will set the tone for their rule.

Taliban sources said on Friday its fighters had taken the Valley, although the resistance denied it had fallen.

The Taliban have so far issued no public declaration that they had taken the Valley, which resisted their rule when they were last in power from 1996 to 2001.

The National Resistance Front of Afghanistan, which groups opposition forces loyal to local leader Ahmad Massoud, said Taliban forces reached the Darband heights on the border between Kapisa province and Panjshir but were pushed back.

"The defence of the stronghold of Afghanistan is unbreakable," Front spokes-



Vantage point: Afghan resistance forces on a hillton in Darband area in Anaba district, Panjshir province. • AFP

man Fahim Dashty said in a tweet on Saturday.

A Taliban source said fighting was continuing in Panjshir but the advance was slowed by landmines placed on the road to the capital Bazarak and the provincial Governor's compound.

"Demining and offensives are both going on at the same time," the source said.

Vice-President Amrullah Saleh, holed out alongside Ahmad Massoud –

the son of legendary anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud - admitted the perilous position of the

Situation difficult: Saleh "The situation is difficult, we have been under invasion,"

Mr. Saleh said in a video message. It was not immediately possible to get independent

confirmation of events in

Panjshir, which is walled off

Qatar's Ambassador to Afghanistan said a technical

by mountains except for a

narrow entrance and had held out against Soviet occu-

pation as well as the previous

new government would be

pushed back to the next

Taliban co-founder Mul-

lah Abdul Ghani Baradar, re-

ported by some Taliban

sources to be in line to lead

the new government, said in

remarks on Qatar's Al Jazee-

ra channel that the new ad-

ministration "will include all

factions of the Afghan

efforts to improve their living

conditions. The government

will provide security, be-

cause it is necessary for eco-

nomic development," he

Meanwhile, there were

some signs of normality

creeping back in the Afghan

"We are doing our utmost

people."

said.

The Taliban source also said the announcement of a

Taliban government.

team was able to reopen Kabul airport to receive aid, according to Al Jazeera, which also cited its correspondent as saying domestic flights had restarted.

Women stage protest

In Kabul, dozens of women protested for a second day on Saturday to demand the right to work and inclusion in the government.

Social media clips showed Taliban fighters and officials attempting to disperse the demonstrators and stopping people from filming with mobile phones.

Away from the Valley, the international community was coming to terms with having to deal with the new Taliban regime with a flurry of diplomacy.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is due on Sunday in Qatar, a key player in the Afghan saga and the location of the Taliban's political office, though he is not expected to meet with the militants.

President Biden declassifies secret files on 9/11 attacks

He responded to pressure from families of 2,977 killed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden on Friday ordered declassification over the next six months of still secret documents from the government investigation into the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Mr. Biden is responding to pressure from families of some of the approximately 3,000 people killed by al-Qaeda on September 11, 2001.

They have long argued that the classified documents might contain evidence that the government of Saudi Arabia, a close U.S ally, had links to the hijackers who flew into the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

"Today, I signed an executive order directing the Department of Justice and other relevant agencies to oversee a declassification review of documents related to the Federal Bureau of In-



Joe Biden

vestigation's September 11th investigations," Mr. Biden said in a statement.

Declassification must take place "over the next six months.

"We must never forget the enduring pain of the families and loved ones of the 2,977 innocent people who were killed during the worst terrorist attack on America in our history," Mr. Biden said.

The move comes ahead of the 20th anniversary of the attack, which spurred thenpresident George W. Bush soon after to order the invasion of Afghanistan, where the Taliban sheltered al-Qaeda's leadership.

Mr. Biden pulled the last U.S. troops out of Afghanistan this week, completing a dramatic evacuation from Kabul's airport after the Taliban defeated the U.S.backed government and surged back to power.

The push for more information is being driven by victims' families suing Saudi Arabia for alleged complicity in the horrific attack. The families have long expressed frustration at the number of documents that remain off limits.

The official 9/11 Commission, which was set up by Congress, said there was "no evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi officials individually funded" al-Qaeda.

ISI chief rushes to Kabul

The visit comes as militants struggle to form a new govt.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

In a surprise move, Pakistan's powerful intelligence chief Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed on Saturday dashed to Kabul, according to media reports here. amidst the Taliban struggling to finalise and install an inclusive government in Afghanistan that would be acceptable to the international community.

A delegation of senior Pakistani officials led by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Lieutenant General Hameed arrived in

Kabul to conduct discussions with the incoming Taliban government, the Pakistan Observer newspaper reported.

The ISI chief is expected to meet top Taliban leaders and commanders. "Issues relating to Pak-Afghan security, economy, and other matters will be taken up with the Taliban leadership," the report said, quoting sources.

According to the *Express* Tribune, Gen. Hameed will also meet Pakistan's envoy in Kabul to discuss the matter of repatriation and transit through Pakistan of foreign nationals and Afghans fleeing Taliban rule.

The intelligence chief will spend a day in the Afghan capital, the Geo News reported. Border management is another important issue that will come under discussion during the visit of Hameed, it said.

Gen. Hameed's visit to Kabul came as Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa met with British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab earlier in the day and said that Pakistan will assist in the formation of an inclusive govern-

17 killed in celebratory gunfire in Kabul: reports

Avoid firing in air: Taliban spokesman

REUTERS KABUL

At least 17 people were killed in celebratory gunfire in Kabul, news agencies said on Saturday, after Taliban sources said their fighters had seized control of Panjshir, the last province in Afghanistan holding out against the Islamist group.

Leaders of opposition to the Taliban have denied that the province has fallen.

The Shamshad news agency said "aerial shooting" in Kabul on Friday

killed 17 people and wounded 41. Tolo news agency gave a similar toll.

At least 14 people were injured in celebratory firing in Nangarhar province, said Gulzada Sangar, spokesman for a hospital in Jalalabad.

The gunfire drew a rebuke from the main Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Muiahid. "Avoid shooting in the air and thank God instead," Mujahid said on Twitter. "Bullets can harm civilians, so don't shoot unnecessari-

Thai protesters hit the streets as PM wins no-confidence vote

Prayut govt. slammed over virus response, economic woes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BANGKOK

Pro-democracy protesters vented their anger in Bangkok on Saturday after Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-cha survived a no-confidence vote in Parliament.

More than 300 demonstrators marched in central Bangkok's main shopping mall district carrying red flags and wearing ponchos in the downpour.

"The government should

be gone. If things were good why would we come out to protest?" a 28-year-old demonstrator said.

Ahead of the rally, police used shipping containers to block major routes to the advertised protest site at the Lumphini Park where protesters planned to march.

This week Thai lawmakers debated an oppositioninstigated censure motion about the government's han-

economic management -Saturday was the third noconfidence motion vote since the 2019 election. The sluggish rollout of

dling of the pandemic and

Thailand's vaccination programme and financial pain from restrictions has heaped political pressure on Mr. Prayut's government.

The country is reeling from its worst economic performance since the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis.

+ Ardern vows to tighten terrorism laws

IS-inspired terrorist wounded 7 people with knife at New Zealand supermarket

REUTERS

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern vowed on Saturday to tighten counter terrorism laws this month after a knife-wielding militant known to the authorities stabbed and wounded seven people in a supermarket.

Police shot dead the 32year-old attacker, Ahamed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen, a Sri Lankan national who had been convicted and imprisoned for about three years before being released in July.

Ms. Ardern said earlier the man was inspired by the Islamic State group and was being monitored constantly but could not be kept in prison by law any longer.

"I am committing, that as soon as Parliament resumes, we will complete that work that means working to pass



Ahamed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen in court. • AP

the law as soon as possible, and no later than by the end of this month," Ardern told a news conference.

The Counter Terror Legislation Bill criminalises planning and preparation that might lead to terror attack, closing what critics have said has been a loophole allowing plotters to stay free.

But Ms. Ardern said it would not be fair to assume

Sri Lanka offers help in probe

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sri Lanka will cooperate with New Zealand's investigation into the knife rampage, authorities said on Saturday. "Sri Lanka condemns this senseless violence, and stands ready to cooperate with New

Zealand authorities in any way necessary," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kohularangan Ratnasingam said.

Police said they had interviewed the attacker's brother, who lives in Colombo, and were looking into all possible links.

that the tighter law would have made a difference in this case. "This was a highly motivated individual who used a supermarket visit as a shield for an attack. That is an incredibly tough set of circumstances," she said.

Ms. Ardern said the attacker came to the attention of the police in 2016 because of his support for a violent ideology inspired by IS.

Police were following the man when he went into the Countdown supermarket in New Lynn mall in Auckland.

They said they had thought he had gone in to do some shopping but he picked up a knife from a display and started stabbing people.

Police said they shot him within a minute of the start of the attack.

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speaking clearly with relevant details, significant points, etc.







the University of Oxford and Green Status co-chair, said.

'28% of 1,38,000 assessed species face extinction'

'Habitat loss, overexploitation to blame'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Some 28% of the 1,38,374 species assessed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for its survival watchlist are now at high risk of vanishing forever, the global conservation body said on Saturday.

Habitat loss, overexploitation and illegal trade have hammered global wildlife populations for decades, and climate change is now kicking in as a direct threat as well, the IUCN reported.

Komodo dragons, the largest living lizards, which are found only in the World Heritage-listed Komodo National Park and neighbouring Flores, were listed as "endangered".

Some 37% of the 1,200 shark and ray species as-



listed as "endangered". • AFP sessed by experts are direct-

ly threatened by extinction. a third more than only seven years ago, it warned on Saturday. The IUCN on Saturday of-

ficially launched its "green status" - the first global standard for assessing species recovery and measuring conservation impacts. "It makes the invisible work of conservation visible," Molly Grace, a professor at

ASEAN envoy holds talks with Myanmar junta

Diplomat seeks access to Suu Kyi

REUTERS

The Brunei diplomat appointed by a Southeast Asian regional bloc as its special envoy to Myanmar said on Saturday he is still negotiating with the military on the terms of a visit and has sought access to ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been trying to end violence in Myanmar and open a dialogue between the military rulers and their opponents following the overthrow of Ms. Suu Kyi in February.

ASEAN tasked Erywan Yusof, Brunei's second Foreign Affairs Minister, last month with leading these

"There is an urgent need to go now to Myanmar. But I

think before all that, I need to have assurances," Mr. Erywan told Reuters. "I need to be able to have a clear picture of what I'm supposed to do, what they are going to allow me to do when I visit." Mr. Erywan wants to visit

before late October when

ASEAN leaders are to meet,

but said no date has been

finalised. "They haven't put a condition yet but they haven't been clear about it," he said. Requests seeking access

to Ms. Suu Kyi have been made to the State Administrative Council, chaired by junta leader Min Aung Hlaing, Mr. Erywan said. But access to the deposed leader was not a requirement under a five-point consensus reached by ASEAN in April, he added.



Egg shape understood Scientists from University of Kent now have a mathematical equation for the egg shape enough to hold the embryo, small enough for it to exit

the perfect shape that is large efficiently and which does not roll away. This equation can help figure out how and why the shape evolved and also in applications such as bio-inspired engineering.



Hycean worlds A study published in The

Astrophysical Journal identifies a new class of exoplanets -Hycean worlds - that could support life different from that on Earth. These planets are about 2.6 times the size of Earth, have temperatures about 200 degrees Celsius and planet-wide oceans. These could support microbial underwater life. Search in now on for their biosignatures.



Rhino lineages

exhibited low genetic diversity, according to a new study that maps out the family tree of rhinos. The study, published in Cell, analysed genomes of five living species of rhinos and three ancient and extinct ones. The researchers find that the oldest split in the African and Eurasian lineages occurred nearly 16 million years ago.



Sleep, refresh the brain! A recent study published in Cell Reports finds evidence that Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep refreshes the brain. REM sleep is a phase of sleep when dreaming takes place. The University of Tsukuba researchers directly observed the red blood cells in the blood capillaries of mice. They spotted a massive flow

of RBCs into the capillaries

during REM sleep.

Why the priority should be to reopen primary schools Indian and global data suggest that the risk of severe disease and death are low in adolescents and children younger than 12 years

R. PRASAD

At least six States in India reopened schools in mid-August, while schools in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan reopened on September 1. However, contrary to scientific evidence and ICMR recommendations, except Bihar where classes for primary and middle-school students have reopened on priority, all other States did the reverse – first reopened classes secondary students. "States prioritising

schools for higher classes and not reopening primary schools reflects many things. One, scientific and epidemiological evidence is not what is used for decision-making. Two, policy makers go by assumption that older children are more likely to follow CO-VID-appropriate behaviour. Finally, the decision is also influenced by fear and apprehension among parents that younger children may be at higher risk," says Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, physician-epidemiologist.

Relative risks

"Based on Indian as well as global data, the risk of severe disease and death are low in adolescents and children younger than 12 years. Adults have almost 15 times higher risk of death and severe disease compared with children below 18 years," Dr. N.K. Arotional COVID-19 Task Force had earlier told The Hindu. While children can get asymptomatic infection or have very mild disease, the risk of severe disease or death is rare.

Even susceptibility to infection is low in younger children. According to epidemiologist Dr. Giridhara Babu from Bengaluru's Public Health Foundation of India, 15 contact-tracing studies indicate that children and adolescents have lower suscepti-SARS-CoV-2 infection than adults. "If you examine the data carefully, lower susceptibility is mostly confined to children younger than 10-14 years," he says.

J-shaped curve

In an email, Dr. Lahariya says: "The available global data on age distribution of COVID-19 indicates that all children are naturally at low risk from COVID-19. The age distribution of moderate to severe illness and mortality follows a 'J' shaped curve, where at the base of the 'J' are 10-year-old children who are at the lowest risk among all age groups."

He adds: "Children aged 6-14 years or the age group in the primary and upper primary schools form the base of the 'J' and have the lowest risk of COVID-19. Amongst other reasons, this is why primary schools must be the first to resume classes."

Back to school Contrary to scientific evidence and ICMR recommendations, many States have reopened classes for secondary school students while still keeping

- Contact-tracing studies indicate children and adolescents are less susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection than
- The fourth serosurvey done by Indian Council of Medical Research indicated that seroprevalence in children was
- This contradicts the assumption that they were sheltered and that sending them to school may mean a

ICMR did indicate that sero-

prevalence in children was

comparable to adults. Sero-

prevalence among children

aged 6-17 years was about

60% (57.2% among children

6-9 years and 61.6% among

children 10-17 years), while

unvaccinated adults had 62%

seropositivity. According to

Dr. Lahariya, independent

serosurveys undertaken in a

few cities have found sero-

positivity around 75% for

children. Thus, the notion

that children have been lar-

gely sheltered leading to low

seroprevalence and thus

have elevated risk of infec-

tion and disease once

schools reopen is not sup-

Especially when daily cas-

es are well under control in

most parts of the country,

the risk of reopening schools

ported by data.

primary and middle school children at home ■ Even when they are not

- seriously ill, children can spread the virus to adults, particularly, in areas with lower seroprevalence.
- comparable to adults
- reopening schools should include strategies to mitigate risk to parents, and other contacts

says Dr. Gautam Menon, Pro-

fessor of Physics and Biology

at Ashoka University and co-

author of COVID-19 modell-

ing studies. "There should be

no major impact of opening

schools and colleges in terms

of setting up a large second

wave, although cases will

Transmitting the virus

However, even when chil-

dren may not suffer from se-

rious illness, they are very

likely to spread the virus to

adults leading to an increase

in cases particularly in areas

with lower seroprevalence.

This is particularly of con-

cern when they transmit the

rise," he says.

COVID-appropriate behaviour and mask-wearing should be strictly adhered to by all including students Increased ventilation,

imiting the number of students in a class, physical distancing, reduced mixing of different cohorts and more outdoor further reduce virus spread

seropositivities from prior inyears and those with comorfection exceed 50% currently bidities who are more vulnerable to severe disease and across the country and in a number of States this numeven death. ber is in excess of 60-70%, This brings the focus back

to targeted vaccination of teachers and non-teaching staff at schools and parents of school-going children. Any plan for reopening schools should include strategies to mitigate the risk to parents, teachers, and all other contacts to enable children's safety bubbles, says Dr. Babu. This strategy of providing a protective ring around children helps in reducing their risk of getting infected and spreading the infection to adults. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka had started vaccinating teachers on priority some time back. Dr. Menon says that in modelling, there is certainly some mitigation that results from targeted vaccination of parents and teachers.

The States that have already reopened schools have recorded new cases among children but no large outbreaks have been reported. There has also been a concomitant increase in testing of school children in States where schools have reopened. "These cases in children are the outcome of improved testing reporting. What we need to remember is that infection is common in children and that is not an immediate concern at this stage of the pandemic," says Dr. Lahariya.

Role of testing

Will regular testing in schools and colleges help prevent or minimise outbreaks? "There's never been a test of this in any evidencebased way, so we don't really know. While some US-based campuses, such as Cornell, do this and have been successful in controlling outbreaks, the levels of prior exposure and seropositivity there are considerably less than in India, so the same intuition might not apply," says Dr. Menon.

Dr. Lahariya doesn't see any particular benefit accruing from regular testing in schools.

"It could be a good idea to conduct testing in schools. However, knowing the fact that children do get infected

disease, it is not very clear what purpose it would serve," he says.

The priority should be on making sure COVID-appropriate behaviour is strictly adhered to at all times both by teachers and students. Important in this is maskwearing. The Health Ministry has recommended masks for anyone older than five years, and this should be followed in schools as well. According to Dr. Babu, Karnataka COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee has recommended masks for children older than two years.

Increased ventilation, reduced crowding by limiting the number of students in a class, increased physical distancing, reduced mixing of different cohorts, and more outdoor activity can further reduce the risk of virus spread.

When cases in children get reported, how should schools decide when to shut down? In nearly all countries, reporting of a case or a few cases in the schools does not mean school shutdown. Children are already exposed and that's why classes may continue," Dr. Lahariya says. "However, if a few clusters of cases are reported or cases are reported from more than one class, then other measures need to be taken. However, I repeat, finding one or a few cases does not mandate school or

Antimalarial vaccine-drug combo proves most efficacious in Africa trial

When the first malarial vaccine (named RTS,S) was used along with drugs, the efficacy went up to 70%, or more

RAMYA KANNAN

When the World Health Organization's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation considers, on October 6, evidence to decide on the roll out of the first malarial vaccine (RTS.S), the latest body of research - testing a vaccine combination with antimalarial drugs which deefficacy in preventing hospitalisations from severe malaria and deaths - is likely to bolster the case for voting aye.

Without drugs

According to a paper recently published in the New England Journal of Medicine, the study measured the efficacy of vaccination with or without chemoprevention (drugs). The authors noted: "The combination of these interventions resulted in a substantially lower incidence of uncomplicated malaria, severe malaria, and death from malaria than either intervention alone."

One of the authors of the paper, Daniel Chandramohan, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, says: "In the phase III trial, vaccine RTS,S was 50% efficacious in children more than one year old and 25% in infants, compared to a control vaccine during an 18 months follow up period."

When the vaccine was used along with chemoprevention, efficacy went up to 70%, or over. The protective efficacy of the combination as compared with chemoprevention alone was 62.8% against clinical malaria, 70.5% against hospital admission with severe malaria and 72.9% against death from malaria. The protective efficacy of the combination

[We have shown] this vaccine is safe in seasonal transmission areas in Africa and is more efficacious with chemoprophylaxis during

the transmission season, DANIFI CHANDRAMOHAN LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

as compared with the vaccine alone against these outcomes was 59.6%, 70.6%, and 75.3% respectively, the study notes. "We were surprised by this incredible effect of the combination of vaccine plus chemo. That is the reason these results are likely to shift the WHO's position on using this combination," he says.

Dr. Chandramohan who is from Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu, qualified in medicine at the Madurai Medical College, is a professor of public



Strong case: In a phase III trial, RTS,S was 50% efficacious in children more than one year old, compared to a control.

health with special interest The results of this study will in malaria, pneumonia and meningitis. He goes on to explain that the Malaria vaccine was first authorised in 2015 by the European Medicines Agency for use in Africa in infants and children. However, WHO requested for more safety data and a large pilot study was done in Kenya, Malawi and Ghana involving 7,50,000 children.

be presented to WHO expert committee on October 6, he

The instant study involving a combination of the vaccine and drugs was done among 6,861 children (five to 17 months of age) in the Sahel and sub-Sahel regions of Africa, seasonally, with three groups randomly receiving just the drugs, the vaccine

drugs together. They were followed up for three years. "We have now shown that indeed in seasonal transmission areas in Africa this vaccine is safe and is more efficacious when given along with chemoprophylaxis during the transmission season," he adds.

alone, and the vaccine and

The malaria vaccine prevents the parasite developing in humans. However, some break through infections could happen. When there is a vaccine break through infection, the antimalarial drug kills those parasites. In addition, each course of the drug has chemoprophylactic effect for at least 3 weeks and during that period the vaccine and drugs together prevent any new infections, Dr. Chandramohan explains further. "The results of this trial are applicable to Africa only," he says, "We don't

know how effective it will be in India, as we have not yet tested this vaccine outside Africa.'

Logistical issues Are there logistical issues de- ⊥

livering a five-dose vaccine and additional antimalarial drugs in resource-poor countries? For the five-dose vaccine, the first three doses can be given to infants through Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) and the annual booster doses can be given either through EPI or in campaign mode. "In Africa, the seasonal malaria chemoprevention that involves the administration of antimalarial drugs four times a year, has been successfully given to around 25 million children in West Africa. So I think it is feasible to deliver the combination at scale, though there may be logical challenges," says Dr. Chandramohan.

Soil microbes can make for a greener revolution

A new and fascinating aspect to hybrid vigour is the rhizomicrobiome



D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Plants appear to be simple enough in their organisation. Whether small shrubs or tall trees, all they seem to be made up of is leaves, flowers, fruits, stems and roots. But simple they are not. Being rooted to one spot has required very special personality traits. The ability to make food from sunlight and the carbon dioxide in air has given them a central position in life forms on earth. They cannot run, but ably defend themselves. A fascinating aspect of their abilities lies out of sight, in the soil from which they sprout, and from which they derive water, micronutrients, and a host of other benefits.

Ancient association The association between

plants and fungi is ancient. Fossils of plants from about 400 million years ago show the first evidence of roots, and these roots are fungus associations - rhizoids - suggesting that roots co-evolved with fungi. One good example is species of Penicillium, the fungus from which Alexander Fleming isolated the antibiotic penicillin. Fungusroot associations, called mycorrhizae, appear at first glance to be simple mutualisms that are beneficial to both. The root-invading fungus gains nutrients made by the plant, and the plants get difficult-to-find minerals like phosphorus from the microbe. But the association is

The Wood Wide Web

Suzanne Simard of the University of British Columbia, working in the dense forests of the Pacific Northwest, made an interesting finding. In carefully controlled experiments with saplings of birch and fir trees enclosed



bon dioxide gas, she showed that the birch converted this labelled gas to radioactive sugars by photosynthesis, and within two hours, traces of this radioactive sugar appeared in the leaves of the fir saplings growing nearby. The exchange is mainly though the mycelia of fungi, and may extend through the whole forest, with young trees that are struggling on a dry patch being helped out by carbon transfer from their luckier counterparts. A reviewer writing in the journal *Nature* called such systems as the

Wood Wide Web. Bacteria that associate with roots are called rhizobacteria, and a very wide range of these species are

very wide range of these are plant growth

growing of agricultural pro-

Hybrid vigour revolution

Rhizobacteria are bacteria that associate with roots, and a

plant growth promoters. Like the fungi, mutualism operates in these relationships too. In exchange for sugars, these bacteria offer plants a wide range of benefits. They may help plants ward off pathogens that cause diseases of the root. They may even trigger systemic resistance to a pathogen throughout the plant.

green brought a sea change in the

duce in our country. The key to this was the establishing of hybrid varieties of crop plants. Today, a vast majority of commercially grown crops are hybrids, where two inbred lines are crossed, with their first-generation hybrid offspring exhibiting a vigour that is lacking in either of its parents. The property of hybrid vigour, called heterosis, has been known for centuries, but remains only partly understood.

Root cause A new and fascinating aspect

to hybrid vigour has been found in the rhizomicrobiome - the rich collection of microbes that surround the roots of every plant. Maggie Wagner of the University of Kansas (at the heart of one of the great corn-producing areas of the world) addressed heterosis from the viewpoint of plant-root microbe interactions. Using maize as the model crop, her group has recently shown that the rich biomass of roots in hybrid maize, as well as other positive traits, is reliant on appropriate soil microbes (PNAS, Volume 118(30), July 27, 2021). In laboratory-sterilised soils that are totally devoid of microbes, both the inbred parents and hybrid offspring grow equally well, there being no sign of vigour in the latter. Then they started to 'rebuild' the soil environment, one bacterium at a

They could attain the normal parent-offspring difference in vigour by introducing just seven species of bacteria into the sterile soil. The experiment could be extrapolated to the fields too: Fumigating, or steaming the soil in one experimental plot led to decreased heterosis, because this soil was depleted of microbes.

Agronomists estimate that depending on the fertility of the soil, hybrid maize requires 180-225 kg of artificial fertilizer for a yield of nine tons of grain per hectare. Producing this fertilizer is an energy intensive task.

As our nation strives towards lofty goals for sustainable agriculture, using simple microbial ways of improving crop quality (and quantity) would be a small step in that direction.

(This article has been written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani who is a professional computational biologist, sushilchandani@gmail.com)

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Question Corner

The listening brain

How does our brain process sounds and words?

Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, have discovered a new pathway in the human brain that processes the sounds of language. They found that auditory and speech processing occur in parallel (Cell). For decades, scientists

have thought that speech processing in the auditory cortex followed a serial pathway. It was thought that first, the primary auditory cortex processes simple acoustic information, such as frequencies of sounds. Then, an adjacent region, the superior temporal gyrus (STG), extracts more important features, like consonants and vowels, transforming sounds into meaningful words. But direct evidence for

thishas been lacking. Nine participants who underwent brain surgeries had arrays of small electrodes to cover their entire auditory cortex to collect neural signals for language and seizure mapping. The recordings were analysed to understand how the auditory cortex processes speech sounds.

When short phrases and sentences were played, the researchers found that some areas located in the STG responded as fast as the primary auditory cortex, suggesting that both areas started processing acoustic information simultaneously.

When the participants' primary auditory cortex was stimulated with small electric currents, they experienced auditory hallucinations but were still able to clearly hear and repeat the said words. But when the STG was stimulated, the participants reported that they could hear people speaking, but couldn't make out the words, the press release

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in



THE HINDU DELHI SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021



App store challenge

How does South Korea's 'anti-Google' law free up in-app payments? Will it hit the commission online behemoths charge?

P.J. GEORGE

The story so far: On August 31, the South Korean Parliament passed an amendment to the country's Telecommunications Business Act that has been dubbed the "anti-Google" law. The law prevents dominant app store operators – effectively Alphabet's Google and Apple – from forcing South Korean app developers to use their in-store payment systems. This effectively prevents Apple and Google from charging commissions on payments made in their app stores. The law also empowers the South Korean government to intervene in payment disputes within app stores, and to haul up app store operators for delaying the publishing of apps or deleting them.

What have Google and Apple been doing?

■ Google's Play Store and Apple's App Store strictly regulate how apps in their environment charge money from their users. Till recently, app publishers had been allowed to deploy only Google's and Apple's proprietary payment systems to collect money from app store users for digital purchases, which include the apps themselves, or 'in-app purchases' such as additional content or services. Google and Apple charged a 30% commission on all such purchases. As many app developers started

The South Korean law is the first legal restriction on Google and Apple's control over how money changes hands within their app stores. This could become a template for other countries

to push back against what they said was a steep commission, Google announced in March this year that it was cutting the commission to 15%. However, it later announced that the change was being postponed to March 2022. In November 2020, Apple cut its commission to 15% for developers with less than \$1 million in annual sales on its platform. On September 2, in response

to a fair trade probe in Japan, Apple changed its policy to allow some app developers like Netflix and Spotify to add links that will send their users outside the app to make payments, effectively bypassing its commission. Recently, in response to a U.S. lawsuit, Apple agreed to let app developers email users about other options of payment. On the apps front, Google has a more relaxed approach than Apple, which does not allow users of its iPhones to download apps from any other source than the App Store. Phones with Google's Android can 'sideload' apps; that is, download and install apps from websites or other sources. Android phones also support downloads from multiple app stores.

What makes the South Korean law important?

■ It is the first legal restriction on Google and Apple's control over how money changes hands within their app stores. This could become a template for the many countries that have been looking at ways to control the clout of these online behemoths that take a cut from the digital sales of everyone from the gaming industry to publishers. The European Union has a draft Digital Markets Act in the pipeline that would force large internet "gatekeeper companies" that act as platforms for others to conduct transactions to change their business practices and level the playing field for smaller companies. In the U.S., Senators have introduced a Bill similar to the South Korean one that would force Apple and Google to allow app makers to deploy different payment systems. There is more trouble brewing in the U.S. as a federal judge is set to rule on the case by Epic, the makers of the 'Fortnite' videogame, against Apple's in-app payment practices. Epic has sued Google in a separate case but on the same grounds. Adding to Google's woes is another case filed by 36 U.S. States. In another indication that the trend is spreading globally, Reuters is reporting that Apple faces a legal challenge to its in-app payment system in India. The case is reportedly being reviewed by the Competition Commission of India.

How have Apple and Google responded?

■ Both companies point to the cost of maintaining the app store environment to justify the commissions. Responding to The Verge, an American technology news website, on the South Korean law, Apple said opening up the payment system will expose users to fraud and security breaches. Google argues these charges are a major reason why it is able to keep its Android mobile phone operating system free, and hence lower the cost of phones running on it. "Just as it costs developers money to build an app, it costs us money to build and maintain an operating system and app store," a Google spokesperson told The Verge. "We'll reflect on how to comply with this law while maintaining a model that supports a high-quality operating system and app store."

What are the new I-T rules on PF savings?

Why has the government decided to implement a fresh tax on Provident Fund contributions? Has the limit been raised?

VIKAS DHOOT

The story so far: The Finance Ministry on Tuesday notified new Income Tax rules to impose a fresh tax on Provident Fund (PF) savings. In her 2021-22 Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed taxing the income on PF contributions of over ₹2.5 lakh a year. This limit was later enhanced to ₹5 lakh for PF accounts wherein employers make no contributions. However, there was a lack of clarity on how this tax was to be levied and the new rules seek to address it.

What is the government's rationale behind the move?

■ Till this year's Budget, all income on provident fund savings was exempt from tax. The provision aimed at ensuring people retire with an adequate nest egg was being misused, according to the Finance Ministry. Ms. Sitharaman asserted at her press conference after her Budget speech that "some people go to the extent of contributing ₹1 crore each month [into their PF accounts]". For such people to get tax concessions as well as an assured income is not comparable with an employee who earns ₹2 lakh and gets 8% return on PF savings, she said. "This exemption without any threshold benefits only those who can contribute a large amount to these funds as their share," the Budget documents explained.

After facing criticism over the proposal, the Revenue Department later highlighted that more than 1.23 lakh high net worth individuals (HNIs) had deposited over ₹62,500 crore in their employees' provident fund (EPF) accounts in 2018-19. The largest EPF account has a staggering ₹103 crore balance, they pointed out, while the top 20 HNIs have a cumulative balance of ₹825 crore. Of an estimated 4.5 crore EPF accounts, the source said about 0.27% members had an average corpus of ₹5.92 crore and so were earning over ₹50 lakh a year as 'tax-free assured interest'. This is the second time the NDA government has sought to tax EPF savings - in 2016, a Budget announcement to tax 60% of EPF account balances at the time of withdrawal was rolled back. In the previous year's Budget, contribution by employers into employee welfare schemes like the EPF or the National Pension System (NPS) or a superannuation plan was capped at ₹7.5 lakh a year.

Which PF accounts will be affected?

■ EPF accounts managed by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and the General Provident Fund (GPF), where government employees save for retirement, will be impacted. There are also a few thousand large companies that manage the retirement savings of their workforce in-house through 'exempt' EPF trusts, in order to ensure their employees don't have to run from pillar to post to access these savings when in need or at the time of retirement. Public Provident Fund (PPF) accounts are not affected by the new tax, nor are retirement savings accumulated under the NPS. EPF accounts are mandatory for employees earning up to ₹15,000 a month in firms employing over 20 workers, with 12% of the basic pay and dearness allowance deducted as employees' contribution and another 12% remitted by the employer. However, government as well as private sector employees are allowed to make voluntary contributions over and above the statutory



Stringent measure: The provision, aimed at ensuring people retire with an adequate nest egg, was being misused, says the Finance Ministry. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

deductions into the GPF or the EPF respectively. The ₹2.5 lakh annual contribution limit shall apply to EPF members, while in the GPF or other PFs wherein there is no contribution from the employer, the threshold has been set at ₹5 lakh.

Why were new rules needed to implement this tax?

■ A similar tax provision was introduced in the Budget for income from annual premium payments of over ₹2.5 lakh into unit-linked insurance products, but that clearly stated that maturity benefits will be subjected to capital gains tax. In the case of PFs, though the intent of the tax levy was elaborated on, there was no clarity on how it was to be operationalised. For instance, practitioners were not clear if the tax had to be imposed at the time of

The Union Finance
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retirement or withdrawal from the PF account, or each year at the time of annual income accrual. If it had to be done annually, should the PF trustees deduct the tax at source on such income, or should a tax assessee include it in her or his income tax return and pay taxes. There were also concerns that this tax could be levied on future income on past PF contributions over the new tax-free limits. The

Chairperson of the Central Board of Direct Taxes at the time, P.C. Mody, had told *The Hindu* that taxpayers should factor in the interest income earned on contributions beyond ₹2.5 lakh or ₹5 lakh, as the case might be, at the time of filing their tax returns. As interest credits from the EPFO are seldom effected in the same year, due to delays in the declaration of the annual EPF rate and actual credits to the members' accounts, this

formulation posed another problem in implementation.

What do the new I-T rules say about levying the PF tax?

■ For calculation of taxable interest relating to contribution in a provident fund or recognised provident fund, exceeding the specified limit, a new Rule 9D has been added. The rule requires all PF accounts to be split into separate accounts – one with the taxable contribution and interest earned on that component, and the other with the non-taxable contribution that shall include the closing balance of the PF account as on March 31, 2021, and all fresh non-taxable contributions and interest thereon.

While the government has said this will help arrive at the taxable PF income for a year, it is still not clear if the tax has to deducted from the EPF account concerned or the taxable part added to one's total income at the time of filing returns. As things stand, the proposed solution to create two accounts seems to suggest that the EPFO and PF trusts may have to deduct tax on the income earned on the 'taxable contribution' of the EPF account and remit it to the exchequer each year. Maintaining two separate accounts is an onerous requirement for the EPFO and the trustees of the other PFs to comply with. To put the administrative overhaul required for such accounting in perspective, consider that the EPFO has 24.77 crore members with EPF accounts, of whom 14.36 crore members had been allotted Unique Account Numbers (UANs) by the end of 2019-20. About 5 crore of these members were active contributors to their EPF accounts during 2019-20. Even if a technological solution is devised to rejig the existing systems and provide for two EPF accounts for each member, there are other concerns. Deducting tax at source would require the EPFO or the trustees of individual PFs to issue tax deduction certificates or IT Form 26 AS for all such members. Whether the EPFO, India's largest retirement fund manager with around ₹15 lakh crore of assets, was consulted over the rules or is prepared for the transition to the proposed system, is not known at this point.

Why are 'breakthrough' infections a concern?

Why are people who are double-vaccinated still getting COVID-19? Do vaccines work against variants?

JACOB KOSHY

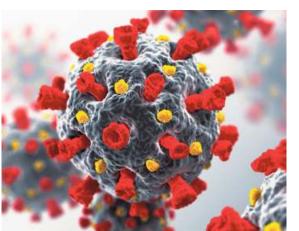
The story so far: India's second wave has not fully dipped and over the past seven days, daily infections of COVID-19 have logged over 40,000 cases. The rise in daily infections is primarily seen in Kerala and Maharashtra, which paradoxically are also among the States which have a high rate of vaccination. In this context, there are concerns about the rise in 'breakthrough infections' or confirmed infections in those who have got the second dose of the vaccine at least two weeks earlier.

Are those who are doubly vaccinated getting COVID-19?

■ If a person gets infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus 14 days after the second shot of the vaccine, it is called a 'breakthrough infection'. The two-week window is the time it takes for the body to produce necessary antibodies following a shot of the vaccine. A 'breakthrough infection' refers to the virus being able to penetrate the protective barrier of antibodies. There are no official estimates, nationally, of how many 'breakthrough infections' have been reported in India but news reports in mid-August, quoting unnamed officials, estimated that 80,000-100,000 people got infected, nearly half in Kerala. The State has a COVID-19 genome surveillance programme that periodically monitors the prominent coronavirus variants as well as whether some variants are more closely linked to instances of 'breakthrough infections'. According to the latest update on August 30, 7,202 coronavirus samples, or about 0.1% of its cumulative caseload of 400,000 confirmed cases, had been sequenced. A subset of those who tested positive in April, May and June had 'breakthrough infections'. The total number is not known yet, but 155 such breakthroughs were analysed, 147 of whom were fully vaccinated with Covishield and eight with Covaxin.

How significant are such infections?

■ It appears that so far breakthroughs are not translating into serious disease requiring hospitalisation. In the Kerala analysis, 151 were "mildly symptomatic" and four were asymptomatic. A third were healthcare workers, who because of prolonged and close exposure to a variety of patients are at a greater risk of contracting infection. In recent months, more studies are emerging on 'breakthrough infections'. A preprint by researchers at the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) and Max Hospitals in Delhi found that nearly a quarter of 600 fully vaccinated healthcare workers contracted the virus after vaccination. Earlier, studies from the CMC, Vellore, and PGIMER, Chandigarh, too had



Shield broken: A 'breakthrough infection' refers to the virus being able to penetrate the protective barrier of antibodies. There are no official estimates of how many such cases have been reported in India. • GETTY IMAGES

reported that between 1% and 10% of fully vaccinated healthcare workers had contracted the infection. Less than 5% needed hospitalisation and no lives were lost, indicating that vaccines were effective in preventing severe sickness and death. Internationally, the trend is not too different either. Israel and the U.S., despite high vaccination coverage, continue to report fresh cases, though the infection rate is much higher in the unvaccinated.

There was a qualitative difference between the CSIR study and the others. While the CMC and PGIMER reports showed 'breakthrough infections' as those confirmed by a gold-standard RT-PCR test, the CSIR study relied on a blood test that measured levels of antibodies directed towards the nucleocapsid region of the coronavirus, which is different from the region (spike protein) that vaccine-generated antibodies normally target. Currently, all the vaccines are designed to produce antibodies against the spike protein and so high levels of antibodies against the nucleocapsid region were presumed markers of a fresh coronavirus infection. None of the infections made the healthcare workers sick enough to warrant a test and so it could well be that the number of 'breakthrough infections' are much higher than those confirmed by RT-PCR tests. The bigger concern, however, is that those with a 'breakthrough infection', under the belief that they are fully protected, may be less stringent with using masks and could be carriers of infection. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the viral load in those with a 'breakthrough infection' can be as much as those unvaccinated, which is why

mask mandates are back despite significant vaccination

That 'breakthrough infections' occur is not a surprise. In clinical trials, all vaccines available have reported efficacy rates between 70% and 90%. This implies that between 10% and 30% of a vaccinated population will be vulnerable to infection. Vaccines, however, were

'Breakthrough infections' are not a surprise. In clinical trials, all vaccines available have reported efficacy rates between 70% and 90%. This implies that between 10%-30% of a vaccinated population will be vulnerable to infection

premised on inuring the body to disease and so far the evidence is that they are overwhelmingly effective.

Is the Delta variant responsible for the rise in cases?

■ When the underlying coronavirus variants were analysed in the Kerala study, 126 were found to have the Delta variant (B.1.617.2), nine had the Kappa variant (B.1.617.1) and six had Delta-Plus variants, that is

sub-lineages of the Delta with one or more of its defining mutations. These mutations mostly help the virus escape detection by antibodies. The India SARS-CoV-2 Genome Consortium (INSACOG), which monitors emerging variants nationally, has analysed 51,651 coronavirus genomes as of August 30. Of them, 31,721 cases were international variants of concern and among them 21,449 were Delta variants. A mere 393 cases were Delta-Plus, though many Delta variants are in the process of being reclassified as Delta-Plus (there are 13 such sublineages) because, while it does not necessarily make them more virulent or harmful, they serve as markers of an evolutionary change in the coronavirus and need to be tracked, say genome scientists. Delta has also been demonstrated to reduce antibody levels elicited by vaccines. Antibody levels are not the only measure of protection and immunity by T-cells, which cannot be easily evaluated in a lab, are also important for neutralising the virus. However, vaccine production technologies such as m-RNA and DNA are premised on their ability to be tweaked quickly for newer variants. The makers of Covaxin claim that their vaccine, being an inactivated whole virus, is geared up to be more effective against variants than other vaccines primarily targeted at the spike protein. An ICMR study showed a 65.2% protection against the Delta variant in a double-blind, randomised, multicentre, Phase 3 clinical trial of Covaxin.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

HURRIYAT CONFERENCE

The alliance after the death of its patriarch

Syed Ali Shah Geelani's death is the latest setback to the platform of many religious and political outfits which was already weak and divided

The death of Syed Ali

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Shah Geelani, the 92vear-old separatist leader in Kashmir, came as a body blow to the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, which was already divided and weak, and particularly the pro-Pakistan segment in it. Ailing and living in a houseturned-detention centre for over a decade, Geelani, who co-founded Hurriyat, died on September 1, just five months after his close aide and lieutenant Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, 78, died in a Jammu jail. The two had stirred the political cauldron of Kashmir as Jamaat-e-Islami members for around six decades. The Jamaat was banned by the Centre on February 28, 2019, two weeks after the Pulwama attack left 40 CRPF jawans dead in south Kashmir.

In Focus

Around 26

members and

outfits came

together to

Conference in

1993 after a

constitution,

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■ In 2003

differences

Hurriyat split

being loyal to

Mirwaiz Umar

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With Geelani and Sehrai dead and the Jamaat banned, the constituency that sees a solution to the Kashmir dispute in merging with Pakistan is now without a structure or a face. Masrat Alam, another prominent pro-Geelani face in the valley, who heads the Muslim League, has been in jail since 2014.

The rise

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), widely known as the Hurriyat, came into being in July 1993. It was an outcome of the armed rebellion that swept through Jammu & Kashmir in 1989. The unprecedented militancy broke out just three years after the Muslim United Front – of which Geelani and Jamaat-e-Islami were also a part – saw a crushing defeat in the polls, which was touted to be widely rigged in favour of the National Conference and its partners.

By 1993, the armed rebellion saw itself split into different ideological compartments, including those that demanded complete independence like the J&K Liberation Front (JKLF) of Yasin Malik; and those which sought a merger with Pakistan such as the Hizbul Mujahideen of Syed Salahuddin.

So, around 26 political parties, civil society members and traders' organisations came together to form the Hurriyat. In its constitution, all the parties agreed that Kashmir was a "disputed State", called for a "peaceful struggle" and a solution "as per the resolutions passed by the United Nations", which calls for the right to self-determination of people of J&K. Kashmir's head cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who was 19 years old in 1993 and had mooted the idea of forming a joint forum, became the first chairman of the amalgam that had both pro-Pakistan and pro-independence organisations in it.

wielded influence over the militant outfits and was able to control the streets, became a formidable force in the 1990s. In an address made at Burkina Faso in 1995, then Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, in an apparent offer to separatists, said "short of azadi (freedom), sky was the limit as far as the demand in Kashmir concerned".

When the special envoys from New Delhi and abroad started meeting to discuss the future of Kashmir, they demanded to see a joint political front from the Kashmir

The Hurriyat, which

Riding high on its growing popularity among the masses, the Hurriyat's call for boycotting the 1996 Assembly elections and the 1999 Lok Sabha elections saw noticeable impact on the ground, with many polling booths registering zero voter turnout.

Most Hurriyat leaders, including Geelani and Yasin Malik, were lodged in different jails for their anti-elec-

tion campaign in 1999.

Pakistan also started recognising the Hurriyat as "the sole voice" of Kashmiris. The Pakistani Embassy and visiting dignitaries from Islamabad started inviting the Hurriyat-affiliated political outfits for dinners and discussions over the Kashmir issue to the chagrin of New Delhi.

This necessitated more engagement with the Hurriyat leaders by the Centre. However, the government exploited the personality clashes within the Hurriyat to pick and choose the leaders to negotiate separately. The engagement, however, did not lead to anything concrete.

The September 11, 2001, attacks in the U.S. saw worldwide anger growing against Islamist armed movements. As the West's attention turned against Islamist militancy and started perceiving it through the prism of terrorism, the Hurrivat also saw

its goodwill waning and divisions started cropping up.

The split

The first major fissure emerged when the Hurriyat constituents accused the Peoples Conference, headed by Abdul Ghani Lone, of fielding proxy candidates in the

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The Hurriyat, which wielded influence over militant outfits and was able to control the streets, became a formidable force in the 1990s, and called for election boycotts

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2002 Assembly elections. Later, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's decision to engage with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) further deepened the divide, with Geelani raising questions about the futility of engaging New Delhi without a concrete road map for Kashmir.

As the growing differences resulted in the Hurriyat's split in 2003, 12 out of 26 constituents removed Maulana Abbas Ansari, who was pro-Mirwaiz, as its chairman and named Masrat Alam of the Muslim League, who belonged to the Geelani faction, as its head. Later, the Ansari faction met deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani in 2004 to initiate a dialogue on Kashmir. It also supported former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's fourpoint formula and advocated a triangular dialogue between Delhi-Srinagar, Delhi-Islamabad and Srinagar-Islamabad after 2005. The ouster of Musharraf from power and the end of the term of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh put the curtain on the four-point formula, which many see as the closest ever

BJP's approach

decades.

After its emphatic election victory in 2014, the BJP's approach towards the Hurrivat

Kashmir got to a final settle-

ment in the past three

The first major salvo from the BJP came in 2015 when

also steadily changed.

India put a precondition to Pakistani National Security Adviser (NSA) Sartaj Aziz not to meet Hurrivat leaders in New Delhi ahead of the NSAlevel talks. Since then, Hurriyat leaders' meetings with the Pakistani Embassy were discouraged or barred. The government started a

crackdown on the Hurriyat in 2017 when many leaders, including Mirwaiz's spokesman Shahid-ul-Islam and Geelani's son-in-law Altaf Shah, were arrested. Pro-independence JKLF banned in March 2019, immediately after the Pulwama attack, and its chairman Yasin Malik was arrested.

The frequent raids and questioning of Hurriyat leaders by the National Investigation Agency and the Enforcement Directorate silenced the separatist groups. Both Geelani and Mirwaiz were placed under house detentions. By the time the Centre ended J&K's special constitutional position on August 5.

2019, the Hurrivat factions were rendered paper tigers with no structure or manpower mobilise

The Hurriyat's inability to respond forcefully to the Centre's decision has earned it a bad name even among its supporters, who have started questioning the entire leadership. Now, with Geelani's death, the alliance faces a

The Hurriyat appears to be weakened organisationally, but the sentiment it represents still remains strong among a sizeable population of Kashmir. The Centre's recent statement that it's not going to ban the Hurriyat immediately suggests that removing the platform completely from the political landscape of J&K is not a favourable idea. The Hurriyat's absence will remove an interface between the underground militant outfits and the government. In the future, for any talks, the Centre may have to engage with militants directly, if the Hurriyat goes off the scene.

RAKESH ASTHANA

Capital commissioner

Delhi's police chief is awaiting a court ruling on his appointment

DEVESH KUMAR PANDEY

t's been just about a month since Rakesh As-Lthana, a 1984-batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre, took up his new assignment as the Delhi Police Commissioner. The appointment came about two months after Mr. Asthana's name was dropped from the CBI Director race as he did not have six months left in service, a condition laid down by the Supreme Court in 2019.

Mr. Asthana has held top posts in multiple central agencies such as the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). For a brief period, he also served as an interim chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Given his vast experience, there would be high expectations from him within the rank and file of the force. He has already initiated structural and functional changes in the Delhi Police. However, Mr. Asthana's appointment is being challenged in court by petitions filed by Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), an NGO, and one Sadre Alam.

The government's order dated July 27 allowed an inter-cadre deputation and extension of service to Mr. Asthana by one year for his appointment as Police Commissioner just days before his superannuation on July 31. The Delhi High Court has issued a notice to the government and posted the



matter for the next hearing on September 8. The High Court has also allowed an application filed by the CPIL for making it a party in the case. Earlier, the Supreme Court had asked the High Court to decide on the issue of Mr. Asthana's appointment, preferably within two

SC directive

The petitioners have contended that the appointment is a clear breach of the Supreme Court's directive as he did not have a minimum residual tenure of six months; no UPSC panel had been constituted for the appointment; and the appointment violated inter-cadre deputation policy of the All India Service Officers.

While the legal validity of the arguments of both sides would be decided in the court, it is not the first time an IPS officer of a different State cadre has been made the Police Commissioner of Delhi. Ajai Raj Sharma, a

1966-batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, had headed the force from July 1999 to June 2002.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

In the past, Mr. Asthana's appointment as the CBI Special Director on October 22, 2017, was also challenged by an NGO, Common Cause. However, after hearing the case, the Supreme Court dismissed the PIL plea, holding that the decision was not illegal. Back then, CBI Director

Alok Kumar Verma had submitted a two-page dissent note to the administrative supervisory body, Central Commission (CVC), opposing Mr. Asthana's elevation. He had mentioned that Mr. Asthana's name had come up in connection with a case involving Gujarat-based Sterling Biotech and Sandesara Group. Later, he got a clean chit in the matter.

The feud between Mr. Verma and Mr. Asthana continued for months. It culminated in the registration of

an alleged bribery case against Mr. Asthana and others in October 2018. As it turned out, he had, in a communication to the Cabinet Secretary in August 2018, highlighted the alleged irregularities on the part of Mr. Verma.

After the battle shifted to the court of law, the Central government stepped in to divest both officers of their responsibilities after a CVC recommendation. A special investigation team was set up to look into the charges against the two officers. Mr. Asthana was later cleared of the allegations.

Born in 1961 in Ranchi [then in Bihar], Mr. Asthana did his schooling from Netarhat School and pursued higher studies in St. Xavier's College (Ranchi) and then in Jawaharlal Nehru University. Among the cases pursued by Mr. Asthana were the Purulia arms drop case and the fodder scam. He headed the probe into the 2002 Godhra train burning case in which 59 Hindu pilgrims were killed.

In January 2019, Mr. Asthana was appointed BCAS chief and in July, he was given the additional charge of the NCB. He then became the BSF Director-General in August 2020. Under his supervision, the NCB conducted investigations into the drug smuggling allegations after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, and made several arrests, including that of Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Sho-

JALLIANWALA BAGH

Monument of a massacre

Renovations spark a controversy on how the killings should be remembered

DAMINI NATH

debate over how the Jallianwala Bagh massacre should be remembered was sparked off last week after the government unveiled the renovated look of the site, leading some historians to say history was being distorted.

Should the site of the brutal killing of Indians by British forces on April 13, 1919 be restored to the state it was in on that day, a largely barren ground at the end of a narrow entrance where victims became trapped, or should it be spruced up for visitors today and in the future? For the Culture Ministry, which supervised the renovation work carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and NBCC India, a government-owned construction company, the changes were required to preserve the site and make it more visitor-friendly. Some historians, however, argued that turning the site into a well-manicured garden and covering the entrance corridor with bright metallic murals was an attempt at changing history.

Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar was closed for renovations for about a year-and-ahalf till Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated it to the nation on August 28. Four new galleries were also inaugurated by the Prime Minister that day. The well in which victims jumped to their deaths trying to escape the bullets has been cleaned and cordoned off with glass.



light show and new amenities for visitors have been created.

The project was designed by a Gujarat-based company, Vama Communications, which has in the past developed museums on Mahatma Gandhi in Gujarat as well as the National Police Museum in Delhi. While inaugurating the renovated memorial, Mr. Modi said the new look of Jallianwala Bagh would inspire Indians for years to come. "It is the responsibility of every nation to preserve its history," he

A site of protests

Before Independence, Jallianwala Bagh was one of a site of protests and meetings. Professor Amandeep Bal, head of the history department at Amritsar's Guru Nanak Dev University, said the site may have been a "bagh" [garden] earlier, but was a barren ground with a few trees in 1919. Surround-

ed by the back walls of houses in the cramped Walled City, the bagh remained a site for protests and meetings till 1947. On the day of what became the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, it was the festival of Baisakhi. People had gathered at the site to protest against the arrest of freedom fighters Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal a few days earlier.

Forces under the command of General Reginald Dyer opened fire on the unarmed crowd. The exact number of deaths that day remains unclear. Prof. Bal said that while the government had a list of 379 victims, another list of 492 names was found at the DC's office and committees headed by Madan Mohan Malviya and the Congress estimated the figure to be around 1,500 and 1,200, respectively. Guru Nanak Dev University has been tasked with researching the exact number of martyrs by the Punjab Government, a task, Prof.

Bal said, is a tough one given that many families did not come forward in the aftermath of the massacre. Among the documents, she said, are mentions of a large number of unidentified bodies. While the exact number of martyrs, hundreds or thousands, is unknown, Prof. Bal says one thing is clear. "Massacres should be remembered, not celebrated. When visitors enter the place, they should automatically bow their heads. The atmosphere should be very sombre"

Over the years, starting with the creation of a trust after 1947 and landscaping in 1974, Prof. Bal said there have been changes to the site. The latest round of changes, some say, have gone too far. Retired Jawaharlal Nehru University professor Chaman Lal said renovations of heritage sites should be limited to strengthening the structures to increase longevity, not changing the appearance. London-based historian Kim A. Wagner, whose book Amritsar 1919: An Empire of Fear and the Making of a Massacre tells the story of the events leading up to massacre and its aftermath, went as far as saying the last traces of the event had effectively been erased.

Responding to some of the criticism, Culture Secretary Raghvendra Singh said the "conservation was carried out under direct supervision of the ASI" and that "there was nothing factually incorrect".

A ND-NDE

Vodafone Idea pays ₹149 cr. to Franklin MF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund said it had received a payment of close to ₹149 crore from Vodafone Idea Ltd. as interest on its securities investment, which will be distributed among investors of the segregated portfolios.

"The interest amounting to ₹148.75 crore due from Vodafone Idea Ltd. on September 3, 2021 for the security...(Non-convertible debenture) held in the segregated portfolio of five schemes has been received," a Franklin Templeton MF spokesperson said.

Of the six debt schemes of the fund house, which were wound up in April 2020, five had made investments in the telecom firm.

India urges early TRIPS waiver ruling on COVID shots at WTO

Goyal makes pitch at meeting attended by BRICS trade and economic ministers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India has pitched for an early outcome of the TRIPS waiver proposal for CO-VID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the government said in a release on Saturday.

Addressing a meeting attended by trade and economic ministers of BRICS countries on Friday, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal also stressed on finding a permanent, adequate and equitable solution to the public stock holding programmes for food security purposes.

The minister emphasised



Common cause: In May, 62 nations including India, South Africa and Indonesia sent in a revised proposal. • REUTERS

"the need for a permanent, adequate and equitable solution to the Public Stock Holding programmes for food security purposes; early outcome of the TRIPS Waiver proposal for vaccines,"

the government said.

In October 2020, India and South Africa had submitted the first proposal, suggesting a waiver for all WTO members on the implementation of certain provisions of the TRIPs Agreement in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of COVID-19.

In May this year, a revised proposal was submitted by 62 co-sponsors, including India, South Africa, and Indonesia. Mr. Goyal also said the BRICS countries should work together for strengthening the multilateral system, stating that there was a need for a balanced and inclusive outcome in the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference.

"In this era of exponential jump in the use of e-commerce... a common action plan among BRICS countries will help," it said.

DRL sells anti-cancer agent to Citius Pharma

Drug firm to receive \$40 mn upfront

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories said it had agreed to sell all rights to E7777, an investigational anti-cancer agent, and certain related assets to Citius Pharmaceuticals Inc.

In March 2016, it had acquired exclusive global rights, excluding for Japan and Asia, to E7777 (an engineered IL-2-diphtheria toxin fusion protein) from Japan's Eisai Co.

Dr. Reddy's will receive \$40 million upfront on closing of the transaction followed by a milestone payment of up to \$40 million related to the CTCL (cutaneous T-cell lymphoma) indication approval and up to



\$70 million for additional indication approvals. Further, it will receive certain salesbased milestones and tiered earn-out payments, the drugmaker said in a release on Saturday.

E7777 has significant potential as an important component of systemic therapy for CTCL and other cancers. your products are benchmarks'

INTERVIEW | RAHUL MAMMEN

Flexibility is the key in today's environment, says MRF MD

'Challenge of being a leader is

N. ANAND

MRF, which started off as a toy balloon maker about 75 years ago, is now among the largest tyre manufacturers in the country. Going forward, the company plans to continue its focus on the core areas of product performance and distribution, MD Rahul Mammen said in an e-mail interview. Excerpts:

MRF has completed its 75th year in an unusual environment. Can you trace its growth path?

■ In my view, this has been a truly remarkable journey over the last 75 years. Considering the fact that MRF was once the weakest player in the tyre industry, with no real technology, and today to say we are the market leader, is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the MRF team.

The core focus area of MRF has always been to develop the best performing products in every segment it operates in. Our R&D and manufacturing teams have ensured that all the actions we take are targeted towards meeting this objective.

I would say product performance and strong distribution system are the fundamental building blocks for MRF's success.

How do you deal with competition?

■ The competition in the Indian tyre industry is extremely intense.

The challenge of being a leader is that your products are most often the benchmarks the competition is trying to beat. In terms of how

we plan to face the competition, I feel it is essential we continue to focus on our core areas of product performance and distribution.

What is your perspective of the tyre industry, new opportunities, and the

electric vehicle segment?

■ We are positive on the prospects of the tyre industry in India. The fact that all the major global tyre companies have also invested in India is a clear indication that even international companies have a positive outlook on India. It is too early to talk about opportunities in future, as we are still not too clear on how the trend will be post the pandemic.

The electric vehicle segment is in an early stage and we are watching the developments in this industry. The steps that the major vehicle manufacturers take will have an impact on the entire industry.

How are you managing rising input costs, and global semiconductor and container shortages?

■ Flexibility is key when operating in today's environment. With the improved coordination between teams, we have been able to manage the disruptions.

In terms of chip shortage, we are seeing its impact on our key original equipment customers, causing them to change their production plans which we have to adapt to.

Have you passed on the higher input costs to your customers?

■ When you look at the results this quarter, it is important to put it in the right

The results this quarter look very good when compared to the same period last year because we had virtually zero revenue last April and sales were at much lower levels in May and June last year due to the pandemic.

When we compare the results to the preceding quarter ending in March 2021, you will see that profits have come down by 50%, which was due to the unprecedented increase in raw material cost we are currently facing.

We have taken selling price increases, but it was not enough to cover the cost escalation.

What is the capital expenditure plan for the current fiscal year?

■ We are closely watching the demand pattern and this year's profitability to take a expenditure.

You have huge reserves. What are you going to do with them?

Our reserves help us absorb extreme volatility in profit margins like we are seeing today and also to sustain a reasonable capex spending going forward.

'Demand revival to facilitate 33% jump in textile exports'

Several factors favour Indian exporters: Textiles Secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Demand for textile and clothing from India has revived, particularly in the U.S., EU and U.K. markets, and lends confidence that the industry can achieve a 33% growth in exports this financial year, said Upendra Prasad Singh, Secretary, Union Ministry of Textiles.

Asserting that several factors were now in favour of Indian exporters, with many tops brands looking at alternative sources to China and that India was one of the main options, Mr. Singh said that government policies, especially RoSCTL and RoD-

TV PICKS

Tokyo 2020 Paralympics: DD Sports & Eurosport (SD &

HD), 5.45 a.m.; Closing Ceremony, DD Sports & Euros-

port (SD & HD), 3.45 p.m

onwards **England vs India**: Fourth

Test, day 4, Sony Six & Sony

European WC 2022 Qualifiers: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD),

6.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m. & 12.15

F1: Dutch GP: SS Select 2 (SD

US OPEN 2021: SS Select 1 &

2 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m. & 2

Ten 3 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.



TEP, would help exporters this year. Textile and clothing exports had been almost stagnant for the last seven years at less than \$40 billion, the Secretary told The Hindu on Saturday.

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Tex-

Goyal had on Friday urged the industry to aim to raise textile and clothing exports to \$100 billion, from \$33 billion, at the earliest and called on them to lift domestic output to \$250 billion. Stakeholders should col-

lectively look at achieving \$44 billion exports in 2021-2022 for textiles and apparel, including handicrafts, Goyal told exporters. The different segments of the industry should support each other so that India was able to tap opportunities across the value chain in the

tiles, Consumer Affairs and

Public Distribution, Pivush

summit clash

meet Sood in

Qamar to

Fardeep Qamar beat top seed Chandril Sood 6-4, 7-6 (2) to set up a title clash against Anuj Malik in the ₹100,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament here on Saturday. Anuj beat Chandril's twin brother Lakshit Sood 6-1, 6-4 in the other semifinal.

The results (semifinals): Fardeen Qamar bt Chandril Sood 6-4, 7-6(2); Anuj Malik bt Lakshit Sood 6-1, 6-4.

Ouarterfinals: Chandril Sood bt Chinmay Dev Chauhan 7-5, 6-0; Fardeep Qamar bt Neerai Yashpaul 6-2, 6-4: Lakshit Sood bt Jagmeet Singh 6-2, 6-0; Anuj Malik bt Amit Bzad 6-4, 6-4.

Pooja reigns

In the ₹1,00,000 AITA women's ranking tennis tournament at Jhajjar, third seed Pooja Ingale emerged champion, beating the top seed Jagmeet Kaur 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 in the final on Saturday.

(2) Zervan 56, 5. Kensington (7) Antony Raj 56, 6. Knotty Dancer

(8) A. Imran Khan 56, 7. Southern

Dynasty (6) C.S. Jodha 56, 8

bridge (3) Neeraj 56 and 10. Zuc

carelli (9) P.S. Chouhan 56.

1. FALCON EDGE.

3. ZUCCARELLI

2. SPINOZA,

Spinoza (5) Trevor 56, 9. Stock-

SHAPHIR PLATE (DIV. II)

Holder Gokulam leads the charge

Five ISL sides will also be seen in action

DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA KOLKATA

Defending champion Gokulam Kerala FC will lead the charge in the 130th edition of the Durand Cup football, which gets underway here at the Salt Lake Stadium on Sunday. The opening match will see local outfit Mohammedan Sporting taking on Indian Air Force in a group A

The initial league stage will feature a total of 16 teams divided into four groups. With the tournament coming just ahead of

pre-season a total of five ISL sides will be seen in action.

The knock-out stage starts with the quarterfinals on September 23 while the semifinals are schedule on September 27 and 28. The final is on October 3.

Impressive

The most impressive among the participants is FC Goa, which has committed four foreigners with Spain's Edu Bedia the standout. The other ISL teams like Hyderabad FC, Jamshedpur FC, Kerala Blasters and Bengaluru FC

will have a mix of age-group

the Indian Super League and first team players.

Gokulam Kerala FC has announced a squad that is a mix of young recruits from the hinterland in north Kerala and three foreign signings under Italian head coach Vincenzo Alberto Annese. Sudeva Delhi FC and Mohammedan Sporting are the other two I-League teams in

the fray. Delhi Football Club and FC Bengaluru United are the two Second Division clubs while Army Red and Green, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, CRPF and Assam Rifles are the six defence and paramilitary sides.

Tiana shows Aishwarya the door

Anjali gets the better of Janet in straight games

SQUASH

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GREATER NOIDA

Tiana Parasrampuria knocked out fourth seed Aishwarya Khubchandani 9-11, 11-3, 5-11, 11-3, 11-9 in the women's pre-quarterfinals of the HCL PSA Challenger squash tournament here on Saturday. Tiana will play Anjali Semwal in the quarterfinals. Anjali beat the fifth seed Janet Vidhi in three straight games.

Akshaya Sri beat eighth seed Aradhana Kasturiraj to set up a quarterfinal against Tanvi Khanna, the champion of the last event in Chennai. Young Anahat Singh won two rounds against quality players to set up a quarterfinal against top seed Sunayna Kuruvilla.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Men: Abhishek Agarwal bt Mohit Bhatt 12-10, 11-1, 12-14, 11-5; Sandeep Ramachandran bt Kanhav Nanavati 11-6. 11-5. 11-8: Jaideep Sethi bt Rounak Yadav 13-11, 11-9, 11-7;



Good day: Anahat Singh won two rounds against quality players. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mammen 11-3, 11-9, 11-7; Navaneeth Prabhu bt Ravi Dixit 11-9, 8-3 (retd.).

Women: Sunayna Kuruvialla bt Sunita Patel 11-7, 11-3, 11-3; Anahat Singh bt Rathika Seelan 11-8. 11-8. 11-7: Abhisheka Shannon bt Radhika Rathore 11-4, 11-9, 12-10; Urwashi Joshi

11-5; Tiana Parasrampuria bt Aishwarya Khubchandani 9-11, 11-3, 5-11, 11-3, 11-9. Anjali Semwal bt Janet Vidhi

bt Shameena Riaz 11-4, 11-4,

11-8, 11-8, 11-1; Akshaya Sri bt Aaradhana Kasturiraj 11-3, 11-9, 11-3; Tanvi Khanna bt Mithali Surana 11-5, 11-6, 11-3.

goes in vain

vain as Delhi Capital's managed to script a narrow 12-run victory over Florence Cricket Academy in the Push Academy (u-13) league on Saturday. The score: Delhi Capitals 138

in 31.2 overs (Mohak Kumar 45: Aarav Jeph 3/26) bt Florence Cricket Academy 126 in 38 overs (Rihaan Kohai 50).

Mario Mandzukic announces retirement

Iconic Croatian striker Mario Mandzukic has retired from the game, three years after playing

his last international. AFF

Abhinand takes 1500m gold

BHUBANESWAR Army's Abhinand Sundaresan clocked a personal best 3:45.83s and won the 1500m gold in the 70th Services athletics championships at the Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday.

The gold medallists: Men: 1500m: Abhinand Sundaresan (Army) 3:45.83s. 10,000m: Kartik Kumar (Army) 30:49.38s. 400m hurdles: Dhaval Utekar (Air Force) 51.20s. High jump: V. Bharathi (2.19m). Hammer: Jaswinder Singh (61.08m). **4x100m** relay: Navy (Naitam Saurabh Rajesh, Mohammed Sadath, Muhammed Ajmal, K.S. Pranav) 40.08s. Decathlon:

Usaid Khan (6978 pts).

Manu still enjoys lead

Chikkarangappa cards a six-under 61 to be T-2

GOLF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Gurugram's Manu Gandas maintained his overnight five-shot advantage with a three-under 64 in round three of the Vooty & Haldisponsored Golconda Masters Telangana Open golf championship at the Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA) course.

Manu (64-58-64), looking for his maiden win, totalled 20-under 186 after three days. He mixed an eagle and three birdies with two bogeys in the penultimate round.

Bengaluru's Chikkarangappa (67-63-61), the 2019 champion, shot a six-under 61 to rise three spots to tied second place at 15-under 191. The others in joint second place were Chandigarh's Yuvraj Singh Sandhu (67-62-62) and Noida's Amardeep Malik (66-61-64), who fired

HYDERABAD: Trainer R.H. Se-

queira's Falcon Edge who is un-beaten in his last four starts, is in

rousing form and should win the Deccan Colts Championship Stakes (Gr. 3), the stellar attrac-tion of Sunday's (Aug. 5) races.

1 BLUE PETER PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.30 p.m.: 1. Blue

Label (6) Nakhat Singh 56, 2. Diz-

izdtymtowin (10) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 3. Sharp Mind (5) P. Gaddam

56, 4, Aarva (2) C. Umesh 54.5, 5.

Ahanu (7) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 6. An-

gelita (4) Kuldeep Singh 54.5, 7. Cabello (1) G. Naresh 54.5, 8. Des-

pang (8) Mukesh Kumar 54.5, 9.

Exotic Dancer (9) Ashad Asbar

54.5, 10. Hot Seat (3) Akshav Ku-

mar 54.5 and 11. Lucky Lady (11) P.

1. DESPANG, 2. HOT SEAT, 3. DIZIZDTYMTOWIN

) BLUE PETER PLATE (DIV. II)

∠ (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3

y-o only (Cat. II), 2.05: 1. Cosmico (8) Rafique Sk. 56, 2. Sea Of Class

(11) Mukesh Kumar 56, 3. That's My Way (6) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 4.

Challenger (4) C.P. Bopanna 54.5, 5. Good Tidings (3) Md. Ismail

54.5, 6. Halle Berry (1) Surya

Sai Kumar 54.5.



In his element: Chikkarangappa's display was among the best of the day. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

third round scores of fiveunder 62 and three-under

64 respectively. The 25-year-old Manu had a rather sedate front-nine on Saturday as he missed several short birdie putts and also bogeved the seventh after finding the water hazard. His only bright spot on the frontnine was the up and down from the bunker for par on

Manu then got going on the back-nine to reassert his

dominance. He birdied the 10th and 11th thanks to a couple of brilliant tee shots. After a good chip-putt for birdie on the 14th, he came up with another outstanding tee shot on the par-4 15th where he drove the green and converted a seven-footer for eagle.

The scores: 1. Manu Gandas (20-under 186), 2. Amardeep Malik; Yuvraj Singh Sandhu & S. Chikkarangappa (15-under

In-form Falcon Edge for the feature event Prakash 54.5, 7. N R I Sugar (5) Ak-Ismail 58, 5. King Maker (2) C.S. Akshay Kumar 56, 4. Fire Power

shay Kumar 54.5, 8. Racing Rani (2) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 9. Rising Queen (7) Abhay Singh 54.5, 10. Sally (10) A.A. Vikrant 54.5 and 11. Shelly Anne (9) G. Naresh 54.5.

1. HALLE BERRY, 2. N R I SUGAR, 3. **J** GOLDEN BABY PLATE (DIV. I)

J (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.40: 1. Cosmic Run (6) Kiran Naidu 61, 2. Call Of The Blue (8) Gaurav Singh 60, 3. Colachel Battle (4) Trevor 60, 4. Committed Warrior (2) Koushik 57.5, 5. Big Brave (10) S.S. Tanwar 57, 6. Muaser (3) Nakhat Singh 56, 7. Rhythm Selection (11) Kuldeen Bopanna 54.5, 9. Thunder Road (7) B. Nikhil 52 and 11. Sputnic (5) Ajeeth Kumar 50. 1. COLACHEL BATTLE.

3. MUASER

4 SHAPHIR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.15: 1. N R I Elegance (1) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. Private Empire (5) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 3. Dandy Man (9) Ashad Asbar 58.5, 4. Incredulous (11) Md.

Jodha 56.5, 6. City Of Wisdom (6) Mukesh Kumar 56, 7. Once More (7) Nakhat Singh 55.5, 8. Lockhart (3) Ajeeth Kumar 55, 9. Rapid Fire (4) A.A. Vikrant 55, 10. Red Snaper (8) C. Umesh 54.5 and 11. Sublime (10) Santosh Raj 53.

1. PRIVATE EMPIRE, 2. CITY OF WISDOM, 3. LOCKHART

N.B. Kuldeep 61, 2. Siyavash (9) Ashad Asbar 59.5, 3. Blickfang (1) ASDAT 99.5, 3. BICKHANG (1)
Md. Ismail 58, 4. Brisbane (2)
Surya Prakash 57, 5. Explosive
(10) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 6. Nearest
(8) G. Naresh 56.5, 7. Star Dancer
(7) Kiran Naidu 55.5, 8. Royal Pal
(5) Nakaht Singh 54, 9. Story
Teller (4) R.S. Iodha 52, 5, 10 Teller (4) R.S. Jodha 52.5, 10. Franklin (3) Akshay Kumar 52 and 11. Healthandhappiness (6) San-1. BRISBANE, 2. STAR DANCER,

DECCAN COLTS CHAMPION-

6 SHIP STAKES (Gr. III) (1,600m),

gelico (4) Sandesh 56, 2. Aries (1)

Bhawani 56, 3. Falcon Edge (10)

3. FRANKLIN

(1,400m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 5.00: 1. Full Volume (2) Ajit Singh 60, 2. Blazer (9) C. Umesh 59.5, 3. Balius (1) Gaurav Singh 59, 4. Shaquille (10) Ashad Asbar 57.5, 5. City Of Blossom (8) Mukesh Kumar 56.5. mar 56.5, 7, Max (6) Zervan 56, 8, N R I Magic (7) A.A. Vikrant 56, 9. Super Angel (4) Abhay Singh 55 10. Blazing Jupiter (5) B. 1. BALIUS, 2. MAX, 3. N R I MAGIC

Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 5, 6 & 7. Tanala: All races.

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Day's Best: COLACHEL BATTLE

Abishek Pradhan bt Tarun



IN BRIEF Rihaan's half-century Rihaan Kohar's 50 proved in

a.m. (Monday)

& HD), 6.30 p.m.

a.m. (Monday)

Golden delight for shuttler Pramod and marksman Manish

Singhraj claims silver for his second medal of the games; bronze for Manoj; Suhas and Krishna a match away from winning gold

PARALYMPICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manish Narwal Shooter smashed a Games record while shuttler Pramod Bhagat yet again asserted his supremacy with a gold-winning performance as India's tally swelled to 17 after a four-medal show on a memorable penultimate day at the Tokyo Paralympics, here Saturday.

More medals are in store on the final day on Sunday with badminton stars Suhas Yathiraj and Krishna Nagar sailing into the men's singles finals of SL4 class and SH6 class respectively.

Tarun Dhillon too stayed in contention for a bronze after losing his semifinals while the duo of Pramod and Palak Kohli will also feature in the third-place play-off in the mixed SL3-SL5 class.

India has four gold, seven silver and six bronze medals to be placed 26th with one day left in the Games.

Record-breaking effort

The 19-year-old debutant Manish shot a total of 218.2, a Paralympic record, for gold in P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 event while Singhraj (216.7) bagged silver to make it a sensational one-two finish for the country. Singhraj Adhana had won the bronze in the P1 men's 10m air pistol SH1 event on Tuesday.

Pramod humbled Great Britain's Daniel Bethell 21-14, 21-17 in the men's singles SL3 class final for a historic yellow metal.

With badminton making its debut, World champion and pre-tournament favourite Pramod became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the sport.

Compatriot Manoj Sarkar bagged a bronze after defeating Japan's Daisuke Fujihara 22-20, 21-13 in the third place play-off.

In SL3 classification, athletes with lower limb impairment compete.

"This is very special to me, it's my dream come true. Bethell really pushed me but I just kept my calm and played to my strengths," said Pramod after his 45-minute summit clash. "I would like to dedicate this to my parents and to everyone who has supported me throughout. I'm glad I could make India

In SL4 class, Suhas outwitted Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan 21-9, 21-15 to set up a final against Lucas Mazur. Tarun, who went down narrowly 16-21, 21-16, 18-21 to Mazur will face Setiawan for the bronze.

Krishna, seeded second, outplayed Great Britain's Krysten Coombs 21-10, 21-11 in the SH6 class semifinals. He will cross swords with Hong Kong's Chu Man Kai for the

In the men's F41 javelin throw, Navdeep finished fourth with a best throw of 40.80m. Shooter Avani Lekhara will be the contingent's flag-bearer during the closing ceremony on Sunday.



- Born: Faridabad,
- Event: P1 men's 10m air pistol SH1, P4 mixed 50m pistol SH1
- World rank: No.2 in 50m pistol; No.4 in 10m air pistol
- Coach: Jai Prakash Nautiyal, Subhash Rana

- 50m free pistol Gold in Tokyo Paralympics
- Gold with a world record in 50m free pistol and team silver in the 2021 Al Ain World Cup
- Three gold medals in team events and a silver in the 2019 Osijek World Cup
- Three gold medals and a bronze in the 2018 Chateauroux World Cup
- Gold with an Asian record in air pistol and silver medal in free pistol in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para Games
- Arjuna Award in 2020

BACKGROUND

■ Shoots with his left hand because of a congenital impairment to his right. He was introduced to the sport by coach Rakesh Thakur in Ballabgarh and started shooting in 2016. As a junior, he won the air pistol gold with a world record, in his maiden international competition at the 2017 Bangkok World Cup

COMPILED BY V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM AND KAMESH SRINIVASAN

The Pramod file

Age: 33 | Born: Attabira, Odisha

- Event: SL3 Para-Badminton
- World rank: No. 1 in SL3 singles
- Training base: GKEBA Academy, Lucknow
- Coaches: Shiba Prasad Das (personal) & Gaurav Khanna (National)

BACKGROUND

■ Pramod, who hails from a family of farmers. was infected with polio at the age of five. Inadequate treatments caused deformity in his leg. He started focusing on badminton in 2002 while playing a district-level tournament and beating able-bodied players. There he met Shiba Prasad Das (a parabadminton champion) who helped Pramod. He won gold in the 2005 Para badminton Nationals and got selected for 2006 FESPIC Games but couldn't comnete because of his ailing father Kailash, who passed

away. His mother Kusum Devi raised six children

took to coaching in a school in Bargarh district

all by herself and Pramod took up a job along with

badminton training. Due to financial constraints, he

■ SL3 singles Gold in Tokyo Paralympics ■ Gold medals in singles and doubles in the 2019 Basel BWF Para-Badminton World Championships Singles gold and bronze doubles in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para Games ■ Bronze in the 2017 Ulsan BWF Para-Badminton World Championships ■ Bronze in the 2014 Incheon Asian Para Games

The Manoi file

HONOURS

Age: 31 | Born: Uttarakhand | Event: SL3 Sport Para-Badminton ■ World rank: 3 in singles and 1 in doubles

- Training base: GKEBA Academy, Lucknow
- Personal & National coach: Gaurav Khanna

HONOURS

Arjuna Award in 2019

■ SL3 singles Bronze in Tokyo **Paralympics**

- Silver in the 2014 Incheon
- Bronze in singles and doubles in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para Games
- Three doubles gold (2013, 2015, 2019), singles silver in 2017, singles bronze (2015, 2019), and mixed doubles bronze in the 2013 BWF Para-Badminton World championships

Arjuna Award in 2018

BACKGROUND

■ Manoj, who was struck by polio during his teenage years has been a regular in both singles and doubles categories. He played his first Nationals in 2011 where he won gold in singles and a bronze

in doubles. Since then, he has had a haul of 38 gold medals in the National circuit at the senior level

Rohit and Pujara in good touch as India fights back

Give the visitors a lead of 171 with seven wickets remaining

INDIA IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Rohit Sharma scored his first Test century overseas before England's Ollie Robinson took two wickets in the first over with the new ball on an enthralling day of fluctuating fortunes at The Oval on Saturday.

India was 270 for three in its second innings when bad light ended the third day of the fourth Test, a sizeable lead of 1/1 with seven wickets in hand. The visitors were on the

brink of batting the hosts completely out of the game when England captain Joe Root took the new ball as soon as he could with India 236 for one off 80 overs.

It paid immediate dividends as Rohit, on 127, mistimed a pull off a Robinson delivery that 'stayed' in the pitch and Chris Woakes ran from fine-leg to long-leg to take the catch.

It was the end of an excellent second-wicket partnership of 153 in 46 overs between Rohit and Cheteshwar Pujara.

Five balls later, Pujara was dismissed as well, his valuable knock of 61 coming to an end when an inside-edge off Robinson flew to Moeen Ali at slip. India was now 237 for three, with two fresh batsmen in captain Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja, again promoted up the order ahead of the struggling Ajinkya Rahane, facing a rejuvenated England attack.

Soon afterwards, even though the floodlights were on, the umpires informed Root that it was too dangerous for the fast bowlers to continue.

Root bowled his off-breaks and those of frontline spinner Moeen for a couple of overs before deciding to not run the risk of India extending its lead. Kohli, without a Test hundred for nearly two years, was unbeaten on 22 while Jadeja was not out on

Earlier, opener Rohit may have been missed twice in the slips by Rory Burns, but few would begrudge the 34year-old his eighth century in 43 Tests, and the first in 25 matches overseas.

Having taken 145 balls to reach the slowest half-century of his Test career, Rohit upped the tempo and needed just 59 more deliveries to complete a hundred. He reached the landmark in style, lofting off-spinner Moeen for a superb six over

Pujara provided excellent

Wimbledon 1R

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS 191 in 61.3 overs **ENGLAND - IST INNINGS** 290 in 84 overs INDIA – 2ND INNINGS

Rohit Sharma c Woakes b Robinson 127 (256b, 14x4, 1x6), K.L. Rahul c Bairstow b Anderson 46 (101b, 6x4, 1x6), Cheteshwar Pujara c Moeen b Robinson 61 (127b, 9x4), Virat Kohli (batting) 22 (37b, 4x4), Ravindra Jadeja (batting) 9 (33b, 2x4); Extras (lb-3, nb-2): 5; Total (for three wkts. in 92 overs): 270.

1-83 (Rahul, 33.6 overs), 2-236 (Rohit, 80.1), 3-237 (Pujara,

ENGLAND BOWLING Anderson 23-8-49-1, Robinson

21-4-67-2, Woakes 19-5-43-0, Overton 10-0-38-0, Moeen 15-0-63-0, Root 4-1-7-0.

support after overcoming an ankle injury that required on-field treatment.

The fact that Pujara, too, counter-attacked helped Rohit's cause. The No. 3 batman played some gorgeous shots, including a late cut and a ramp shot, that were well appreciated by the Oval crowd. Pujara hit nine fours, the pull off Moeen giving India the lead.

Rohit's partner K.L. Rahul made 46 before edging James Anderson to wicketkeeper



Special one: Rohit hit his first Test century overseas, and eighth overall. • GETTY IMAGES

Opening was my last chance: Rohit

S. DIPAK RAGAV

On a day when he scored his first Test century away from home, Rohit Sharma said the decision to open the innings back in 2019 was one of the biggest decisions of his

"At the back of my mind I knew this was the last chance for me, trying another position in the batting order," said Rohit, after making 127 on day three of the fourth Test on Satur

"Mentally I was prepared for it. I wanted to take up that challenge and see how I performed at the top of the order. I had batted in the middle-order before that and things didn't turn out the way I wanted them to. I knew this was going to be my last opportunity.

"When you are playing a sport, you always have to take those chances. I would say that I was very much ready for it."

About the state of the match, the Mumbai batsman said, "We are in a good position but they still have a new ball. The first hour on Sunday will be crucial. If we bat well, we have a good chance."

IN BRIEF Janneman Malan, Shamsi

help SA level series

Opening batsman Janneman Malan hit 121 (135b, 9x4, 1x6) to set up a comfortable 67-run series-levelling win for South Africa in the rain-hit second One-Day International against Sri Lanka on Saturday, South Africa scored 283 for six in 47 overs of the reduced match with Malan scoring his third ODI ton after the tourists

elected to bat. Sri Lanka was bowled out 197 in 36.4 overs, with Tabraiz Shamsi claiming five wickets, after a DLS revised target of 265 from 41 overs following a second rain interruption.

The scores: South Africa 283/6 in 50 overs (Malan 121, Hendricks 51, Klaasen 43) bt Sri Lanka 197 in 36.4 overs (Karunaratne 36, Shamsi 5/49). [Target revised to 265 in 41 overs]. Toss: South Africa. MoM: Malan. AFP



Verstappen pips Hamilton to pole at Dutch GP

Max Verstappen put Red Bull on pole position for his home Dutch Grand Prix on Saturday, with Formula One rival and championship leader Lewis Hamilton alongside. Alfa Romeo's Kimi Raikkonen tested positive for COVID-19 and

The starting grid: Row 1: Verstappen (Red Bull), Hamilton (Mercedes); 2: Bottas (Mercedes), Gasly (AlphaTauri); 3: Leclerc (Ferrari), Sainz Jr. (Ferrari); 4: Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo), Ocon (Alpine); 5: Alonso (Alpine), Ricciardo (McLaren); 6: Russell (Williams), Stroll (Aston Martin); 7: Norris (McLaren), Latifi (Williams); 8: Tsunoda (AlphaTauri), Perez (Red Bull); 9: Vettel (Aston Martin), Kubica (Alfa Romeo); 10: Mick Schumacher (Haas), Mazepin (Haas).

driver Robert Kubica

Who are Leylah and Alcaraz?

- Turned Pro: 2019
- Grand Slam debut:

- 66 (June 14, 2021)
- I guess I wanted to stay on court a little bit longer. I wanted to put on a show for everyone here. An hour
- was just not enough for me on court **LEYLAH** after her two-hour four-minute

- Country: Canada Current ranking: 73 ■ Coached by Romain Deridder and father, Jorge Fernandez Australian Open 1R
- French Open 2R 2020 Australian
- Career singles Highest singles ranking:
- At 18, she was the youngest in the main draw of the Monterrey Open in March 2021, Went on to emerge champion without dropping

- Country: Spain | Current ranking: 55 Coach: Juan Carlos Ferrero ■ Turned Pro: 2018

 - Grand Slam debut: 2021 Australian Open ■ Career singles titles: 1
 - Highest singles ranking: 54 (August 2, 2021) ■ The 18-year-old progressed to the third round at Roland Garros this year as a qualifier,
 - becoming the youngest to reach that stage after the 17-year-old Nadal at the 2004 Australian Open
 - epic match. For me, it's a

COMPILED BY P. SATISH KUMAR

- IN GRAND SLAMS 2021 Australian Open 2R French Open 3R Wimbledon 2R I can't believe that I beat Stefanos Tsitsipas in an
- dream come true

Fernandez dethrones an agitated Osaka

Defending champion to take a break from tennis; Alcaraz outlasts Tsitsipas

U.S. OPEN

REUTERS

Defending champion Naomi Osaka and third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas became highprofile casualties in the third round of the U.S. Open on Friday as two 18-year-olds announced themselves on the big stage by advancing to the last-16 for the first time.

Two-time champion Osaka's title defence ended in tears as she suffered a stunning 5-7, 7-6(2), 6-4 loss to Canadian Leylah Fernandez and the Japanese, who uncharacteristically lost her cool during the match, said she planned to take a break from the sport.

Osaka said she will take an indefinite break from playing tennis. "Basically I feel like I'm kind of at this point

where I'm trying to figure out what I want to do," said Osaka, wiping away a tear at the media session. "I honestly don't know when I'm going to play my next tennis match. I think I'm going to take a break from playing for a

With that, she put on a mask, rose from her chair and ended the session.

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, the heir apparent to Rafael Nadal, upset Tsitsipas 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(2), 0-6, 7-6(5) to move into the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the first time in his career.

"This victory means a lot to me. It's the best match, the best win of my career," said Alcaraz, who was not distracted by another infamous bathroom break from the Greek who was jeered by the crowd.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Third round: 6-Berrettini (Ita) bt Ivashka (Blr) 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; Tiafoe (USA) bt 5-Rublev (Rus) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(6), 4-6, 6-1; 12-Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt 18-Bautista Agut (Esp) 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3; Alcaraz (Esp) bt 3-Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(2), 0-6, 7-6(5);2-Medvedev (Rus) bt Andujar (Esp) 6-0, 6-4, 6-3.

Women: Third round: 17-Sakkari (Gre) bt 10-Kvitova (Cze) 6-4, 6-3; 11-Bencic (Sui) bt 23-Pegula (USA) 6-2, 6-4; 6-Andreescu (Can) bt Minnen (Bel) 6-1, 6-2; 5-Svitolina (Ukr) bt 25-

Second seeds Daniil Medvedev and Aryna Sabalenka advanced with straight-set victories in their third round matches.

German Angelique Kerber defeated Sloane Stephens 5-7, 6-2, 6-3 in the battle of

Kasatkina (Rus) 6-4, 6-2; 16-Kerber (Ger) bt Stephens (USA) 5-7, 6-2, 6-3; Fernandez (Can) bt 3-Osaka (Jpn) 5-7, 7-6(2), 6-4; 15-Mertens (Bel) bt 20-Jabeur (Tun) 6-3, 7-5; 2-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 26-Collins (USA) 6-3, 6-3. Mixed doubles: First round: Yastremska (Ukr) & Purcell (Aus)

bt Sania (Ind) & Ram (USA) 6-3, 3-6, [10-7]. Fallen seeds: Men: 3-Tsitsipas, 5-Rublev, 18-Bautista Agut.

Women: 3-Osaka, 10-Kvitova, 20-Jabeur, 23-Pegula, 25-Kasatkina, 26-Collins.

the former champions.

[7-10].

Meanwhile in mixed doubles, Sania Mirza and Rajeev Ram made a first round exit after losing to Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska and Australia's Max Purcell, 3-6, 6-3,