

National database created with records of 5.5 crore farmers



Prime Minister Modi to attend BRICS, SCO, Quad meets in Sept.



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Sukhet's villagers trade waste for wellness, get free LPG refills

Bumrah & Co. help India win Oval Test and take 2-1 lead in series





School students start profit-making ventures

As part of a pilot project under the Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum, 41 students of Delhi government's School of Excellence in Khichripur were given ₹1,000 each as seed money and asked to start business ventures of their own. On Monday, they presented the success of their nine business endeavours that had managed to make a profit. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 2

Paswan's bust at former bungalow sparks row

NEW DELHI Less than a year after his death, erection of a bust of Ram Vilas Paswan, former Minister and Lok Janshakti Party founder, at 12 Janpath, his official residence for more than 31 years, has sparked a controversy with some quarters alleging a possible effort by his family to continue to occupy the house. The bust was put up a few days ago.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Haryana government

has suspended mobile Inter-

net services in Karnal district

from 12.30 p.m. on Monday

till 23.59 p.m. on Tuesday

and beefed up security ar-

rangements in view of the

farmers' proposed protest on

September 7. A similar order

has been issued for Kuruksh-

etra, Kaithal, Jind and Pani-

pat districts where mobile In-

ternet services will remain

suspended from Tuesday

the call for protest demand-

ing strict legal action against

the IAS officer who was at the

centre of controversy over

the baton charge on protest-

ing farmers in Karnal on Au-

Farmer unions have given

midnight till 23.59 pm.

CHANDIGARH

11 more show Nipah symptoms as 251 contacts of victim traced

Parents, kin of 12-year-old among suspected cases; 30 health workers under isolation

STAFF REPORTER KOZHIKODE

The number of people symptomatic for Nipah infection rose to 11 on Monday, a day after Mohammed Hashim, 12, of Pazhoor, near Chathamangalam in Kozhikode district of Kerala, died of the viral infection at a private hospital here.

Health Minister Veena George told the media late in the evening that among those symptomatic are Hashim's parents, Vayoli Aboobacker and Wahida, their close relatives and healthcare workers.

"Their condition is stable. The boy's mother had fever on Sunday night, but it has subsided now," Ms. George said. The number of people on the contact list of the deceased has gone up to 251, which, Ms. George said, could increase further. Of the total contacts, 129 are healthcare workers. Of the 54 high-risk contacts, 30 are healthcare workers and have

Mobile Internet suspended in

Karnal ahead of farmers' stir

Security beefed up in the district to maintain law and order

gust 28. The Samyukt Kisan

Morcha has announced to lay

siege to the Karnal mini-se-

cretariat on September 7 if its

The order for suspension of

mobile Internet services, is-

sued by the State Home De-

partment, stated that the

measure is being taken in a

bid to maintain law and or-

der in Karnal ahead of the

called on Tuesday morning.

It said there was a clear

potential for disruption of

public utilities, damage to

public assets and amenities

and threat to law and order

in Karnal district on account

of misuse of Internet services

by way of spread of inflam-

Mahapanchayat',

demands are not met.

Kisan Mahapanchayat



Searching for the source: Health workers collecting samples for testing at Pazhoor near Chathamangalam. • K. RAGESH

all been quarantined at Government Medical College Hospital (MCH), Kozhikode.

"The boy was taken to at least four healthcare institutions, including MCH, Kozhikode, before being admitted to the private hospital where he died. That is why a majority of the contacts are healthcare workers," the Minister said. Two of them are from Malappuram and Kannur districts, because of which

matory material and ru-

mours, which are being or

could be circulated through

mobile Internet, SMSes and

al of Police (law and order)

Navdeep Singh Virk said

elaborate security arrange-

ments have been made in

view of the farmers' call for

"gherao". "The primary ob-

jective of these arrangements

is to maintain peace and or-

der, prevent any kind of vio-

lence, facilitate the function-

ing of traffic and public

transport and safeguard pu-

blic property across the State

in general and Karnal in par-

ticular," he said.

Additional Director Gener-

other dongle services.

an alert was sounded in those places on Sunday.

the National Institute of Virology, Pune, had been set up at MCH. It will have facilities to conduct both point-

tested here and those from

Special laboratory ready The Minister said a special laboratory under the aegis of

of-care and RT-PCR tests. The samples of three symptomatic persons would be

Vaccine in the works

Can a Covishield-like vaccine provide protection against the Nipah virus? Preliminary animal trial results seem to suggest so. In July, researchers from the U.K. and the U.S. reported that the ChAdOx1 vaccine vector, when customised to the Nipah virus, fully protected African green monkeys. ▶ PAGE 10

eight others were being sent to Pune. The results from Pune are expected late on Monday.

Officials from the Department of Animal Husbandry also collected blood samples and oral swabs of two goats from the premises of the deceased.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8 KERALA STARTS TRACKING **FEVER DEATHS** ▶ PAGE 5

Fill tribunal vacancies by Sept. 13, SC tells Centre

You are testing our patience, says CJI

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

A Special Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, on Monday said the court was "not interested in a confrontation" with the government, but it was running out of patience and the Centre should conform and fill the long-pending vacancies in key tribunals by the next

hearing on September 13. The Bench, also comprising Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and L. Nageswara Rao, said tribunals across the country were on the verge of collapse. Cases were being adjourned by a year. Manv operated with just one member as no appointments had been made for months, if not years.

ALLOW FARMERS TO PROTEST "You have no respect for **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 PEACEFULLY: CONGRESS ▶** PAGE 9

the judgments of this court... You are testing our patience," Chief Iustice Ramana addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government.

'Tribunals collapsing'

"Everybody is happy with the quick way in which the government cleared the Supreme Court appointments... We do not want any confrontation with the go vernment. But if you can so quickly make appointments to the Supreme Court, you can very well do so with these small tribunals. The tribunals have virtually collapsed... Why are you being so particular about the tribunals?" Chief Justice Ramana asked Mr. Mehta.

Taliban claim total control as Panjshir resistance folds

The Islamist group warns against any further rebellion

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Taliban on Monday claimed total control over Afghanistan, saying they had won the key battle for the Panjshir Valley, the last remaining holdout of resistance against their rule.

Following their lightningfast victory in mid-August over the former Afghan government's security forces and the withdrawal of U.S. troops after 20 years of war, the Taliban turned to fighting the forces defending the mountainous Panjshir Valley.

As the Islamist hardliners claimed victory, their chief spokesman warned against any further attempts to rise up against their rule while urging former members of the security forces to join their regime's ranks.

"With this victory, our country is completely taken out of the quagmire of war," chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

40 years of resistance The Taliban published a vi-

deo of their flag being raised over the Governor's house in Panjshir – underscoring a historic win that has seen the anti-Taliban bastion defeated for the first time in 40 years of conflict. It remained in the hands of resistance fighters during Soviet rule, a subsequent civil war and the Taliban's first regime of the late 1990s.

The National Resistance Front (NRF) in Panjshir made up of anti-Taliban militia and former Afghan security forces - on Sunday acknowledged suffering major battlefield losses and

Valley under siege: Armed fighters outside the provincial

Governor's office in Panjshir. • REUTERS

Taliban provincial Governor vows to fight Islamic State

As a Taliban commander, he spent years battling the former Afghan government. Now, with his hard-line movement back in power, Mullah Neda Mohammad vows to continue fighting against rival jihadists, the Islamic State (IS) group.

"We are searching for

individuals who are hiding," Mohammad, Governor of Nangarhar province, said, claiming his forces had arrested 70 to 80 IS members since they took control of Nangarhar's provincial capital Jalalabad, the country's fifth biggest city. ▶ PAGE 11

called for a ceasefire. But on Monday the group said in a tweet that its fighters were still present in "strategic positions" in the valley.

The NRF includes local fighters loyal to Ahmad Massoud – the son of the famous anti-Soviet and anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud - as well as remnants of the Afghan military that retreated to the Panjshir Valley. As Taliban fighters amassed in the valley, Massoud on Monday called on Afghans in and out of the country to "rise up in resistance".

The Taliban are yet to finalise their new regime after rolling into the capital Kabul three weeks ago. As they undertake a mammoth transition into overseeing key institutions and cities of hundreds of thousands of people, Mujahid said an interim government would first be announced, allowing for later changes.

"Final decisions have been taken, we are now working on the technical issues," he said.

IT'S TIME FOR PEACE, SAY TALIBAN ▶ PAGE 11

Modi hails record pace of vaccination

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India is administering CO-VID-19 vaccines at a record pace of 1.25 crore shots a day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, adding that the figure is higher than the population of many countries.

Mr. Modi was interacting virtually with health workers and beneficiaries of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Himachal Pradesh. He said the State had emerged a champion in the fight against the pandemic.

The success of the inoculation drive in India was due

(English Medium)

to the spirit and hard work of its citizens, he said.

He praised doctors, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, medical personnel, teachers and women for their contribution to the vaccination campaign.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

T.N. makes it official: workers have right to sit

State govt. introduces Bill in Assembly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

It might not have all the connotations of a Rosa Parks' protest, but the Bill that the Tamil Nadu government introduced in the Assembly on Monday is revolutionary enough by recognising workers' 'right to sit'.

Kerala is the only other State to have legislated on the 'right to sit', and that, in response to protests conducted by sections of the labour force. In Tamil Nadu, the government has taken a proactive step by introducing a legislation that will provide a chair to each worker, and a whole lot of dignity, besides helping the employees avoid the discomfort and health issues arising from remaining on their feet throughout the day.

Act to be amended

The Bill, which will benefit thousands of employees of large and small establishments, especially those working at textile and jewellery showrooms, was introduced by Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill Development C.V. Ganesan. It seeks to amend the Tamil



benefit thousands, including those working in textile showrooms. • K.V. SRINIVASAN

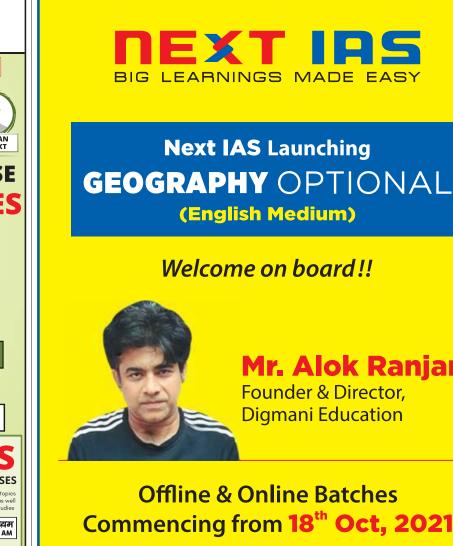
Nadu Shops and Establishments Act, 1947, by adding a sub-section. The proposed Section 22-A reads, "The premises of every establishment shall have suitable seating arrangements for all employees so that they may take advantage of any opportunity to sit which may occur in the course of their work and thereby avoid the 'on their toes' situation throughout the working

The subject was placed at a meeting of the State Labour Advisory Board on September 4, 2019, and was unanimously approved by the members.



hours.





Welcome on board!! Mr. Alok Ranjan Founder & Director, **Digmani Education Offline & Online Batches**

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Pilot project sees 41 students turn 'simple ideas' into profit-making ventures; programme will extend to all govt. schools from today, seed money will be hiked to ₹2,000

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ NEW DELHI

As part of a pilot project under the Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum, 41 students studying at the Delhi government's School of Excellence in Khichripur were given ₹1,000 each as seed money and asked to start business ventures of their own.

On Monday, the 41 students - who were divided into nine groups - presented the success of their nine business endeavours that had managed to make a profit over the past few months.

Some business models were based on talents or hobbies that the students possessed while others were profit-making enterprises, which were born out of a need that arose during the pandemic.

Valuable skills

Judging from the skills developed by the students who created the ventures, the Delhi government is set to extend the pilot programme



Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia with young entrepreneurs; students showcase their ideas during an event in New Delhi on Monday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

'Business Blasters' from September 7 to every government school where every child studying in Class XI and XII will be given seed money of ₹2,000 and will be mentored towards developing an

"entrepreneurship mindset". Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the purpose of the programme was to create job providers and not job seekers.

He said the pilot project has shown how the children by investing their seed money pick up skills that will help them in life and that they will never have to stand in line for a job.

"About 3.5 lakh children will be involved in this project. The purpose is to inculcate the belief in children that whatever work they do, they should do it with an entrepreneurial mindset. Students will be prepared to invest, get rid of their fear of starting a business and earn profit. Most importantly, even if they do not make profit, then they should learn to face their failures," Mr. Sisodia said.

He added that in the last

5-6 years, the infrastructure of Delhi government schools has improved and teachers have been trained but the real achievement would be when these students emerge with an entrepreneurial education.

The purpose of the programme is to create job providers and not job seekers. Around 3.5 lakh children will be involved in this project. The purpose is to inculcate the belief in children that whatever work they do, they should do it with an entrepreneurial mindset

MANISH SISODIA Deputy CM

Sharing their experiences, students said the project had taught them that giving up was not an option. Students said they did not need an out of the box idea to start a successful business but could instead go with a simple idea.

Aryan Kharbanda, who was a part of a group of five students who started Ionalts - a digital pooling solution said they invested their seed

money of ₹5000 to purchase subscriptions to various OTT platforms and some special educational platforms and then rented them out to others at lower prices.

"The high cost of monthly subscription of OTT platforms and in specific educational platforms, many can't afford the subscription. The project provides it at a lower cost so that everyone can enjoy the content and learn," the students said.

'Profit of over ₹20,000'

Students who came up with another business plan - Divine Creations - said they had turned their investment of ₹2,000 into a profit of ₹24,750 by selling handmade paintings depicting the cultural diversity of India.

Another venture, Mobisite, started selling refurbished mobile phones to those who could not afford new phones and converted their seed money of ₹8,000 into a profit of ₹21,960.

'Metro saw 23 lakh passenger journeys daily in Aug.'

Over 13,000 commuters penalised by flying squads for violating COVID-19 protocol last month

SHINJINI GHOSH

The average number of passenger journeys on the Delhi Metro network in August has increased to around 23.36 lakh following a relaxation in guidelines that permitted a 100% seating capacity inside coaches.

The number of people penalised for not following COVID-19 protocol also saw a spike with over 13,000 commuters being fined by the flying squads.

Due to lockdown In the past 18 months, ser-

vices on the Delhi Metro were disrupted at least twice with passenger operations being first suspended on March 22 last year due to the COVID-induced nationwide lockdown.

Services resumed on September 7 last year before being disrupted again in May this year due to the second wave of the pandemic.



Commuters boarding a train at Rajiv Chowk metro station in New Delhi. • FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

According to relevant guidelines, travel was permitted with alternate seating and standing with social distancing in place. Following a phased resumption of services, the Delhi Metro Rail

Corporation had also deployed flying squads across the network to ensure relevant COVID protocols.

"The flying squads were deployed across the network to randomly check inside trains for any kind of violations and counsel people to refrain from doing so for their own and everyone's safety," said a DMRC official.

A fine of ₹200 is imposed on commuters who are found to be flouting norms,

The highest ridership that the Delhi Metro saw, since the first lockdown, was in March this year when over 26.81 lakh passenger journeys were recorded. According to data provided by the DMRC, the number of fines imposed in March this year was 7,058.

September Between 2020 and March this year, the Delhi Metro network saw a gradual increase in the number of passenger journeys recorded, from around 12.25 lakh in October last year to 25.55 lakh passenger journeys in February this year.

However, with the onset

of the second wave and before services got suspended on May 10 this year, the Delhi Metro network saw around 14.07 lakh passenger journeys in the month of April. Despite the dip in the number of passenger journeys, around 8,735 commuters were fined by the flying squads in April this year as compared to the 2,823 fines imposed in February when the passenger journeys

were comparatively higher. In the Delhi Metro network, which spans over approximately 391 km, curstanding travel continues to be prohibited. However, according to government guidelines, 100% seating capacity is permitted and passengers can be seated next to each other.

According to officials, this has lowered the carrying capacity of each metro coach from 300 passengers per coach to 50 passengers per coach.

Neighbours arrested for killing man over 'keeping pigs as pets'

Victim's cousin said to be critical, undergoing treatment

STAFF REPORTER

A 35-year-old man was shot dead and his friend injured in Shahdara's GTB Enclave on Sunday night, the police said on Monday.

Two of the victim's neighbours - Rocky and Vicky have been arrested in connection with the case, they said. DCP (Shahdara) R. Sathiyasundaram said the deceased has been identified as Vikas from Khera Village. His cousin Suresh is said to be critical.

Ongoing tussle

Victims'relatives - Sandeep Chandoliya – and Vicky have been at loggerheads for many years. Mr. Chandoliya pets a pig to which

Vicky's family has objected. "Chandoliya family has

always reared pigs because

it's a tradition for them. Vicky's family asked Chandoliyas to stop petting pigs," the DCP said.

In April last year, the two families quarrelled over the matter and leveled allegations of physically hurting each other.

A case was registered and members of both sides were arrested and subsequently released on bail.

In October last year, Vicky's family lodged a complaint on the matter with the municipal corporation and ensured Chandoliyas didn't pet a pig, the police said. Next, the police said the two families thereon continued with their fights.

In April this year, they quarreled again and legal action was taken against both sides. The two families continued to verbally trigger each other after that, police said. On Sunday night, the two sides fought again at 11 p.m. and the accused committed the crime using a countrymade pistol, Mr. Sathiyasundaram said.

While Vikas sustained a gunshot in his shoulder, Suresh got injured in the abdomen. Vikas was declared dead and Suresh is undergoing treatment.

A case on charges of murder and an attempt to murder was registered based on a complaint by Mr. Chandoliya. Vicky used to work with a bank as a cheque collection agent till May this + year but is currently unemployed. Rocky runs an eatery outside GTB Hospital. Vikas was a sanitation worker at a hospital, and injured Suresh is a bad character in the area, the police said.

HC tells govt. to take steps for hybrid hearings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The High Court on Monday made it clear to the Delhi government that if the proposal to set up infrastructure for hybrid hearings in trial courts and quasi-judicial bodies is turned down on grounds of expenditure, then it will examine expenses incurred by it on subsidies and public advertisements since April 2020.

While directing the Delhi government to take expeditious steps to provide proper infrastructure for the purpose, the HC said it was mindful that the authorities incur huge money on subsidies and advertisements.

It said the pandemic was not yet over and there was a need to adopt technology as access to justice cannot be denied to citizens and expenditure incurred on the project should be considered as essential.

'Absolutely essential'

"We don't want it to shuttle like a shuttle cock. We need the system. Courts are not able to cope. Don't consider it as a wasteful exercise. The pandemic is not yet over, you prioritise the expenditure. This is not wasteful or entertainment expenditure. It is not for luxury, it is absolutely essential. We have to adopt this technology," a Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh said.

The High Court was hearing two pleas seeking hybrid hearings in district courts in view of the CO-VID-19 threat.



Police told to respond to fresh application; hearing on Sept. 8

STAFF REPORTER

Former JNU student leader Umar Khalid - arrested in connection with the northeast Delhi riots case - has withdrawn his bail application and filed a fresh one after the Delhi Police objected to its maintainability. Additional Sessions Judge

Amitabh Rawat asked the police to respond to the fresh bail application and posted the matter for further hearing on September 8.

Mr. Khalid's fresh plea was filed after Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad, representing the police, submitted that the court hearing the plea is a special court designated under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and therefore exercises all powers



that are before the Court of Magistrate within the rigours of section 437 of CrPC.

Senior advocate Trideep Pais, appearing for Mr. Khalid, argued that the application seeking bail under section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure has been substituted with the one under section 437 as the police objected to it. Mr. Prasad objected to the fresh plea that purportedly accused the prosecution of adopting "di-

"In the interim application you have filed, you have made certain allegations that the objections taken by the prosecution are dilatory tactics. Therefore, to paint the prosecution by saying that it is dilatory tactics is not fair," the prosecutor said.

Mr. Khalid, arrested on September 13, 2020, is facing charges under the UAPAfor allegedly being one of the 'masterminds' and one of the main conspirators as well as instigators behind the riots that happened in northeast Delhi last year.

Last week, Mr. Khalid had contended that the charge sheet against him contain hyperbolic allegations without

Back to base



Students returning home after attending school at New Police Lines near G.T.B Nagar in Delhi on Monday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

JNU starts phased reopening of campus

Students demand full reopening, give call for sit-in at Dean of Students office

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar on Monday said since the university has students from across the country, and many of them might be living in areas where COVID-19 is still prevalent, it was not advisable to let a large number of people inside the campus.

The university started a phased reopening of the campus from Monday, allowing on campus final-year PhD research scholars who have to submit their thesis



identity card of a student on Monday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

by the end of this year. Students have been demanding a complete reopening of the university as the Delhi government has allowed educational institu-The JNUSU has given a call

for an indefinite sit-in at the Dean of Students office and has appealed to the student community to participate in

They have sought immediate allotment of hostels, the meaningful phase-wise opening of the campus, universal vaccination and improvement in hostel and health infrastructure.

In a Facebook Live interaction with JNU student, Professor R.P. Singh, Rector 3 of the university, said CO-VID monitoring committee of the university will be discussing opening up of the campus for terminal year students of Masters courses who have to complete their studies, especially those who need to access labs for practicals or who have to submit their dissertations. JNU said registration for

the monsoon semester will start from September 20 and end on October 3, while the classes will begin from October 4. The university also plans to conduct its convocation at the end of the month.

DU practical classes for final-year students to start from September 15

Offline mode permitted with 50% working capacity of labs

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

> The Delhi University on Monday said laboratory and practical classes for final-year undergraduate

postgraduate students will be permitted in the offline mode from September 15 with a maximum 50% working capacity of classrooms or laboratories.

DU Registrar Vikas Gupta said a principle of rotation will be followed and only a limited number of experiments, exercises or practiessential for the semester, will be selected. The varsity also said that physical presence will be left optional for students to decide. "Since the physical entry

cals, that are considered

of students is voluntary, attendance shall not be compulsory. Final-year students may also be allowed to join for academic consultation and placement purposes as per the decision of the head of the institution. However, it should be ensured that students npt more than 50% of

be present any point," the statement read. The university reopened libraries from Monday and said in situations where the seating arrangements were not adequate, issuing of books to students will continue on a "regular basis". "The colleges, departments or centers ma also consider giving prior date-timeslot appointments to the students before allowing them to visit the library in order to avoid overcrowding," the notification said.

the seating capacity, should

DELHI

TUESDAY, SEP. 07 RISE 06:03 SET 18:36 RISE 06:04 SET 19:08

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 08 RISE 06:03 SET 18:35

RISE 07:06 SET 19:43 THURSDAY, SEP. 09 RISE 06:03 SET 18:34

RISE 08:09 SET 20:17

Delhi City _ Safdarjang 27

Delhi Palam Today 34°C A spell of light rain and thunderstorm would occur with cloudy sky at some places.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 33°C Light rain and thunderstorm may occur at some areas. Warm and hhumid day likely with light winds

THE HINDU

IN BRIEF



Govt. building water extraction well: Jain

The Delhi government is constructing a water extraction well with a daily capacity of 90 lakh litres at Sonia Vihar using an innovative technology, Water Minister Satyendar Jain said on Monday. The Irrigation and Flood Control Department and the PWD are also constructing wells at Hiranki and Akshardham. PT

'Debt-ridden' Delhi home guard found dead

A debt-ridden Delhi home guard was found dead at a police station here, officials said Monday. He was from Bulandshahr district in U.P., was posted at Pandav Nagar police station in east Delhi, they said. According to police, the deceased was under a debt of around ₹30 lakh. PTI

Over 100 dengue cases this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

At least 124 cases of dengue have been reported in the national capital this year, according to a civic report released on Monday. However, no deaths have been reported due to dengue in the city till now.

The number of dengue cases for January 1-September 4 period is also the highest this year since 2018 when the count had stood at 137 in the same duration.

Seventy-two cases were reported in August, according to the report, which is about 58% of the total reported cases. No cases have been recorded in the first four days of September.

Cases of vector-borne diseases may stretch till mid-December.

Many struggling to get papers for relief

Working overtime to help people get 'surviving member certificate', doing house visits, say govt. officials

vits and Aadhaar cards of all

four at the Tahsildar office.

On August 29, I got a mes-

sage on the portal that it has

been rejected. No one told us

anything," said Himanshu,

whose grandmother Rashmi

Devi, 84, died due to CO-

dar office and found out that

it was rejected as my aunt

had her husband's name in

the Aadhaar card and not

"Then I went to the Tahsil-

VID-19.

NIKHIL M BABU

Many people complained that they are still facing difficulties to acquire a 'surviving member certificate (SMC)' that is needed to apply for compensations given to people, if a family member has died of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, officials said that they are "working overtime" to help citizens get the certificate and even taking them to offices to get an affidavit that is needed to apply for the certificate.

Mandatory documents

The SMC is one of the mandatory documents to be submitted online to apply for a compensation of ₹50,000, if a family member has died due to COVID-19. It is also needed to apply for a monthly assistance of ₹2,500 to certain categories of people, who have lost a family member to COVID-19.

A person has to first apply online for the SMC and then

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on

Monday refused to interfere

with its earlier order declin-

ing to direct the removal of

alleged defamatory state-

ments made by BJP MLA Vi-

jender Gupta against Delhi

Transport Minister Kailash

Gahlot on purported irregu-

larities in procurement of

The High Court was hear-

1,000 low-floor DTC buses.

ing an appeal filed by Mr.

Gahlot against the HC's sin-

gle-judge Bench order of Au-

gust 27, refusing to pass di-

in

'Don't be so sensitive'

Mr. Gupta's counsel Ranjit

Kumar assured a Bench of

Justice Vipin Sanghi and Jus-

tice Jasmeet Singh that till

September 20, the next date

of hearing before the single-

judge Bench, no tweet or

press statement will be is-

defamation suit.

rection

his



Burning pyres of COVID-19 victims at the Manglapuri crematorium in Palam. • FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

physically go and submit affidavits to the Tahsildar office. The Tahsildar office issues the SMC after verification.

The SMC states who all are survived by the deceased. To get it, all children of the deceased person have to submit their identity proofs and

"My grandmother had four children - my dad and three of my aunts. On August 24, we submitted the affida-

sued by the BJP leader on

the hearing, remarked, in

politics, you [Gahlot] don't

Senior advocate Rajiv

Nayar, representing Mr.

Gahlot, argued that the ap-

proach of single judge was

erroneous and that personal

allegations of scam were

made against the AAP lead-

On August 27, the single-

judge Bench had said, "... in

the present case, prima fa-

cie, no personal allegations

appear to have been specifi-

cally made against the plain-

tiff [Mr. Gahlot] except to

the extent of saying that the

entire transaction appears

to be a scam. At this stage,

therefore, no ex parte in-

junction is called for".

er by Mr. Gupta.

have to be so sensitive".

The High Court, during

the issue.

her father's name. They have asked us to get her father's name in the Aadhaar card. We have not applied after it," he said. He said that he had to make three visits to the Tahsildar office, but in vain.

A government official said that they are doing everything possible for help people get the certificate and the scheme is being monitored at the "highest level".

'Topmost priority'

"If the deceased's spouse is alive, we have to give the compensation to the spouse. But if the spouse is not alive, then we have to give the money equally to all the children. So, to know who all the children are, we need them to submit an affidavit and then issue the SMC based on it," a District Magistrate said.

"In our district, we have told people where to go to make the affidavits and even taking them to the vendor to get the affidavit to apply for the SMC. This scheme is our topmost priority at this point," the DM said.

On August 25, Social Welfare Minister Raiendra Pal Gautam had said that people are facing issues while applying for the compensation and a "major problem" is the issuance of SMC. "These certificates are not issued on time, which is creating pendency in approving these cases. As directed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the application process should be hassle-free," he had said.

Kunal Malik, 24, said his grandfather Bhim Sen Sethi, 83, died of COVID-19 and they had applied for the SMC about a month ago, but they are yet to get it.

"We had submitted the documents near the SDM office, but don't know what happened after it. We called the office once, but they said they are very busy. The government should be helping us, right? I doubt whether tion," Mr. Malik said.

Capital reports zero COVID-19 deaths again

FOR INDIA'S CHAMPS

32 new infections, positivity at 0.06%

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

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

Also, 32 new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14,37,991. A total of 54,611 tests were done in a day and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.06%

Of the total cases, 14.12.542 people have recovered and there are only 367

The COVID-19 vaccine stock of the city on Monday morning would last for eight days, as per another bulle-

A total of 1,41,557 vaccinations were administered in the city on Friday and a total of 1,39,27,245 doses have been given till now.

Will always fight for traders' rights: Gupta

BJP leader tries to woo community

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

State BJP president Adesh Gupta, addressing representatives of various traders' organisations at the party office here on Monday, said the BJP was the largest political party in the world, thanks to a "very big contribution" from the traders' class.

Every trader associated with the party keeps the interest of the nation above everything else. They had also helped the needy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The BJP has always and will always stand with the traders community and

mates, who were lodged in

an adjacent lockup, were

In a petition filed through

advocates Mehmood Pracha

and Shariq Nisar, the family

has alleged that Gujjar was

being harassed by jail offi-

cials as he was "unable to

meet their regularly increas-

ing demands for money"

and was murdered "as a part

of pre-planned conspiracy".

observed that the nature of

injuries sustained by inmate

Gujjar clearly show that it

was a case of custodial

The initial police investi-

gation had found that secur-

ity personnel allegedly as-

violence.

The Delhi High Court had

found injured on August 4.

keep fighting for their rights for which it is committed," Mr. Gupta said.

"During both the CO-VID-19 waves, it was the trading community which bore the brunt of electricity's fixed charges," he said.

The BJP had raised this issue during the first wave, but Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal, Mr. Gupta alleged, only "partially resolved" the issue. "It is indicative of the fact that the Kejriwal government doesn't care for the interests of the traders. It is therefore, imperative for traders to understand as to who is with them and

'No ex parte injunction Govt. yet to announce date for needed in Gahlot case' next COVID serological survey HC was hearing plea in defamation suit

The last survey had recommended a fresh study in June

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi government is yet to begin or announce dates for the next serological survey, despite the last such survey recommending a fresh survey in June or early July.

Also, Central government officials had last month said in a Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) meeting chaired by the Lt. Governor to do a sero survey among children to know their exposure. The result of the last survey was also not made public by the government. During the DDMA meeting on August 6, multiple experts had recommended for a sero survey.

Children exposure

NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul said that during the It had granted 30 days to meeting that there is a "need the BJP leader to respond to for high the suit as well as the appliquality sero cation for an interim order survey".



People queue up for RT-PCR test at Dhaula Kuan bus stand in Delhi on Monday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"National Centre for Disease Control director Sujit Kumar Singh agreed with Dr. V.K. Paul and observed that students could not be kept away from the schools. Health advisory such as temperature screening etc. may also be issued and sero survey among children may also be conducted to know their exposure. He advised forming of an expert group in this regard," a document

In June, the team which did the sixth serological survey had also recommended next such survey in June end or July first week.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

said on Monday.

ed by the DIG Prisons.

A departmental inquiry into

the death of Tihar jail inmate

Ankit Gujjar has found "ne-

gligence" on the part of cer-

tain prison staffers, officials

The inquiry was conduct-

A senior jail official con-

firmed the development,

saying negligence has been

found on the part of the pri-

son staffers in the death of

Gujjar. The report has been

submitted to the Director

DG (Prisons) Sandeep

Goel said, "Appropriate de-

partmental action will be ta-

ken against them [staffers]."

General (Prisons).

Inmate death: inquiry

points to negligence

Probe was conducted by DIG Prisons

Plea against prohibition on cross-gender massage

who is against," he said.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday posted the hearing on a plea challenging Delhi government's guidelines banning cross-gender massage services for September 20.

Justice Rekha Palli, who orally observed that the ban was a policy decision of the government, asked the petitioner - Association of Wellness Ayurveda & Spa - to submit a list of its members and the action taken by authorities pursuant to the guidelines.

The association claimed that two spas have been closed down last month for engaging in cross-gender massage and others are being "threatened by the officials on the basis of the new guidelines".

"Every industry, workplace and businesses have some bad apples but that doesn't mean that every spa centre across the State is running a prostitution and human trafficking racket," the plea stated. The association stated that cross-gender treatment has been "part of the traditional massage practices" and assuming prostitution to be only in the "heterosexual domain" is illogical. It highlighted that there are several places where men and women work together, like gyms and yoga centres, and singling out spas was not reasonable.

Welcome surprise



Delhiites caught in a sudden spell of rain in the Capital on Monday. The city is likely to witness light intensity rain on Tuesday as the skies will remain cloudy, the weather department has forecast. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

saulted Gujjar after the Gujjar was found dead inside his cell in Tihar jail gangster slapped the deputy while two of his former cellsuperintendent.

Two men arrested for killing man in Rohini

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Two persons have been arrested and two minors apprehended for allegedly shooting a man dead in Rohini's Kanjhawala, the police said on Monday.

DCP (Rohini) Pranav Tayal said the accused have been identified as Aman Dabas (27) and Rahul (23). On August 30, a firing incident was reported. The victim Sagar told the police that when

he was standing near his house when four persons came on two bikes and fired at him. He died during treatment on September 5. During the probe, CCTV footage was obtained and analysed in which Rahul and Aman were identified.

It was further revealed that they were regularly in touch with a bad character of the area identified as Mohit alias Chachad and Mohit alias Golu, both in jail.

Raise grievances before authorities first, says Bench

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has declined to entertain a petition seeking various amenities such as potable water, sewage lines and plantations of trees in a locality here, saying such grievances have to be first raised before the authorities concerned.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jvoti

Singh told the petitioner, a resident of Gautampuri, Phase-2 in Badarpur, to give a representation to the authorities with his grievances.

"Needless to state that if and when such a representation is preferred by the petitioner, the authorities concerned shall look into the issues highlighted and grievances ventilated, in accordance with law and government policies," the High Court stated in order.

The court was of the view that the platform of a public interest litigation cannot be



HC declines to hear plea seeking potable water, sewage lines

used to seek information from the authorities and that if the petitioner wanted details of utilisation of development funds allotted for the locality, the remedy under the Right to Information Act,

2005, was available to him. "Petitioner has proached this court without even preferring a single representation before the concerned authorities to venti-

late the grievances. It would be appropriate if the petitioner first approaches the authorities tasked with the functions, whose inactions are complained of. Hence, we see no reason to entertain this petition at this stage," it added.

The petition claimed that there was scarcity of water in the area, which needed to be

resolved at the earliest in order to save people from "roam(ing) the streets in search of water". The plea also submitted that the area faced the problem of open dilapidated defecation, roads and encroachment in parks and sought reservation of seats for children from weaker sections in the area in all the private schools.

The plea sought for removal of illegal occupiers to give the children there an opportunity to "live their childhood and get a clean and tidy environment".

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Group Editorial Officer: Krishna Prasad. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 11 • No. 213





OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



Mr Keshav Desiraju Cognizant Foundation deeply mourns the passing of its Director, Mr Keshav Desiraju. A passionate contributor to the Foundation board, Mr Desiraju was a beacon of tireless commitment and dedication, guiding the Foundation's work in Healthcare and COVID19 relief till his last breath. His rich vision, insights shared, and work will continue to inspire us. May his soul rest in peace.

Cognizant Foundation

in ever loving memory A.Raghu, Vatsala, Anjana Rajesh, Dipika.

IN MEMORIAM

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No: SWD/PETC/S-4/CR-15/2020-21

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-tendering only) Short Term Tender is invited from Reputed & Prestigious

Training Institutions through E-Procurement portal, to provide pre-examination coaching for UPSC/KAS/ Banking/ RRB/ SSC & Group-C exams to the Schedule Caste candidates for the year 2021-22. Tender notification numbers are given below. (1) U.P.S.C. examination Coaching: SWD/ PETC/S4/CR-15 UPSC/2020-21. **(2)** K.A.S. examination Coaching: SWD/PETC/S4/CR-15/ KAS/2020-21. **(3)** Banking, examination Coaching: SWD/ PETC/S4/CR-15/Banking/2020-21. (4) R.R.B. examination Coaching: SWD/PETC/S4/CR-15/ RRB/2020-21. (5) S.S.C examination Coaching: SWD/ PETC/ S4/CR-15/SSC/2020-21. (6) Group-C, examination Coaching SWD/PETC/S4/CR-15/Group-C/2020-21. For details please visit website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The Tender Opening date is: 06.09.2021 and the last date for receipt of tender is fixed on 24.09.2021 at 5.30 PM.

Commissioner Social Welfare Dept. DIPR/DDU/SHIRDI SAI/1439/2021-22

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410



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SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



one boy Namely: Bikram, S/o: Sh. Vijender, **R/o:** Bhatta Colony, Hindon City, Distrit- Karauli, Rajasthan, has been missing/ kidnapped since 10.08.2017 from Platform No.1, New Delhi Railway Station Delhi, in the area of P.S. New Delhi Railway Station. Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 649/17 U/s 363 IPC dated 10.08.2017, has been registered at P.S

General Public is hereby informed that

New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the kidnapped girlboy is as under: **Age:** 5 years, **Sex:** Male, Height: 2'6", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, **Wearing**: Striped shirt and red colour capri. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following and get cash reward of Rs. 50,000/-.

Website: http//cbi.nic.in E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/238/RLY/2021

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ebsite at www.kalptarufincap.com fo

urther details.

(Mains 2021)

P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-23744073, 8750871305

'Farmers' rally refreshed memories of riot-ridden rule'

BSP chief Mayawati targets Congress and Samajwadi Party

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

The show of strength by farmers in Muzaffarnagar on September 5 refreshed memories of the riot-ridden rule of the Congress and the Samaiwadi Party, said Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, referring to the deadly communal violence that shook the western Uttar Pradesh district eight years ago (2013).

While the Congress-led UPA was ruling at the Centre, Akhilesh Yadav was the Chief Minister when violence broke out in Muzaffarnagar and nearby districts, polarising communities along religious lines and causing displacement of thousands of residents, mostly Muslims.

Ms. Mayawati, however, said the slogans of "Hindu-Muslim brotherhood" for "communal harmony" raised from the platform of the gathering – a reference to chants

Plantation

drive to mark

Pilot's birthday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a massive show of strength, supporters of

former Deputy Chief Minis-

ter Sachin Pilot undertook

a tree plantation drive in all

the 200 Assembly consti-

tuencies of Rajasthan on

Monday on the eve of his

town in 1977, will turn 44

On the occasion, a target

was set to plant at least 10

lakh saplings across the

State in two days. Mr. Pi-

lot's loyalists claimed that

this would be a "new re-

cord" for the State, where

6.11 lakh saplings were

planted by a team of volun-

teers in Dungarpur district

Mr. Pilot, born in Uttar

Saharanpur

birthday.

Pradesh's

on Tuesday.

in 2009.



BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait at the Kisan Mahapanchayat in Muzaffarnagar on Sunday. • PTI

of *Allah-hu-Akbar* and *Har* Har Mahadev raised by Rakesh Tikait – had shown that the "political fields sown with hate" by the BJP had started to slip away.

'Will help heal wounds' She tweeted, "This will definitely provide a little help in healing the deep wounds of the horrific riots that hap-

pened under the SP government in 2013 but will also make many uncomfortable".

Thousands of farmers from Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring States on Sunday gathered in Muzaffarnagar for the Kisan Mahapanchavat and vowed to continue their stir till the three agriculture laws were scrapped.

Shillong groups hold 'knife surrender' rally

They protested against 'fake' encounter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The knives were literally out for Conrad K. Sangma's National People's Party-led coalition government in Meghalaya on Monday even-

An umbrella body of civil society groups in State capital Shillong took out a 'knife surrender' rally to protest the government's failure in suspending senior police officers responsible for the killing of former extremist leader Cheristerfield Thangkhiew in an alleged fake encounter on August

The umbrella body is called Ka Sur Ki Nong Mawlai. Its constituents are from the large Mawlai area of Shillong where Thangkhiew was killed.

The knives surrendered to the local authorities were symbolic of the sharp weapon the police claimed Thangkhiew had used in attacking them. By this action, they wanted to call the alleged bluff of the police.

Police version

The police had said they shot Thangkhiew at his residence in self-defence as he had pulled out a knife and attempted to attack the personnel.

Local groups have since been demanding action against the senior police officers, including two Superintendents of Police, but the government ordered a judicial probe instead.

The protestors said the rally was also against the show-cause notice served by the administration of the East Khasi Hills district on six leaders of the umbrella body for holding public gatherings in violation of COVID-19 protocols. On the day of Thangkhiew's funeral (August 15), parts of Shillong witnessed sporadic incidents of violence.

Assam Cong. forms panel for paper mill workers

'Eviction notice served on them is illegal'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee on Monday constituted a panel to look into the matters of the employees of two mills of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPCL) closed since October 2015.

The panel, headed by Lok Sabha Member Pradyut Bordoloi, was formed following an eviction notice served by the HPCL's liquidator to the occupants of the residential quarters of the two mills one in Morigaon district's Jagiroad and the other in Haikandi district's Panchgram.

"The panel members had an interaction with the representatives of the Nagaon Paper Mill (Jagiroad) employees and took note of

DP/687/ED/2021

their long-standing problems and the government's failure to honour its commitment to revive the mills," State Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah said.

The Congress alluded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's repeated election promises to rejuvenate the paper mills, which were instead intended to be auctioned off.

No bidder turned up for the auction in June.

"The notice by Kuldeep Verma, the liquidator, is ridiculous, preposterous and devoid of any compassionate reasoning," Mr. Bordoloi

The Joint Action Committee of Recognised Unions also termed the eviction notice illegal.

General public is hereby informed

that an unidentified person Namely:

nknown S/o Unknown R/o

ematics

fied resource persons will impart education.

day. "This iconic school will standards by 2025.

Odisha govt. to spend ₹100 cr. on 'iconic' school

It will be a milestone in education: CM

STAFF REPORTER

The Odisha government plans to set up an 'iconic' school at an investment of

The proposed school, according to the government, is likely to help create role models in varied fields with students expected to crack all-India examinations.

It will have a total of 1,000 students – 500 each in Classes 11 and 12. Meritorious students drawn from all corners of the State will get an opportunity to study in it, which will be set up on 25 acres on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.

The school will have features such as language laboratory, smart classes, mathhigh-technology computer application centre. Quali-

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation stone for the school on Sun-



CM Naveen Patnaik

become a milestone in school education in the State," he said.

Vision document Also, Odisha Adarsh Vidya-

layas (OAV), which have been set up at block headquarters to provide free quality education in English to students, are set to be reinvented. Each one will prepare a 10-year vision document or a road map highlighting what it will achieve in 10 years.

According to the new strategy, all OAVs will be green campuses and comply with net zero emission

TRIPURA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (Department of Power, Government of Tripura)

email-tredaagartala@gmail.com, URL: www.treda.nic.in

PNIe-T No.F. 6(293)/TREDA/NCES/2021/2342 Date 06/09/2021

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

On behalf of Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDA) Joint Director invites e-tender for supply, installation & commissioning of Stand Alone W-LED based Solor PV Street Lighting Systems on turnkey basis in Tripura vide DNIe-T No.F. 6(293)/TREDA/NCES/2021/2341

The tender papers may be downloaded from e-procurement portal http://tripuratenders.gov.in and the last date for submission of online e-bid is 28/09/2021 up to 05:30 PM.

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Joint Director

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PUBLIC NOTICE KALPTARU FINCAP LIMITED

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NORTHERN REGION BENCH, DELHI

In the matter of sub-section 14 of section 13 of the Companies

Act 2013 and clause (a) of sub-section (5) of the 10 of the In the matter of MS ALLEGIANCE FINMAVENS
PRIVATE LIMITED having its Registered
Office at C-2/13, First Floor, Mayanuri Industrial Area
Pass-2, New Delhi-110064, Delhi ...Petitioner
Notifice in Mayanuri Industrial Area
Pass-2, New Delhi-110064, Delhi ...Petitioner

PUBLIC NOTICE

Form No. INC 26

Uffice at C-21's, First Floor, Mayapun Indiastrial Area Pasac-2, New Bolhi-110064, Dehi ... Petitioner Notice is hereby given to General Public that the company proposes to make the application to the Central Government (Regional Director Northern Region) under section 13 of the Companies Act 2013, seeking confirmation of alteration of Memorandum of Companies of the company in term of special resolution passed at Extra ordinary Genergi Meeting held on WEDNESDAY, 11 DAY OF AUGUST 2021 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "C-21'13, First Floor, Mayapuri Industrial Area Phase – 2, New Defih-110064, Dethi" (National Capital Territory of Dehi) NCT Of Dehi) to "648, First Floor, Sector- 31, Faridabad- 121003, Haryana" (State of Haryana).

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change, may deliver either on MCA portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filling investor complaint form or cause to be deliver or send by read that the complaint form or cause to be either on Muse porus (www.massas...)
filling investor complaint form or cause to be deliver or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and ground of opposition to the Applicant Company within 14 Days of date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at C-2/13, First Floor, Mayapuri Industrial Area Phase – 2, New Delh-110064 and to Regional Director, Northern Region at 82 Wing, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Brawan, CGO Complex, New Dalh-110003. M/S Allegiance Finmavens Private Limite

Unknown Age: about 45 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow,

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

Built: Thin, Wearing: Rose colour shirt and Black colour pant has been found dead at near exit gate, ISBT Anand Vihar, Delhi on 02.09.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 59A dated 02.09.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi. The dead body has been

preserved in LBS Hospital Mortuary, Delhi.

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

> P.S. Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi East Distt.. Delhi Ph. No. 011-22146491, 22146462

> > ...भरोसे का प्रतीक !

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक 🕒 punjab national bank

(A Govt. of India Undertaking) CIRCLE SASTRA ARRAH, 1st Floor, Mahuli Kothi, Near Peer Baba More, Arrah- 802301 **POSSESSION NOTICE** Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets

and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002, issued a demand notices on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount mentione against each account within 60 days from the date of notice/date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred to him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the

SHO

said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrower/guarantor/mortgagor/legal heirs in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank for the amount, interest and costs thereon.

The b	The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of sub-section 8 of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.							
Sr. No.	Name of the Account, Account No., Borrower/Guarantors Name, Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged Owners'Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	Date of Demand Notice 13 (2)	Possession	A m o u n t Outstanding as on date of demand notice			
1.	Sri Anil Kumar Singh S/o Late Nand Kishore Singh and Sri Sushil Kumar Singh S/o Anil Kumar Singh, A/C No-0022009300031118, BO: Chowk Ara (002200)	Land & Building Situated at:-Sale Deed No: 7968 dated 31.07.1995, Mauza- Pakari, Moh. Sonpa Pakri, Ara, P.SNawada Ara Thana No-236, Old Ward No: 17, New Ward No: 42, Circle No: 7A Dist: Bhojpur Khata No: CS 220, Khesara No: CS 1810 Purana Nagar Palika Plot No 2556, Area- 1 Katha 5 Dhur (3.90625 decimal), Boundary : North- Block No A, South-Road 8 Feet, East- Road 8 Feet, West- Hal Baidar Manohar Lal, Mortgagor : Smt. Asha Devi W/O Sh. Anil Kumar Singh	14.06.2021	04.09.2021	Rs. 26,08,342.00 + (Intt. Due from 01.04.2021)			
2.	Jeetendra Kumar Both S/O Sh. Chandeshwar Ram and	Land & Building Situated at:-Registered Mortgage Deed No-11331 Dated 16.11.2017 In Favour Of Bank, Mauza- Sonpa Pakri (Anaith), Thana No- 236, Ward No- 42, Khata No- 580, Plot No- 2024, Area- 1 Katha 10 Dhur, Boundary :As Per Deed: North- K.N. Singh And Others, South- R. Singh And Others, East- 12 Feet Wide Road, West- Plot No- 2022, At Present : North- Pradeep Chaudhary, South- Kameshwar Singh, East- 12 Feet Wide Rasta, West- Plot No-2022, Mortgagor :Sh. Ravindra Kumar & Sh. Jeetendra Kumar Both S/O Sh. Chandeshwar Ram and Sh Chandeshwar Ram S/O Lt. Girija Nandan Ram,	17.06.2021	04.09.2021	Rs. 33,59,005.93 + (Intt. Due from 01.04.2021)			
3.		Land & Building Situated at:-Mauza- Anaith, Ara, Thana-Nawada. Thana no- 227, Anchal- Ara Sadar, Khata- 202, Plot-437, Area- 03 Katha, Boundary : North- Shiv Jee Choudhary, South- Uma Shankar Choudhary, East- Gupteshwar Pandey, West-Road Mortgagor : Sh. Ravindra Choudhary S/o Late Ramasan Choudhary & Vikash Choudhary S/o Sh. Ravindra Choudhary	14.06.2021	04.09.2021	Rs. 54,56,941.24 + (Intt. Due from 01.04.2021)			

Date: 06/09/2021 Place: Arrah

Punjab National Bank Secured Creditor

Sh. Deepak Kumar Gupta

Authorized Office

Date: 7th September, 2021

After Nipah case, Kerala tracking fever deaths

Surveillance to be carried out across a 3 km radius of the victim's house

STAFF REPORTER

The Health Department in Kerala is taking stock of all unnatural deaths, including those caused by fever, in Chathamangalam and nearby areas in Kozhikode district, to detect the source of the Nipah infection which claimed the life of 12-year-old Hashim on Sunday.

Health Minister Veena George told presspersons on Monday that house-to-house surveillance would be intensified in nearby Kodiyathur grama panchayat and Mukkom municipality areas. Both field surveillance and fever surveillance would be done within a 3 km-radius of the boy's house in Pazhoor. The details of recent fever deaths in the Chathamangalam grama panchayat limits were being compiled. Those with Nipah-like symptoms would be examined. CO-VID-19 vaccination was stopped in Kozhikode taluk for 48 hours. Those with fever-like symptoms, however, could undergo tests.

Unusual season Asked about the occurrence

of the infection in September unlike the previous instances in 2018 and 2019, when it broke out in May-June, the Minister said this aspect would be examined. Health experts said the infection was most likely to be reported between December and June, the mating season of fruit bats, thought to be the natural carriers of the virus.

The Minister said the alleged lapses at the Government Medical College Hospi-



Hunting for clues: Rambutan fruit being collected on Monday from the area where the Nipah victim lived. • K. RAGESH

tal (MCH), Kozhikode in not diagnosing the infection would be looked into. Though the boy was admitted to the hospital on August 31 with severe symptoms and spent around 20 hours there, his condition was not properly diagnosed. The boy

had fever since August 27 and was taken to three private hospitals before reaching the MCH. Hospital authorities claimed they tried to stabilise him. There was no ventilator available. A State-level Nipah control cell was set up at Thiruvananthapuram.

Nearby districts should be on alert, says NCDC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode district of Kerala, the Central team from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) that was sent here on September 5 has said in its first report that the nearby districts of Kannur, Malappuram and Wayanad need to be alerted.

In its communication to the State, the Union Health Ministry said the Central team, along with district surveillance officer and other officials, carried out field investigations.

"Based on the first report submitted by the Central team, we have made a series of recommendations which

these classes are not com-

pulsory, as there is a provi-

The government has said

offline classes for students of

class 6-8 will be held on al-

ternate days, each with 50%

attendance. The weekends

will be used for sanitising

and other COVID-19 control

sion of online classes also.

has been shared with the State for further follow-up action," said the Health Ministry.

The team has recommended that both hospitalbased and communitybased surveillance needed to be strengthened, awareness needed to be created among the field formations for early detection of cases of acute encephalitis syndrome/ respiratory distress, and risk communicated to the public.

The Ministry said Animal Health and Wildlife Departments and other field officers may be initiated to trap and collect samples from fruit bats for virological stu-

HC rejects plan for online admissions

STAFF REPORTER VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday struck down a notification issued by the government for online admissions to Intermediate courses and directed that the conventional system be followed for the current academic year.

Online admissions could be done from the next year but after taking the opinions of all stakeholders, the court said at the hearing on a plea by the Central Andhra Junior College Managements' Association that challenged the Board of Intermediate (BIE)'s plan to make admissions online. The BIE had called for online applications from September 13 to 23.



Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at a few/ isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Saurashtra & Kutch, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, . Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa, coastal & north interior Karnataka, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	KAIN	IVIAX	IVITIN	CITY	KAIN	IVIAX	IVIIIN
Agartala	13	34.5	25.0	Kozhikode	41	28.0	23.4
Ahmedabad		35.7	26.6	Kurnool	0.5	28.2	23.7
Aizawl	–	32.1	23.3	Lucknow		34.2	28.0
Allahabad	–	35.6	28.3	Madurai		35.8	28.2
Bengaluru	7.8	27.0	20.2	Mangaluru	17.7	28.1	22.4
Bhopal	27.1	31.5	22.6	Mumbai	6	30.6	24.8
Bhubaneswar	10	31.6	25.0	Mysuru	2	29.0	21.3
Chandigarh		38.5	26.4	New Delhi		36.2	27.4
Chennai	24	32.5	24.1	Patna		34.4	27.6
Coimbatore	2	30.0	22.2	Port Blair	29	31.0	23.5
Dehradun	0.1	32.9	25.0	Puducherry	14.4	30.7	22.1
Gangtok		24.0	17.7	Pune	4	30.8	21.9
Goa	23	29.5	23.5	Raipur	11.7	33.2	23.5
Guwahati		35.5	27.0	Ranchi		29.2	24.4
Hubballi		26.0	22.0	Shillong		26.1	18.1
Hyderabad	12	25.1	22.3	Shimla		26.0	19.7
Imphal		27.2	22.0	Srinagar		33.5	18.0
Jaipur	11	35.0	25.8	Thiruvananthapuram.	19	30.4	22.4
Kochi	23	28.4	24.4	Tiruchi	0.3	32.2	26.0
Kohima	1	26.8	18.2	Vijayawada	1	27.4	25.8
Kolkata	2	33.6	27.1	Visakhapatnam	66	28.6	25.2
(Rainfall data	in mm;	temper	ature in	Celsius)			

....15

4.00 p.m., Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh recorded a

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

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form b reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death

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

Bomb threat to indigenous aircraft carrier

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The police have registered cases under cyber terrorism after Cochin Shipyard received e-mails twice in the past 20 days, warning of bombs going off in the shipyard where the indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) that will be christened INS Vikrant and is undergoing sea trials, was built.

Sources said the Ernakulam South Police Station has registered cases under Section 66 F (cyber terrorism, a charge that can attract punishment up to life imprisonment) of IT Act and Section 384 of IPC.

The police and the CISF have stepped up security of the shipyard and the waterbody in its vicinity.

Classes 6-8 resume in Karnataka

Students returned to school in batches, amid strict COVID-19 protocols

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Schools reopened for students of classes 6 to 8 in Karnataka on Monday with strict COVID-19 protocols and standard operating procedures (SOP).

As per government directions, schools have been reopened in taluks where CO-VID-19 positivity rate is below 2%.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister B.C. Nagesh said the government decided to reopen schools after approval from the State's technical advisory committee on COVID-19.

"The Department had an intention of reopening schools for some time now and teachers were also ready for it, but keeping in mind



New rules: Students at a corporation school in Bengaluru

the health of the students along with education and concerns of the parents, we discussed with the technical advisory committee and after taking the opinion of expert paediatricians, we are reopening schools for classes 6,7 and 8," he told reporters.

The Minister said many parents and students had urged him during his recent visits to several parts of the State to reopen schools.

It is mandatory for students to submit a consent letter from their parents to attend offline classes and

Iunior classes

In response to a question, the Minister said, after monitoring the offline classes, the government will take a decision on resuming classes 1 to 5, but did not specify any

The government had already allowed the reopening of schools for students from classes 9 to 12 since August

Maharashtra records 5,988 recoveries, 3,626 new cases

State's active case tally drops below 50.000

STAFF REPORTER

Amid worrying signs of a spike, Maharashtra reported a robust 5,988 recoveries on Monday against a surge of 3,626 COVID-19 cases as the active case tally dipped below the 50,000-mark to reach 47,695.

The State reported its lowest fatality surge in more than 45 days, reporting 37 deaths to take the total toll to 1,37,811. The case fatali-

Shopkeeper

elderly man

RAINA ASSAINAR

NAVI MUMBAI

held for killing

The NRI Coastal police on

Monday arrested Mohan

Chaudhary (33), a shop-

keeper, for killing Shama-

kant Tukaram Naik (80), a

resident of Ulwe, for alleg-

edly making obscene re-

The decomposed body

was found in a water body

at Sector 19 in Ulwe on Sa-

turday, the police said.

VIJAYAWADA

marks about his wife.

ty rate remains at 2.12%. However, the low case surge must be viewed in the context of lower samples tested less than 1.50 lakh as compared with the daily average of over 2.10 lakh. Total cases have reached 64,89,800, while cumulative recov-

eries have risen to

63,00,755, with the re-

covery rate rising incre-

mentally to 97.09%. "Of a total of 5,49,99,475 laboratory samples tested thus far, 64,89,800 (with the average case positivity falling incrementally to 11.8%) have returned

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THE

India's National Newspaper

B. SREEDHAR, IAS Managing Director/APGENCO

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LTD
VIDYUTH SOUDHA: VIJAYAWADA

Notification No. 01/CGM(Adm, IS & ERP)/2021, Dated: 06.09.2021, APGENCO

Limited (Wholly owned by Government of A.P.) is one of the pivotal Organization of

Andhra Pradesh, engaged in the business of Power Generation with an installed capacity of 5589 MW, invites applications from the qualified candidates for the pos-

2. Notification No. 02/CGM(Adm, IS & ERP)/2021, Dated: 06.09.2021 APGENCO

Limited (Wholly owned by Government of A.P.) is one of the pivotal Organization of

Andhra Pradesh, engaged in the business of Power Generation with an installed

capacity of 5589 MW, invites applications from the qualified candidates for the post

of Director (HR & IR). For further details visit www.apgenco.gov.in.

of Director(Hydel). For further details visit www.apgenco.gov.in

Last date for submission of application: Dt. 27.09.2021 @ 5.00 P.M

Last date for submission of application: Dt. 27.09.2021 $@5.00\,\text{P.M}$

positive, with more than 1.45 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," said State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate.

Pune reported nearly 750 new cases, taking its total case tally to 11,24,538, while two deaths pushed the total toll over 18,740. As per district authorities, the active case tally has exceeded 9,300.

Mumbai reported 383 new cases to take its tally to 7,46,341, while the active case tally rose to 4,003. Five deaths took the city's death toll to 15,993.

ADVERTISEMENT

O/o-ODISHA POLICE, STATE CRIME RECORD BUREAU, RASULGARH, BHUBANESWAR.

Name: Ms. N.B.Bharathi, IPS Father's Name: Late C.B.Narayana Address : 20, 1 Floor, 5 B Main-10 'C' Cross-II Stage West of (Nord Road) Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore.

It is hereby brought to your notice that the disciplinary proceeding has been initiated against you vide Home Department Memorandum No.45226/IPS, dtd 23.11.2017 and entrusted to the undersigned for inquiry vide Home Department Order No.451/IPS, dtd.03.01.2020. On receipt of the proceeding file, the undersigned has fixed different dates to conduct inquiry on 15.02.2020, 18.03.2020, 18.05.2020, 18.08.2020, 19.10.2020, 19.12.2020, 18.02.2021 20.04.2021, 11.06.2021 and 31.08.2021, but all the notices sent by the Addl. D.G of Police, HRPC, Odisha, Cuttack through Regd./Speed post in all your available separate addresses have been returned undelivered and delivery report in your E Mail ID has also not been received till date. For your non- appearance in the proceeding inquiry in all the times, the proceeding inquiry is lingering unnecessarily. The next date of inquiry has been fixed to 29.10.2021 at 11.00 A.M in the office of the under signed. You are hereby informed to appear the proceeding inquiry on the above mentioned date and time, otherwise it will be presumed that you have no defence to offer and the orders on the disciplinary proceeding will be passed ex-parte.

> sd/- Director & Addl. D.G. of Police SCRB, Odisha, Bhubaneswar (Inquiring Officer) OPR-12029/11/0020/2122

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE (Bid No. 7200008273)

No. FBP/644 Dated: 06.09.2021

The Municipal Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, invites the following online tender. The tender copy can be downloaded from MCGM's Portal (http://www.mcgm.gov.in) under "Tender" section. All interested vendors, whether already registered or not registered in MCGM, are mandated to get registered with MCGM for e-Tendering process. Login credentials to participate in the online bidding process on the above mentioned portal under

For registration, enrollment for digital signature certificated & user manual, please refer to respective links provided in e-Tendering tab.

The vendors can get digital signature from any one of the Certifying Authorities (CA's) licensed by the Controller of Certifying Authorities namely safescrypt, IDRBT, National Informatics Centre, TCS, Customs, MTNL, GNFC and e Mudhra CA, MCGM has also opened a help desk at the CPD office to help the vendors in this regard.

The technical and commercial bids shall be submitted online upto the due date and time

me	ntioned below.					
Sr. No. (1)	Description (2)	Qnty. (3)	EMD (Rs.) (4)	Tender Form Charges (5)	Time for	Due Date & Time for online Bid Submission (7)
1	Fabrication and supply of 40 mtrs. height Turn Table Ladder to be mounted on 4X2, BS VI (Euro 6) chassis of reputed make for fire fighting and rescue operation with 13 years CSMC as per the specifications of	1 nos.	31,50,000/-	RS.9400+ 5% GST	07.09.2021 From 11.00 Hrs.	22.09.2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.

The tenderer shall have to pay Tender document charges as mentioned above through online payment gateway before downloading the tender documents and all the tenderers are required to pay the EMD online only as per MCGM procedure.

PRO/1011/ADV/2021/22 Let's together and make Mumbai Malaria Free

Chief Fire Officer (i/c) Mumbai Fire Brigade

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

(Inforcement) Rules, 2002)
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement)Rules.2002 issued

West-Plot No 335

Demand Notice calling upon`the´borrower(s) to repay the amount´mentioned`in the notice´within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s) /Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount. Notice s hereby given to the borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has aken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower(s) /Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) ir particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for the amount stated herein below and urther interest—thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section13 of the Act, in respect of time, available redeem the secured assets. Branch / Name of Borrowers/ Date of **Description of the Immovable Property/ies** Demand Notice /

Date of Possession / Amount Outstanding Registered mortgage of land & building situated at Uchitpur Branch: Sasaram M/s Buddha Enterprises Prop: Sri Kamles Rev Thana No 154, PS-Sasaram, Sub Div- Sasaram, Dist-Kumar S/o Sri Buddh Nath Singh **Guarantor**- Mr Rohtas Khata No. 147, Plot No. 1107 (Part) Area 0.17 & half Buddh Nath Singh S/o Ram Chandra Singh Bounded by :- North-Pucca Road, South-Baijnath Singh Demand Notice:03.06.2021 East-Manik Chand, West-Sri kishun Singh Date of Possession: 01.09.2021 Amount:Rs.30,00,000/- as on 31.05.2021

Jnapplied Intt.Charges and expenses Branch: Sasaram Mrs Kanchan Pandey W/o Birendra Pandey a

Mr. Birendra Pandey **Demand Notice**:19.04.2021 Date of Possession: 01.09.2021 Amount: Rs.14.35.886.02/- O/s as on 31.03.202 + Unapplied Intt. Charges and expenses.

Branch: Sasaram M/s Modern Chicks & Feed Centre Prop Sri Noorangani, Thana No 125, PS-Sasaram, Dist-Rohtas

S/o Late Gauri Shankar Gond Demand Notice:03.06.2021 Date of Possession: 01.09.2021 Amount:Rs.14,00,000/- O/s as on 31.05.2021

Jnapplied Intt.Charges and expenses

Birendra Kumar **Guarantor-** Mr Rajendra Prasad bearing khata no 71 & 72, Plot No 99, 100 and ms 442(o 976(n) area khata 2 Dhoor 8 Dhurki 5 in the name of M Rajendra Prasad S/o Shri Gauri Shankar Gond Bounded by :- North-Binod Kumar & Bhuneshwar Prasad prest purchaser, South-Rasta, East-Gauri Shankar Gond prest purchaser, West-Ramdeo Singh & Basudeo Singh prest purchaser

Equitable mortgage of Land and building Situated at Village-

Kanserwa, PS-Sasaram, Dist.-Rohtas, Bihar, Thana No

130, Plot No 334, Area 4.5 Dec. Bounded by :- North

Rasta 8 ft, South-Ashutosh Bahadur, East-Nij Vendor

Equitable mortgage of Land and building Situated at Mauza

Demand Notice:03.06.2021,

Branch: Sasaram

Date of Possession: 01.09.2021 Amount: Rs. 90,00,000/- +74,399,93 (FTL-COVID)+5,48,165.81 (FITL-COVID), Total Rs. 3. Mauza-Sakari, Thana no.-659, PS-Kudra, Distt.-Kaimu Intt Charges and expenses.

1. Mauza-Panchpokhari, Thana no.-670, PS-Kudra, Distt.-M/s Nav Durga Mini Rice Mill Prop: Sri Raj Kaimur bearing khata no.-90, plot no. 432 area 16 Decima Mohan Pathak Village-Panchpokhari, PO-Sakri, in the name of Mr. Raj Mohan Pathak S/o Late Awadl PS-Kudra, Dist-Kaimur **Guarantor-**(1) Tej Narayan Bihari Pathak. **Bounded by** :- North-Chat, South-Ganga Pathak S/o Late Awadh Bihari Pathak,(2) Mr Ram Dayal Kuswaha, East-plot no. 432 Gopal Lal,West-plo Singhasan Pathak S/o Late Awadh Bihari no. 432, Sujit Kumar Gupta Pathak,(3) Mr Rajendra Pathak S/o Late Awadh 2. Mauza-Panchpokhari, Thana no.-670, PS-Kudra, Distt.

Kaimur bearing khata no.-90, plot no. 432 area 12.5 Decima in the name of Mr. Raj Mohan Pathak S/o Late Awadh Biha Pathak. Bounded by :- North-Chat, South-Ganga Daya Kuswaha, East-plot no. 432 kewaladar, West-plot no. 432 Raj mohan Pathak

bearing khata no.-153, plot no. 426 area 1.25 Decimal in the

name of Mr. Raj Mohan Pathak S/o Late Awadh Bihari Pathak. **Bounded by** :- North-Ram Singhasan Pathak South-Rajendra Pathak, East-Rasta plot no. 432 after Sheshnath Chaudhary, West-Ratan Chaudhary 4. Mauza-Sakari, Thana no.-659, PS-Kudra, Distt.-Kaimur bearing khata no.-153, plot no. 426 area 1.29 Decimal in the name of Mr. Rajendra Pathak S/o Late Awadh Bihari Pathak, Bounded by :- North-Raj Mohar Pathak, South-Rajgrihi Pathak, East-Rasta plot no. 426 after Sheshnath Chaudhary, West-Ratan Chaudhary 5. Mauza-Sakari, Thana no.-659, PS-Kudra, Distt.-Kaimur bearing khata no.-153, plot no. 426 area 1.25

Prasad, South-Ram Singhasan Pathak, East-Rasta plot no. 426 after Sheshnath Chaudhary, West-Ratar Chaudhary Gupta 6. Mauza-Sakari, Thana no.-659, PS-Kudra, Distt.-Kaimur bearing khata no.-153, plot no. 426 area 1.25 Decimal in the name of Mr. Ram Singhasan Pathak S/o Late Awadh Bihari Pathak, **Bounded by**:- North-Tej Narayan Pathak, South-Raj Mohan Pathak, East-Rasta plot no. 426 after Sheshnath Chaudhary, West-Ratar

Decimal in the name of Mr. Tej Narayan Pathak S/o Late Awadh Bihari Pathak, **Bounded by** :- North-Birendra

Date: 06/09/2021 **Authorised Officer** Place :Gaya

From fighters to rulers

India must use its voice on the international stage to make Taliban respect freedoms, rights

fter postponing the announcement twice, Taliban spokesmen have said that they expect to Lhave a new government in Afghanistan this week. There has been some speculation over the delay, more than three weeks after Taliban gunmen walked into Kabul and President Ashraf Ghani fled. While some have said the Taliban were waiting to take control of the last hold-out province of Panjshir, and others even suggested there was some symbolism attached to timing it with the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the real reason appears to be differences within various Taliban factions over the government's structure and composition. In particular, the differences between the Taliban leadership in Helmand, Kandahar, and the political office in Doha, seen as the more "moderate" face, as well as between the "original" Afghan Taliban leadership and the Pakistan-based Haggani network, a designated terror entity. The jockeying is reportedly over cabinet portfolios, the appointment of governors in the 34 provinces, control of the cities and the possibility of including non-Taliban Afghan leaders. Reports of the differences have escalated and the appearance in Kabul of the Pakistan ISI chief, Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed, is believed to have been an attempt to smooth over the cracks in government formation. At the base of the differences is the tussle between the Taliban's push to consolidate their takeover of Afghanistan and implement an Islamist agenda, and the desire to receive recognition from the international community and its continued financial support.

The outcome holds the key not only to the future of Afghanistan but also to New Delhi's engagement with the new regime. Any government that gives the Haqqani group key positions will make it difficult for India to have a role in either diplomacy or development projects in Afghanistan, given previous terror attacks. Any overt role for Pakistan, as well as China, will also raise red flags for New Delhi. The Modi government has announced that it is now engaging the Taliban, with the first publicly acknowledged meeting in Doha last week; the MEA says it conveyed concerns on the safety of Indians in Afghanistan and ensuring Afghan soil is not used for attacks in India. Any engagement with the Taliban beyond this is contingent on the composition of the new power structure and how much the new government in Afghanistan is amenable to international expectations of it, in terms of representation, rights, and in allowing UN agencies to monitor development. To this end, India must use its voice on the international stage forcefully. This includes blocking any move at the UNGA and UNSC to recognise the new regime, and stopping the delisting or exemptions to Taliban leaders at the 1988 sanctions committee, which India chairs, until the Taliban regime shows a willingness to comply.

Transition incomplete

Libya's militias need to stop their factionalism and join hands to rebuild the country

he release of al-Saadi Qadhafi, son of former Li byan dictator Muammar Qadhafi, from prison comes at a time when the unity government in Tripoli is trying to disarm militias, mobilise state institutions and organise elections to end the ongoing conflict. Mr. Saadi's brother, Seif al-Islam, seen as the heir apparent of Qadhafi before his regime was toppled in 2011 by a NATO invasion, had indicated in July that he would contest in the scheduled December elections for President. Mr. Saadi had been accused of crimes committed against protesters in 2011, and the authorities decided to free him reportedly after talks with tribal elders who were backing the Qadhafi family. "We cannot move forward without achieving reconciliation," Prime Minister-designate Abdul Hamid Dbeibah wrote on Twitter. The oil-rich North African country has seen little peace since Qadhafi's demise. NATO had helped different militia groups with air power to defeat his forces back then. But once the regime fell, they began fighting one another. Libya had established a transition government, but it failed to mobilise authority across the country. Soon there were two governments – in Tripoli, the capital, and Tobruk in the east. The Tripoli government, in which the Libyan arm of the Muslim Brotherhood was a part, was backed by Qatar and Turkey, while the Tobruk government, projecting itself as a counterweight to Islamist militancy in the country, was supported by the UAE and Egypt. Libya slid into chaos.

In 2019, Khalifa Haftar, the renegade General propping up the Tobruk government with his militia, started a military campaign to take over Tripoli. He promised to take the whole country under his leadership and establish a stable government. But the Tripoli government, with assistance from Turkey, fought off his forces, which led both factions to accept a UN-mediated ceasefire last year. In March this year, they agreed to install a unity government in Tripoli, which would hold elections and ensure the country's transition from the civil war. Six months later, there are no healthy signs of such a peaceful transition. All parties had initially agreed to hold elections in December, but have not reached an agreement yet on the constitutional frameworks to do so. A more pressing problem is the frequent fighting between the militias despite the ceasefire. The government has not been able to integrate the militias into the national army. In the east, Mr. Haftar's troops remain a parallel institution. Libyan authorities do not have any other option but to bring together all factions, including the rump of the old regime, to build a stable state free of civil strife. But any attempt to ensure a peaceful transition would depend on the readiness of the country's new elite to set aside their factionalism

The long and the short of the NMP

It is surprising the Government has avoided mentioning the consequences of asset monetisation on ordinary citizens



BISWAIIT DHAR

n the Budget for 2021-22, the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitha-**⊥**raman, had announced the Government's decision to monetise operating public infrastructure assets, declaring this as an important financing option for constructing new infrastructure. She announced that a "National Monetization Pipeline" (NMP) would be launched to achieve this objective (https://bit.ly/38KdR7s). months later, the NMP was unveiled, which shows that the Government intends to raise ₹6-lakh crore over the next four years by monetising several "core assets". The term asset monetisation is not new in this government's lexicon. It has been used during the proposed disinvestment of Air India

Trying to make a distinction

and other public sector enterpris-

es. Thus, asset monetisation is de

facto "privatisation" of govern-

ment-owned assets by another

One possible reason for the change in the terminology is the strong political undertones associated with the term "privatisation". A two-volume NITI Aayog report (https://bit.ly/3h7gFQt), which serves as the "asset monetisation guidebook", explains that the NMP will help in "evolving a common framework for monetisation of core assets" and this will help draw a distinction from privatisation. But is there a functional distinction between asset monetisation and privatisation?

The NITI Aayog report describes asset monetisation as "transfer of performing assets ... to

unlock 'idle' capital and reinvesting it in other assets or projects that deliver improved or additional benefits". In our view, asset monetisation raises three sets of questions. First, are the assets identified for monetisation "idle" or "performing"? Surely, they cannot be both. Second, can the country's ordinary citizens expect to receive the purported "additional benefits"? And, finally, could the Government have looked for other avenues for mobilising resources, rather than selling tax-payers'

The Government has identified "performing assets" to transfer to private entities and these are both strategic and significant. These include over 26,700 kilometres of highways, 400 railway stations, 90 passenger trains, 4 hill railways, including the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. Moreover, existing public sector infrastructure in telecoms, power transmission and distribution and petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas pipelines are included in the NMP. If such assets were not offered, would the private sector be interested in acquiring rights over

Some data

Under the NMP, the Government intends to lease or divest its rights over these assets via long-term leases against a consideration that can be upfront and/or periodic payments. Thus, expected financial flows from leasing or divesting the Government's share in these entities would be a major benefit for the central government, which is in the throes of a fiscal crisis. At the end of 2020-21, the central government's debt to GDP ratio had exceeded 60%, increasing from 48.6% a year before. Current expectations are that in 2021-22, this figure will be close to 62%. Given this situation, the NMP is being projected as the ability of the Go-

vernment to raise resources and to

work its way out of the fiscal logjam.

Significant impact

The most surprising aspect of the Finance Minister's announcement regarding the NMP is that the Government has avoided mentioning the consequences of asset monetisation on the ordinary citizens of the country. To understand this issue, two obvious dimensions need to be considered. First, the assets that are being offered for leasing or divestment have all been created through substantial contribution by the tax-paying public, who have stakes in their operation and management. Second, these assets have, until now, been managed by the Government and its agencies. which operate in public interest and are not driven by the profitmaking considerations.

Therefore, charges borne by the public for using these assets have remained reasonable. With private companies getting the sole responsibility of running all these assets, from highways and railways to all the major utilities such as power, telecom and gas, the citizens of this country would be double-taxed. First, they paid taxes to create the assets, and would now pay higher user charges.

The reason for this is simple. Unlike the public sector entities, private companies are mandated, and quite justifiably so, to maximise their profits and to increase the returns enjoyed by the shareholders. In other words, it is not

social benefit, but higher private returns that drives the corporates. Therefore, as the Government prepares to transfer "performing assets" to the private companies, it has the responsibility to ensure that user charges do not price the consumers out of the market. This critical dimension has not clearly been spelt out even in the NITI report. It is evident that consumers' interest can be protected only if the Government can curb profitmaximising tendencies of the companies through regulators.

In the past episodes of privatisation of utilities, instead of effective regulation, there have been instances of regulatory capture instead, resulting in the exploitation of consumers. Take for example the privatisation of the power distribution system in the country's capital. The then Congress government privatised power distribution, and this resulted in a steep increase in power charges that not only threatened to price out the poorer sections but adversely affected the middle class as well. Providing cheaper power was one of the main election promises of the Aam Aadmi Party, which was fulfilled by providing subsidised power to the consumer. But little does the capital's electorate realise that the Government is providing subsidies from the taxes it collects. This implies that the city's taxpayers are either paying higher taxes and/or foregoing public services for "benefiting" from "cheaper" power charges, while the companies are continuing to earn their promised profits.

Tapping the tax route

Finally, since the proposed asset monetisation has resulted from the resource crunch faced by the Government, a pertinent question is whether there were other avenues that it could have been tapped for plugging the resource gap. One possibility was to inin 2019-20, India's tax to GDP ratio was relatively low, as compared to most advanced nations. Improvements in tax compliance and plugging loopholes have long been emphasised as the surest way to improve tax revenue, but little has been done, as the following example shows. Since 2005-06, the Government has been providing data on the profits declared and taxes paid by companies that file their returns electronically. This data reveals that in 2005-06, 40% of these companies had declared that they were not earning any profits, and this figure had increased to over 51% in 2018-19. Further, the share of the reporting companies earning profits of ₹1 crore or less was 55% in 2005-06; this figure had declined to 43% in 2018-19. These numbers lend themselves to only one conclusion. India's large companies have been exploiting the loopholes for reporting lower profits and to escape the tax net. But why have successive governments been so indulgent?

On public sector efficiency

According to NITI Aayog, the "strategic objective of the Asset Monetisation programme is to unlock the value of investments in public sector assets by tapping private sector capital and efficiencies". The NITI Aayog objective assumes that public sector enterprises are inefficient, which is contrary to the reality. In 2018-19, while 28% of these enterprises were loss-making (https://bit.ly/3jLPHQ7), the corresponding figure for large companies was 51%. Is it realistic to assume that the asset monetisation programme efficiencies?

Biswajit Dhar is Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of

A Taliban-led Afghanistan and the Chinese conundrum

The U.S. move of vacating Afghanistan — a nation vital for the Belt and Road Initiative — may prove costly for Beijing



NILANJAN BANIK & GUIDO COZZI

ecent weeks have been unsettling for the people in Afghanistan. A devastating bomb blast, on August 26, outside Kabul airport, killed many people, soldiers and civilians. Not the first of its kind, the region has seen umpteen number of bomb blasts, including the one at the Gwadar, just a few days earlier, targeting Chinese nationals. For an economy driven by the opium trade and ruled by tribal leaders, the new normal is bound to be governed by instability, fighting groups, and thereafter, boom, gloom, and

After the long war, the spoils

In fact, the United States did the smart thing by leaving Afghanistan. The Afghan occupation was costing it more than what it was getting in return. An estimate by Brown University, U.S. (https:// bit.ly/3n5cPLJ), suggests that since 2001, the U.S. has spent \$2.26 trillion, out of which \$1.53 trillion was spent on defence. The Afghan economy did not flourish, with 90% of its population still living below poverty line, with less than \$2 a day. The only thing that the economy can still brag about is its ability to produce opium and mercenaries.

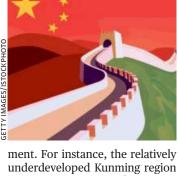
But then Afghanistan has a few other things that are valuable rare-earth metals and huge deposits of copper. The Chinese in par-

ticular will be happy about it as they have the technology to excavate them. In fact, the return of the Taliban is seen as a victory of Chinese diplomacy and a debacle for the United States; comparable to the U.S.'s symbolic evacuation of Saigon, in 1975, at the end of the Vietnam war. Indeed, China (also, Russia) have kept their embassies running in Kabul while the western embassies have disappeared. Moreover, China is engaging with the Taliban, with an eye to complete the new Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) investment. And a Chinese presence in Afghanistan with an all-weather ally Pakistan may sound ominous for India.

Crucial link in the BRI

Afghanistan is indeed vital for the BRI. Without counting on Afghanistan, the bulk of Chinese investment in the China-Pakistan corridor will be at risk. Considering the heavy infrastructure investment sunk in the BRI, only many years of successful operation could repay it. In such a project, spending is easy, but getting back the money is extremely hard. The amount of trade that should flow through the new Silk Road should be massive and long term. Otherwise, it will cost money and effort.

In fact, the Chinese successfully implemented this investment strategy, and it worked well in the context of Southeast Asia and Africa. First, the cost of production being lower in Southeast Asia meant Chinese firms could gain by shifting their production bases outside China. Second, investing in these regions meant access to bigger markets for Chinese firms and more uniform regional develop-



in Yunnan province became a commercial hub. Third, Chinese firms could evade protectionist measures targeted at their exports when they began exporting from Southeast Asian countries instead. Fourth, investing in Africa and Asia has also reduced some of China's energy requirements, enabling Beijing to access cheaper foreign energy (oil and power) and minerals. Chinese firms have also constructed hydropower plants and a thermal power station in Myanmar. China has also invested in power transmission and copper processing activities in Vietnam. The Chinese want to mimic the same strategies in the case of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Success in these two countries would imply that China will be able to bring together a large part of the Indian Ocean littoral and Eurasia through high speed rail lines, pipelines, and maritime linkages. The idea of connecting to the rest of the world stems from China's aspiration to get out of manufacturing, go up the global value chains, and start focusing on product designing and innovation. According to the government of China, the development of the BRI would impact 4.4 billion people and generate trade worth \$2.5 trillion within a decade.

The shadow of terror

But here is the flip side. Afghanistan and Pakistan are not comparable to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The recent suicide attacks in Kabul and Gwadar are a pointer and may even indicate the resurgence of terrorist groups such as al Qaeda, Daesh, and the Islamic State. No businesses can flourish in the presence of terrorism, especially when the Taliban are known to have a soft corner for the East Turkestan Islamic Movement – a militant group active in the Uighur province of China. No matter how much the Chinese leadership has a desire for inclusive and peaceful development in Afghanistan, in reality,

things stand out in stark contrast. Even considering Pakistan, a country relatively better off than Afghanistan, the Chinese are facing problems. Pakistan is unable to repay a China-funded energy project, built under the BRI. The economy of Pakistan faltered because of dynastic politics and corruption. To top it off, there is an excessive dependence of the political class on the military. Business decisions are not economically driven but are motivated by vested interests with the army calling the

There are good reasons to believe that the return of the Taliban in Kabul will spell gloom and doom for the Chinese. The Taliban ruling groups are far from united, making it impossible to make any reliable domestic and international policy predictions. The dependence on opium export makes Afghanistan vulnerable to world mafias and corruption. All this implies that its undemocratic rulers are not comparable to China-like autocracies, with an inherent stable character. Embargoes, rebellions, factional wars, will be the likely events in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. These issues will spread to Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, and other essential rings in the BRI chain.

Sanctions as disruptor

Additionally, the Taliban are among the world's least acceptable ruling elite for the western countries. The enormous markets controlled by the western powers are the most lucrative for China. Hence, the next decade will likely show a sequence of BRI trade flow stop-and-go following likely European and American decisions to block or sanction trade from Afghanistan. Given the unfriendly relations between the U.S. and China, any excuse will basically be picked up and used by the White House to stop trade along the BRI. Hence, the cash flow into the BRI will constantly face a risk of interruption. The financial market will incorporate this expectation and make the funding of the remaining parts of the BRI more expensive and restricted. In a game of chess, the U.S. move of vacating Afghanistan may in fact prove costly for

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Prevention, National Center

for Emerging and Zoonotic

Infectious Diseases - 60% of

emerging infectious diseases

have a zoonotic origin,

posing a grave threat to

human health across the

world. This will continue as

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

Security concerns With the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban, the resurgence of trained terrorists and militants along the Indian border was only expected (Page 1, September 6). There is no doubt that the Taliban's presence will give extremist groups the much-needed fillip they need to revive and accelerate their activities. Though the Taliban may profess and promise a democratic setup in Afghanistan, India's task is cut out. Terrorism and militancy will be staggeringly formidable as outfits of all ideologies may

join hands to convert Kashmir into another Afghanistan. It is surprising that the Narendra Modi government is non-committal on this issue. A foothold in Kashmir will make it easier for ultras to make inroads into India's hinterlands. V. LAKSHMANAN,

■ The warnings about the presence of foreign militants which the report says has been taking place over time

– is a big worry. Unless the elements are neutralised at the earliest there is a distinct possibility of a terror attack

The claims of the Government that no terror attacks have taken place since it assumed power is going to be severely tested. ANTHONY HENRIQUES,

anywhere across the nation.

■ Unlike the United States and the rest of the West, India does not have the luxury of physical distance with Afghanistan. The "meeting" with the Taliban is an affirmative sign. However, India ought to be poised with a backup plan. If the Taliban abide by international rules and regulations, well and good. In case the scene

changes, India needs to prepared with plan B. AANYA SINGHAL,

■ The report only highlights the widespread global fear of the return to the dark days of terror. In Africa for instance, West African States caught up in their struggles to overcome Islamist insurgencies, are now fearful of Taliban-style takeovers. In East and West Africa, the Sahel and even parts of southern Africa, Islamist militant groups exist with some kind of connection with the al Qaeda, now said to share links with the

Taliban. India cannot be caught off-guard and should not hesitate to flag the issue at all key global fora. With crucial Assembly elections coming up in India, there should be no temptation to give the issue a political slant and polarise communities. Terror needs to be fought with determination and with all political parties on the same page. NAVDEEP SINGH DHILLON,

Disease spread According to World Health Organization reports - also backed by the Centers for

Disease Control and

long as the human race does not discard its apathy towards nature. Deforestation, leading to imbalances in our natural ecosystem, is driving animals out of their habitats, which could be resulting in the spillover of diseases.

Dr. BIJU C. MATHEW, Thiruvananthapuram

and join hands to rebuild the nation.

Spirit of federalism lies in consultation

Unilateral legislation without taking States into confidence will see more protests on the streets



Recently, various State governments raised concerns about Central unilateralism in the enactment of critical laws on subjects in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan stated that it is not in the essence of federalism for the Union government to legislate unilaterally, avoiding discussions with the States on the subjects in the Concurrent List. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin raised the issue by calling on other Chief Ministers against the Union government usurping powers under the State and Concurrent Lists. The Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution against the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020, while the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a resolution against the controversial farm laws. The States and the Legislative Assemblies standing up for their rights assumes significance in the wake of the Union government introducing a number of laws without taking the States into confidence, thereundermining the federal principles.

Around a year back, Parliament passed the farm laws without consulting the States. The laws, essentially related to Entry 14 (agriculture clause) belonging to the State List, were purportedly passed by Parliament citing Entry 33 (trade and commerce clause) in the Concurrent List. According to various decisions of the Supreme Court, beginning from the State of Bombay vs F.N. Balsara case, if an enactment falls within one of the matters assigned to the State List and reconciliation is not possible with any entry in the Concurrent or Union List after employing the doctrine of "pith and substance", the legislative domain of the State Legislature must prevail.

The farm laws were passed by Parliament even as it does not have legislative competence to deal with agriculture. The lack of consultation in a matter that intrinsically deals with millions of farmers also led to mas-



United front: People attending a meeting as part of the farmers' protest against the farm laws in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday. • REUTERS

'Redundancy of local laws'

When the Major Ports Authorities Act, 2021, was passed by Parliament earlier this year, even the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled State government in Goa objected to the law, stating that it would lead to the redundancy of the local laws, including the Goa Town and Country Planning Act, the Goa Municipalities Act, the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, the Goa Land Development and Building Construction Regulations, 2010, and the Goa Land Revenue Code.

When it comes to non-major ports, the field for legislation is located in Entry 31 of the Concurrent List. According to the Indian Ports Act, 1908, which presently governs the field related to non-major ports, the power to regulate and control the minor ports remained with the State governments. However, the new draft Indian Ports Bill, 2021, proposes to change the status quo by transferring the powers related to planning, developing and regulating the non-major ports to the Maritime State Development Council (MSDC), which is overwhelmingly controlled by the Union government. Coastal States like Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have objected to the Bill that proposes to seize the power of the State government with respect to non-major ports.

Various States like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have also

sive protests that, incidentally, still come forward against the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The field related to electricity is traceable to Entry 38 of the Concurrent List. The power to regulate the sector was vested with the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs), which were ostensibly manned by individuals appointed by the State

government. However, the proposed amendment seeks to change the regulatory regime from head-to-toe with the establishment of a National Selection Committee, dominated by members nominated by the Union government that will make appointments to the SERCs. Further, the amendment proposes the establishment of a Centrally-appointed Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority (ECEA) as the sole authority having jurisdiction over matters regarding the performance of obligations under a contract related to the sale, purchase or transmission of electricity.

In effect, the power to regulate the electricity sector would be taken away from the State government. This is apart from other proposed changes, including changing the licensing regime to facilitate private sector entry without State government approval.

Cause of concern

The Union government increasingly extending its hands on subjects in the Concurrent List is a cause of grave concern as the balance of the Constitution is now turned on its head. The model envisioned in the Government of India Act, 1935, was adopted by the framers of the Constitution and certain subjects were put in the Concurrent List by giving the Union and the State Legislatures concurrent powers regarding them.

The fields in the Concurrent List were to be of common interest to the Union and the States, and the power to legislate on these subjects to be shared with the Union so that there would be uniformity in law across the country. However, one of the worst fears of Constituent Assembly member K.T.M. Ahmad Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur has now come true, with subjects in the Concurrent List being transferred to the Union List over a period of time due to the Union government's high-handedness.

The Sarkaria Commission Report had specifically recommended that there should be a "coordination of policy and action in all areas of concurrent or overlapping jurisdiction through a process of mutual consultation and cooperation is, therefore, a prerequisite of smooth and harmonious working of the dual system". It was further recommended that the Union government, while exercising powers under the Concurrent List, limit itself to the purpose of ensuring uniformity in basic issues of national policy and not more.

The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC), or the Venkatachaliah Commission, had recommended that individual and collective consultation with the States should be undertaken through the Inter-State Council established under Article 263 of the Constitution.

As the Supreme Court itself had held in the S.R. Bommai vs Union of India case, the States are not mere appendages of the Union. The Union government should ensure that the power of the States is not trampled with. The intention of the framers of the Constitution is to ensure that public welfare is subserved and the key to that lies in listening to stakeholders. The essence of cooperative federalism lies in consultation and dialogue, and unilateral legislation without taking the States into confidence will lead to more protests on the streets.

Mukund P. Unny is an advocate practising in

A prescription for Kerala

Some tweaks are necessary in the State's COVID-19 response



Kerala is in the news, but for bad reasons. The COVID-19 caseload is increasing. The test positivity rate (TPR) and the cumulative death count show no respite. The cumulative deaths due to the virus as on August 24 in the State is only 19,757, compared to its neighbours - Tamil Nadu (34,761) and Karnataka (37,184). But, when adjusted for the total population, deaths per million is high in Kerala. Increased attention to vaccination coverage, and inadequate home quarantine and isolation measures may be the reasons.

All these indicators are in spite of its excellent case containment measures and its low case fatality rate (CFR) during the first wave in 2020 through its strong public health system and community-involved disease surveillance measures. The methods adopted by Kerala are globally well-established measures and as per the guidelines of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Union government. The State should assert this and ignore Opposition parties making it an opportunity for political mileage.

The State is going through a surge due to the mutant Delta variant and the "don't care" attitude of the public. COVID-appropriate behaviour and vaccination are key to containing the pandemic. The State must hold on to aggressive testing, genomic mapping, monitoring the TPR and the CFR for new infections, and conducting sero-surveys for assessing past infections or community transmission. It should continue uploading the data daily and holding briefings weekly, if not daily, by the Chief Minister and the Health Minister for better transparency.

The State also has to admit certain policy errors, including loosening their guard during the Assembly election and festivals.

Alter testing strategy

Kerala's testing strategy is more dependent on the Rapid Antigen Test (RAT), which comprises 60% of the testing, than the Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test. This was a critical observation made by a team sent by the Union government. This has to be so because the capacity for RT-PCR testing is only 75,000 per day in the State and 1,65,273 samples were tested on August 25 itself. But, if a RAT is negative, the mandatory RT-PCR test for confirmation is not strictly followed. Moreover, a number of false negatives escape the net. Most of the

RT-PCR testing is done for certification to resume duty and for travel purposes rather than case detection.

An ideal scenario would be to strictly stop RATs like in Tamil Nadu. In this case, the State would need to rope in more testing centres with adequate equipment for RT-PCR testing. Capacity-building of these new labs in the private or government sector is an urgent requirement. Authorities may also request the neighbouring States to lend their lab equipment on a returnable basis.

The time has come for the fire brigade to pay equal attention to saving lives and minimising casualties, while also dousing the fire. The State has to carefully divide the staff and resources for both contact tracing, testing and vaccination.

Vaccination is gaining momentum after the initial supply concerns were sorted out. Kerala has achieved around 75% coverage of the first dose of the vaccine and 28% coverage of both doses. This vaccination spree did have a deleterious effect in case detection and containment.

What is needed now is to entrust the vaccination responsibility to the Junior Public Health Nurses (JPHNs), health supervisors and staff nurses, and a few doctors. Accredited social health activists (ASHAs), field supervisors, Rapid Response Teams and doctors should focus on screening symptomatic patients, sample collection, contact tracing and active surveillance. Telephonic followups practised during the first wave is disappearing. With vaccination getting all the attention, ignoring contact tracing is not wise.

It is also high time to revert to institutional instead of domiciliary quarantine and the doubtfully-effective lockdowns and night curfews. A surge may happen soon with mutant variants overwhelming the health system. Mobilising extra intensive care unit (ICU) and COVID-19 hospital staff, and putting them on a "reserve list" is necessary.

Having a floating assembly of equipment like ventilators and oxygen cylinders, which can be moved to any hospital in any district within 24 hours, should also be prepared. Skill upgradation and honing case management efficiency in COVID-19 hospitals and district headquarter hospitals must also continue. Liquified medical oxygen production units and carriers should also be ready.

Israel is facing a surge in cases and scientists there have found a new sublineage of the Delta variant known as the AY.12 lineage. For now, what is happening in Kerala and not happening in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are epidemiological mysteries. We may get the answers someday.

Dr. K.R. Antony is a paediatrician, public health consultant and independent monitor, National Health Mission

Social media cannot replace proper news journalism

Recent trends have placed journalism under fire

ERIC FALT

In the last hundred years, the national Indian media - traditional and now "new" media - has grown exponentially in number and influence.

This year, as we mark the centenary of journalism education in India, never before has the need for journalism education been as pressing as it is now, with new threats of disinformation emerging and with the CO-VID-19 crisis revealing that information is actually a lifesaver.

In India, the discipline of "Journalism Education" was introduced by British activist Annie Besant in the 1920s, when she launched a course on journalism at the National University at Advar, Madras. There are now about 900 Indian colleges and institutes offering mass communication and journalism programmes.

In the last two decades, we have witnessed a boom in commercial media and numerous digital journalism platforms have emerged, which has also opened avenues for citizen journalism. All these factors have only compounded the need for certificated courses in journalism.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) mandate upholds freedom of the press and the free flow of information. The challenge is to ensure that this flow includes high quality information. Hence, the long-standing work of UNESCO to strengthen journalism education. We believe that professional news media act as guardians of the public interest. Citizens cannot exercise and enjoy their citizenship in the absence of crucial information, which well-trained journalists are better placed to provide. Professional journalistic standards are essential to bring out the potential of media systems to foster democracy, dialogue and development.

We see, however, that recent trends have placed journalism under fire. A range of factors are transforming the communications landscape, raising questions about the quality,

impact and credibility of journalism. In this context, UNESCO set up the Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education in 2014 to leverage lessons learned during our sup-

port to African schools of journalism, and apply them in the wider context of our support for journalism education globally. This included supporting the development of "new literacies" in response to the challenges of a fast-changing world. We assembled experts to develop syllabi on issues such as climate change, data journalism, science journalism, etc.

Our most recent publication was a handbook, Journalism, 'Fake News' and Disinformation, which is an issue that we have all become familiar

All this pushes in favour of a reinforcement of journalism education. Many stakeholders must join hands and accelerate efforts. This includes media houses and media training institutions, governments and other partners. It is evident that many of the schools that UNESCO supported over the years have become stronger and acquired a greater capacity to be a strategic part of a global network of journalism schools of excellence.

We have come a long way as far as strengthening the values of global journalism education is concerned, but a lot still needs to be done. We must address in particular quality issues and the exploitation of students by some educational institutions. The objective should be to constantly improve the quality of media training, while ensuring access to everyone.

The other pressing concern relates to the dynamic nature of the communication and information technologies that are reshaping the media landscape. Social media cannot replace the production of proper news journalism, even if they compete very seriously for time and advertising.

In this regard, we see the implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020, as an opportunity. It encourages us to make media education holistic, multidisciplinary and inclusive of the latest technological advancements. We must certainly evolve our teaching techniques keeping in view these challenges.

Eric Falt is the Director and Representative of the UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office covering Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka

DATA POINT

Tallying 'excess deaths'

The "excess deaths" registered during the pandemic period was 5.8 times the official COVID-19 death toll in together, whose Civit Registration System (CRS) data we The Hindu. The undercount factor of 5.8 was the highest among nations with the most recorded fatalities due to the virus. Moreover, the share of registered deaths in India was about 92%, and only 20.7% were medically certified in 2019. Hence, the undercount is a conservative estimate. By The Hindu Data Team



deaths where the cause was medically certified was the lowest in India among the highburden countries analysed

In Madhya Pradesh, 'excess deaths' were almost 24 times the COVID-19 deaths recorded between April 2020 and May 2021. While 89% of the deaths in the State were registered, only 9%



deaths are related to COVID-19. but a bulk of them would be during the

1. Nation-wise undercount The table lists the excess deaths and from April 2020 to May 2021. Excess deaths were calculated as the

of them were medically certified

the undercount factor for nations with a high COVID death burden. Excess deaths were calculated as the difference between the registered deaths from Mar. '20 to May '21, and the avg. number of deaths in 2018

and 2019 for the same months							
Country	Excess deaths	Multiple					
United States	7,19,994	1.2					
India*	12,65,797	5.8					
Mexico	4,90,309	2.2					
Peru	2,02,031	1.1					
Russia	4,42,409	3.7					
U.K.	1,04,567	0.8					
Italy	1,33,171	1.1					
Colombia	93,999	1.1					
France	95,937	0.9					
Germany	70,217	0.8					
Spain	94,916	1.2					
Chile	1,67,216	5.7					
*Dacad on data fr	om 11 Ctator	LITC					

*Based on data from 11 States/UTs

2. Cause of death

The table lists the death registration level (RL) and the share of registered deaths with a known cause of mortality (CM). In nine out of the 12 countries, the share of registered deaths in which the cause of death was

known was more than 95% **RL (%**) United States 99.9 100 Mexico 90-99 100 Russia >90 100 U.K. 100 100 Italy 100 100 France 90-99 100 Germany 100 100 Spain 90-99 100 Chile 90 95 Colombia 73 80 Peru 50-74 57 India 92 20.7

3. State-wise undercount | The table lists the States for which excess deaths and the undercount factor were calculated for the period difference between the registered deaths in the pandemic period and the average number of deaths registered in 2018 and 2019 for the same months

State	E)	cess death	S	COVID	IV	Iultiple		
	1	2	3	deaths	1	2	3	
Maharashtra!	3,10,727	NA	NA	75,877	4.1	NA	NA	
A.P. #	1,95,422	NA	NA	10,930	17.9	NA	NA	
M.P. #	1,92,004	NA	NA	8,068	23.8	NA	NA	
T.N. **	1,54,965	1,51,408	1,40,172	35,087	4.4	4.3	4	
T.N. ^	1,54,965	1,51,408	1,40,172	24,232	6.4	6.2	5.8	
Karnataka	1,25,732	1,67,788	58,620	29,090	4. 3	5.8	2	
W.B. @	1,20,227	NA	NA	10,787	11.1	NA	NA	
Haryana &	60,397	NA	NA	8,303	7.3	NA	NA	
Punjab	51,316	47,571	41,004	14,450	3.6	3.3	2.8	
Delhi	44,748	NA	NA	24,237	1.8	NA	NA	
Himachal &&	6,081	NA	NA	3,127	1.9	NA	NA	
Kerala*	4,178	13,868	-9,351	9,954	0.4	1.4	-0.9	
Total	12,65,797	3,80,635	2,30,445	2,19,055	5.8	4.9	3	

¹Baseline mortality: Avg. of 2018 and 2019 figures; ²Baseline mortality: Avg. of 2015-2019 figures; ³Comparison with mortality projection in 2021, based on linear growth in mortality between 2015-2019; ! Adjusted based on registered deaths for 2018 and 2019 for 29 districts which were 64-66% of deaths reported in CRS 2019; #Data accessed by Scroll.in; *Reconciled COVID death toll released by State; **Reconciled COVID death toll mentioned by State CRS; ^Based on State's COVID tally; & Registered deaths for 2018 and 2019 in accessed data was -96-97% of deaths reported in CRS 2019; && Registered deaths for 2018 and 2019 in accessed data was ~94-96% of deaths reported in CRS 2019; @ Registered deaths for 2018 and 2019 for 18 districts in the State. Deaths in accessed data was ~90-94% of deaths reported in CRS 2019

> against the CM (%) in States/UTs as of 2019 In five States, the share of registered deaths that were medically certified were less than 10% 80 Delhi Maharashtra Jharkhand Assam U.P. M.P._ 60 40 80

> > RL (%)

4. State-wise registration | The chart plots the RL (%)

The Man Pindu. FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 7, 1971

Lucknow floods

More than 25,000 people have been affected by the unprecedented floods in Lucknow in which at least 20,000 people have been moved to safer places in the joint rescue and evacuation operations by the civil and army authorities, an official spokesman of the Uttar Pradesh Government said to-day. The spokesman told newsmen that the level of river Gomti was still rising and authorities were taking all steps to meet the situation. Shortly before midnight to-day, the level was 112.23 metres, 1.70 metres more than the danger mark of 110.53 metres, which the river had crossed yesterday. Arrangements were under way to evacuate residents from 91 more mohallas. So far, 58 mohallas had been cleared. The official spokesman said rivers Ghaghra, Tons, Sarju, Gomti, Ganga and Saraini were reported to be constantly threatening Barabanki, Azamgarh, Bahraich, Gonda, Lucknow, Jaunpur, Sultanpur, Varanasi and Sitapur districts. In all, 27331 villages in 50 districts had been affected by the floods and heavy rains. Besides the 20,000 people shifted to safer places, more than 2,000 cattle have been removed to dry places. At least 14 evacuation camps have been opened. Besides accommodating the evacuees in public buildings like schools and colleges, arrangements for providing rations, kerosene and firewood had been made. With the 11 more fresh cases of deaths reported from various districts of the State, the death toll has risen to 237 according to the latest official flood bulletin.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 7, 1921

Bengal Council

The discussion on the Women Franchise resolution was resumed at the Bengal Council today. The debate which lasted a little over two hours was practically one-sided. Of the 12 speakers today, only one supported and the rest opposed the motion. They opposed the resolution mainly on the ground that the proposal was premature, inexpedient, impractical and its utility not proved. All the amendments having been withdrawn, the original motion was put to the vote and negatived, 37 voting for and 56 against it. The Bengal Legislative Council also resolved to send to the Viceroy a deputation consisting of the Finance Member, one Minister and two official members to present the financial difficulties of Bengal and claim Special Finance help.

FROM PAGE ONE

11 more show Nipah symptoms in Kozhikode

The goats were reportedly unwell recently. The samples will be examined at the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh to find out if the animals had been infected.

Some half-eaten rambutan fruits too were collected from the neighbourhood of the boy's house in Pulparamb near Koolimad after it was revealed that he had eaten them. The boy's parents had informed the special team of the National Centre for Disease Control that the area had the presence of fruit bats, considered to be the natural carriers of the vi-

Fill tribunal vacancies by

options: close the tribunals, make the appointments it-

the Ministry said a new law

bunals".

The letter promised that the government".

'Astonishing replica'

But Justice Chandrachud said the new Act hosted an "astonishing replica" of provisions expressly struck down by the Supreme Court in multiple recent judg-

nue... that when we strike down a law, they bring a replica," he stated. The legislature could bring in a law a judgment but could not tradict a judgment.

The court issued notice and asked the government to reply to a series of petitions, including one by Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh, challenging the legality of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021.

by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, said the 2021 Act abolished nine key tribunals, raised a serious threat to judicial independence by giving the government wide powers regarding appointments, service conditions Another habitat of bats

has been identified across the river which flows near Chathamangalam on Wed-

Sept. 13, SC tells Centre

The court said it had three

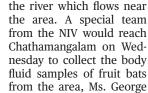
and was refused an adjournment by the Bench as soon as the hearing began, showed a screenshot of a letter addressed to him by the Union Finance Ministry on September 6. In this letter,

- Tribunal Reforms Act of 2021 - had come into effect and would "pave the way for filling of vacancies in the tri-

"the government will ensure that within next two weeks, a decision on appointments to all the tribunals is taken where the Search-cum-Selection Committees have already given their recommendations to

"This seems to contiwhich took away the basis of bring a law simply to con-

Mr. Ramesh, represented



self or initiate contempt. Mr. Mehta, who asked

> and salaries of members of key tribunals. The Bill was passed without parliamentary debate amid ruckus in the House.

> > But Justice Rao questioned even the very basis of the assurances given in the Finance Ministry letter, especially the one regarding the 2021 Act being a harbinger to a flurry of tribunal appointments.

"The appointments we are talking about here have been pending for over a year-and-a-half. Why were these appointments not made," he asked.

Justice Chandrachud said the names for appointments had been cleared by the Intelligence Bureau and then by a committee, which also included Supreme Court judges and senior bureaucrats. "Yet, they have not been cleared," he observed.

Companies' tribunals, riddled with vacancies, were critical to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the economy of the country, he noted.

Time given

The Bench refrained from recording its oral observations in a judicial order. Instead, it gave time to Mr. Mehta to convince the government to make appoint-

"I will convey [to the government]..." Mr. Mehta of-

Chief Justice Ramana said, "No, no, Mr. Mehta... 'conveying' is something else... If you don't want an order from us, you pass the order of appointments... We expect some appointments to be made by Monday."

Modi hails record pace of vaccination

The Prime Minister expressed happiness that even a remote district like Lahaul-Spiti in Himachal Pradesh had achieved 100%

first dose coverage. "This is the area which used to be cut off from the rest of the country for months before the Atal Tunnel was built," said Mr. Modi, while praising the people of Himachal Pradesh for not allowing any rumour or disinformation to hamper the vaccination efforts.

He said the State was a proof of how the country's rural society was empowering the world's largest and fastest vaccination cam-

PDP chief alleges disrespect to Geelani

Mirwaiz says it is tragically inhuman when a family is denied the basic right of burial of a loved one

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti and Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Monday accused the J&K administration of showing disrespect towards the body of senior separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who died in Srinagar at the age of 92 on September 1.

"From the videos I saw and the statements made by Geelani's family members, it's unfortunate that his body was maltreated and desecrated. It's sad a person who is dead was not treated with dignity. We cannot do revenge politics on a dead man's body," Ms. Mufti said.

Deep grief

She said Geelani's death had induced a deep sense of grief and pain among his followers and also those who disagreed with him.

"I may disagree with his politics, but people's respect towards him was visible from the spontaneous shutdown. People are also saddened

No coercive

action against

Suvendu: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Calcutta High Court on

Monday granted an interim

relief to Leader of the Op-

position Suvendu Adhikari

by directing that no coer-

cive action be taken against

him and the State had to

take leave of the court be-

The court stayed investi-

gation in three of the five

cases filed against the BJP

Among the cases in

which the court granted re-

lief to him is the 'unnatu-

ral' death of his security

tion Department of the pol-

ice had summoned him to

He refused to appear be-

A Bench of Justice Raja-

fore the agency in the day.

sekhar Mantha also stayed

the probe into the case first

registered in Contai, along

with one involving a politi-

cal clash at Nandigram,

and another of gold chain

snatching at Panskura, all

three places in Purba Medi-

nipur district.

The Criminal Investiga-

guard in 2018.

appear in the case.

fore arresting him.



Life resumes: Vehicles plying in Srinagar after normalcy returned to the city on Monday, four days after Syed Ali Shah Geelani's death. • NISSAR AHMAD

that Geelani's last wish [of being buried in Srinagar's 'Martyrs' Graveyard') was not granted. Even the last wish of a person about to be hanged is granted. This goes against Indian culture. We should keep in mind that the world has a very high opinion of India and its values," she said.

She said booking Geelani's family under the UAPA "shows the Centre's deeprooted paranoia and ruthlessness". "This is New India's Naya Kashmir," she

The family of ex-Hurriyat chairman Geelani has accused the police of forcibly lifting his body before sunrise and burying him in haste, with no close family member attending the last rites. However, the police denied the allegations.

Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, in a statement, condemned the police move to lodge an FIR against the family of Geelani.

"The details shared by

Geelani sahib's son about the burial is appalling and painful to hear. It is so tragically inhuman when a family is denied the basic right of burial of their loved one and one can only imagine what the family must have gone through," the Mirwaiz said.

Video released

Meanwhile, the police released a series of videos on the last moments of Geelani's burial, which showed the rites of ablution and wrapping of the shroud being performed, besides the funeral

The videos are the first of the funeral as no journalist was allowed to cover the last rites and funeral prayers of Geelani on September 2. The family alleged not even the late Hurriayt leader's sons were allowed by the police to participate in the last rites and funeral prayers.

After four days, Kashmir reopened partially on Monday. However, restrictions on the movement of people were imposed in Srinagar's Hyderpora and Eidgah areas.

Dengue caused deaths in Firozabad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a letter to U.P. Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said a Central team, looking into the cause of a fever outbreak and deaths among children in Firozabad district, has found that this was due to dengue, while a few are cases of scrub typhus and leptospirosis.

In his letter on Monday, the Health Secretary said the Central team consisting of National Centre for Disease Control and National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme officials have suggested that adequate vector surveillance and control measures need to be put in place to contain the situation.

The team has also recommended that all fever should patients screened for dengue, malaria, scrub typhus and Leptospirosis.

It said there is also a need to strengthen ELISAbased testing facilities.

Database created with records of 5.5 cr. farmers

Centre hopes to cover 8 cr. by linking it to State records

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Centre has created a National Farmers' Database with records of 5.5 crore farmers, which it hopes to increase to 8 crore farmers by December by linking it to State land record databases, according to Agriculture Mi-Narendra

Addressing Chief Ministers at a virtual conference on agriculture on Monday, Mr. Tomar said the farmers' database was key to advances in digital agriculture. "Agriculture has to be linked with digital technology, scientific research and knowledge," he said, according to an official statement

Mr. Tomar explained that the national database was created by taking data from existing national schemes such as PM-KISAN, soil health cards and the insurance scheme PM Fasal Bima Yojna. So far, 5.5 crore farmers had been identified in



All covered: The Centre has urged the States to create their databases of farmers using the national database. • FILE PHOTO

this manner. The Minister urged the States to create their own databases using the national database's federated structure and also allow linkages to the land records maintained by the

With the help of State governments, a total of eight crore farmers would be included by the end of the year, he said. He also urged them to study the Karnataka model for digital agriculture presented at the conference.

In July, Mr. Tomar told the

Lok Sabha that the database could be used "for targeted service delivery with higher efficiency and in a focussed

and time-bound manner" and that it was the core for the proposed Agristack digital agriculture ecosystem. Already, companies such as Microsoft, Amazon and Patanjali had been asked to de velop technology solutions for farmers using data from the database. Activists have raised privacy and consent concerns about using farmers' data in such a way.

Bombay HC acquits

man in POCSO case

A child is a pliable witness, says court

ED records statement of Abhishek Banerjee

Case based on FIR registered by CBI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee, nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday to record his statement in connection with a coal theft case.

Mr. Banerjee reached the Jam Nagar House of the ED in Delhi around 11 a.m. His statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The proceedings went on till evening, said an official. Emerging out of the ED office after about eight hours of questioning, Mr. Banerjee targeted the BJP saying the Trinamool Con-

gress would go to every

State where the BIP was in

power and fight it more vigorously. He told the media that regardless of whatever tools were adopted, the TMC would be instrumental in defeating the BJP in the next

The ED case is based on



Abhishek Banerjee after appearing before the ED for questioning in New Delhi on Monday.

an FIR registered by the CBI last year, alleging theft of coal from the Kunustoria and Kajora mines of the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) in Asansol.

Among the accused are Anup Majhi and some ECL officials. Security and railway personnel are also under the scanner.

The agency had summoned Mr. Banerjee's wife, Rujira. However, she is learnt to have asked the ED to take her statement in Kolkata in view of the COVID-19 situation.

Webinar to explore career opportunities in liberal studies

Experts to focus on need for critical thinking

STAFF REPORTER CHENNAI

A webinar on Liberal Education, presented by Sai University in association with The Hindu, will be held on September 10 at 5 p.m.

An expert panel will encourage participants to explore career options in Liberal Education and elucidate the need for critical thinking individuals in a contemporary society.

N.R. Narayana Murthy, Co-Founder and former



chairperson, Infosys; K.V. Ramani, Founder and Chancellor, Sai University, and Jamshed Bharucha, Founding Vice-Chancellor, Sai University, will speak at the webinar. The discussion will be moderated by Shubashree Desikan, Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu.

Students and parents who are interested can register for the we-

binar https:// bit.ly/SAIE-DIT scan the QR Code.





telling imaginative and exaggerated stories.' Justice Anuja Prabhudessai was hearing a criminal appeal filed by Janardan Kapse through advocate Ra-

his/her tender age, is a plia-

ble witness. He/she is amen-

able to tutoring and induce-

ment and is often prone to

SONAM SAIGAL

Sessions Court order He is challenging an order

vindra Chalke.

by the Sessions Court at Thane in 2019 of convicting him under Section 376 (punishment for rape) and 354 (A) (1) (i) (physical contact and advances involving unwelcome and explicit sexual overtures of the Indian Penal Code and and Section 4 (punishment for penetrative sexual assault) and 8 (punishment for sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences.

The 12-page-order passed recently recorded, "The child has stated that her parents had told her how to give the statement. She has further stated that she was questioned by the police



answers, which were taken told her how to depose before the court. The order reads, "The

minor on her own admission is a tutored witness and hence no implicit reliance can be placed on her evidence. It is in the evidence that the appellant, his wife and two children live in a room on the 5th floor, which is above the room of the first informant (mother of the child). The first informant has admitted that there was a quarrel between her and the appellant over leakage of water from his toilet. Hence the possibility of false implication cannot be ruled

Varavara Rao's bail extended till Sept. 24

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bombay High Court on Monday extended the interim medical bail of Telugu poet Varavara Rao (81) till September 24. It posted the matter for hearing on September 27.

Mr. Rao, an accused in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence, was granted the bail on February 22 for six months on a cash bond of ₹50,000 by a Division Bench of justices S.S. Shinde and Manish Pitale. However, due to a delay in obtaining a solvency certificate, he was released on March 6. From then on, he has been residing with his wife P. Hemalatha at Malad East. The bail expired on

September 5. Senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for Mr. Rao, informed a Division Bench of Justices Shinde and N.J. Jamadar that Mr. Rao was living in a rented flat with his wife. His plea urged the court to allow him to reside in Hyderabad with his family instead of Mumbai.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is probing the case, filed an affidavit that read, "The Taloja jail authorities have been following the jail code and providing the best medical facilities as per jail manual."

Ministers to use emergency landing strip

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

An Indian Air Force (IAF) plane, carrying Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, will conduct a mock emergency landing on a national highway in Barmer, Raiasthan, this week, sources said on Monday. The Ministers will be inaugurating the 3.5-km-long strip, which is ready to handle emergency landings of IAF planes on the highway.

Khori Gaon demolition: SC to fix liability not being taken despite ple," the court noted. The

Court says its focus is on rehabilitation

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday said it intended to hold somebody responsible for the series of events that led to the demolition of unauthorised residential buildings constructed on forest land in Khori Gaon village in Haryana and displacement of hundreds of families who lived

there. "The mushrooming of the forest area into slums, action court orders... We will have to hold somebody responsible for all of this," Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, heading a Special Bench, addressed the State and the Faridabad Municipal Corporation.

The court disagreed with the submission made by the government, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, that identification of forest and non-forest areas in the locality in question would take long because of the expanse of the land in

question. It said forest areas across the country were already identified and notified. "It should not take time to identify the area," it observed.

The Bench said it did not want to get into the tug of war between residents and the municipal body on the temporary facilities provided to the former. It made it clear that its

primary focus was on the rehabilitation of people who lost their homes to the demolition.

rehabilitate the eligible peo-

"Instead of going into this debate, we have called upon the counsel for the Faridabad Municipal Corporation to tell us the time required to

municipal body has sought time to provide the court the rehabilitation scheme and the timeline. It has filed an affidavit re-

jecting submissions made in court by residents that the displaced have not been given proper temporary shelters, food, water and other basic amenities. The local body was res-

ponding to a field report prepared by researcher Manju Menon and advocate Srishti Agnihotri that the displaced people were living in tin sheds with hardly any facili-

The Bombav High Court has acquitted a man of charges of raping and sexually assaulting a five-year-old. It said, "It is well known that a child witness, by reason of

about the incident and that her mother had given the down in writing. She has admitted that her parents had

Commenting on the Sessions Court judgment, the court said the judge had held the appellant guilty of all offences solely on the basis of the victim's statement.



of Singhu border'

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea filed by residents of Sonipat seeking opening of the roads connecting Delhi and Haryana at Singhu border, which have been blocked by farmers protesting against three agri laws and asked the petitioners to approach the High Court. The top court said that the invitation to interfere is very tempting but there are High Courts, which can deal with the local issues.

Akhil Gogoi leads rally against cattle law

Activist and Sibsagar MLA Akhil Gogoi on Monday led a rally against the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021, saying that the law was an assault on the farm economy in the name of religion. The rally was organised in Dhemaji district's Jonai. Mr. Gogoi, who is the president of Raijor Dal, said the BJP-led Assam government had introduced the cow protection law "to harm Muslims and Christians in the name of safeguarding Hinduism".

Girls paraded naked in M.P. to please rain gods

DAMOH (M.P.) At least six minor girls were paraded naked in a village in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district as part of a ritual to please rain gods and get relief from the drought-like situation, officials said on Monday. Taking cognisance, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has sought a report from Damoh administration about the incident which occurred at Baniya village in the Bundelkhand region on

In Muzaffarnagar, leaders call for BJP's ouster but many farmers disagree

Their support for the BKU may not extend to electoral politics, and the party may retain support if the controversial laws are rolled back

ANUJ KUMAR PRIS<u>C</u>ILLA JEBARAJ

Farmer leaders raised a war cry against the BJP at a rally in which they also called for Hindu-Muslim unity in this western Uttar Pradesh town on Sunday, but many of their listeners that The Hindu spoke to have not given up on the party.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait called for the ouster of the Yogi Adityanath government in the Assembly election to be held in the State in 2022. And a section of farmers wants to punish the BJP for the three farm laws at the centre of the controver-

"The BJP fooled us in the

last election by bringing up the Pulwama issue and speaking of national interest... I am a farmer first, a Jat second and then only a Hindu. Farmers' interests are national interests," said Birender Singh, who owns three acres of land in Bulandshahr district.

Mr. Tikait's chanting of religious slogans of both Hindus and Muslims during the rally was widely seen as an attempt to win over a large section of Muslim farmers who parted ways with the BKU, after communal tensions rose in the region in recent years. Mannan Balyan, a Muslim from the Balyan Khap who is also a leader of the Azad Samaj Party, insisted that "Muslim



Accommodating act: Rakesh Tikait chanted religious slogans of both Hindus and Muslims during the rally on Sunday. • PTI

farmers were always with the BKU, and it was the Jat

farmers who parted ways." The Jats aligned with the BJP in recent elections. Mr.

Balyan estimates that 60%

of lat farmers may be upset with the BJP, but the rest are still allied with the party.

Digpal Singh, an elderly farmer from Aligarh with two acres of land, said they

had seen through the BJP. "It is sad that we realised it only when we were cheated with farm laws and the increasing input cost that is threatening to push our children out of agriculture."

Now, he said, there is an attempt to alienate farmworkers from landowners by distributing free ration. 'This new attempt at dividing society could have dangerous repercussions in the long run," he said.

There are others who were willing to give the BJP another chance given its nationalist agenda and ability to keep the "Muslims in con-

"We have had no issues with Yogi. With the Taliban raising their head in the

neighbourhood, we need a strong government in the State," said Ranvir Singh, a farmer from Bulandshahr. He hoped that with pressure mounting, the State government would increase sugar cane prices, but wondered whether that would be enough considering the high rise in input costs.

Elections on the anvil

"If Modi*ji* listens to us even now, we will give him our vote again. But if not, we will vote for whomever listens to our demands, or we will stand for elections ourselves," said Rishipal Singh from Aligarh.

Mr. Tikait's highlighting of issues such as pensions for teachers and policemen

as well as permanent positions for sanitation workers was also seen as an attempt to cross not just religious but also caste and social barriers. The ASP, which is headed by Bhim Army chief Chandrasekhar Azad and has been courting Dalit votes, supported Sunday's mahapanchayat.

Several farmers that The Hindu spoke to were clear that they support the BKU for farmers' issues, but that may not extend to electoral politics. "The moment the BKU takes a decision on political participation, not only the movement will come to a halt, the Tikaits will face a revolt in villages," a leader of the Rashtriya Lok Dal said requesting anonymity.

Modi to attend BRICS, SCO, Quad meets in Sept.

Afghan situation likely to dominate agenda amid growing polarisation between the Russia-China bloc, and U.S. and its allies

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting of BRICS leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and leaders of Brazil and South Africa on Thursday, the first in a series of summit-level meetings he is expected to attend in September that will be dominated by discussions on the situation in Afghanistan. The meeting will be held in virtual format due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The PM will also attend via video conference the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of Government meeting being held in Dushanbe on September 16 and 17, but is expected to tra-



Forging ties: Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping are expected to appear virtually at the SCO conference. • FILE РНОТО

vel later this month to the U.S., to meet U.S. President Joseph Biden and address the UN General Assembly, officials confirmed.

The meetings will see Mr. Modi straddle both sides of views on the future of Afghanistan, given the growing polarisation between the Russia-China bloc, and the U.S. and its allies on engaging the new Taliban regime.

The BRICS leaders summit on September 9 is expected to focus on four priority areas including the multilateral reforms in bodies such as the UN, the IMF and the WTO, counter-terrorism, technology and people-to-people exchanges, a statement issued by the External Affairs Ministry on Monday said.

"The leaders will also exchange views on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other current global and regional issues," which is expected to include Afghanistan, where Russia and China have played an important role in talks with the Taliban.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla returned to India after meetings in Washington to firm up Prime Minister Modi's visit to the U.S., due to begin on September 23.

The PM's visit, only his second visit abroad during the coronavirus pandemic, is expected to include meetings in Washington with Mr. Biden, a possible Quad summit on September 23 and 24, and his address to the UN General Assembly on September

Details being finalised

MEA officials said the details of the meetings are still being "finalised", in view of the uncertainty of Japan's participation after Premier Yoshihide Suga announced he would resign at the end of the month.

While Indo-Pacific security, and Quad cooperation on climate change, critical technologies and vaccines will be at the top of the agenda at

the Summit, the situation in Afghanistan after the U.S. pullout is likely to be discussed as well. The SCO meeting next

Thursday in Tajikistan will see a much greater focus on Afghanistan, given that it comprises regional countries Russia, China, Central Asian nations and Pakistan, and will include a special SCO Contact group meeting.

Mr. Putin, Pakistan PM Imran Khan and other leaders will attend the summit in Dushanbe in person, and Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi are expected to appear virtually at the 'hybrid" conference.

India would be represented on the ground in Dushanbe by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, said officials.

Allow farmers to protest peacefully'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of a proposed 'mahapanchayat' at Karnal on September 7, the Congress on Monday urged the Central and the Haryana governments to remove section 144 and allow farmers to peacefully carry on with their protests.

In a statement, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said the State government should act against the officials responsible for the "brutal lathi charge"on farmers on August 28 and keep the Internet services functional in the area.

"The BJP is busy suppressing the Gandhian ways of farmers' protests,"

+ CPI supports caste census

Party accuses BJP of eyeing political gains in caste conflicts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The CPI on Monday extended support to a caste census in the country, a key demand of many political parties, including NDA ally Jana-(United). The Narendra Modi government so far remains non-comittal on the issue.

The CPI, at the conclusion of its two-day national executive in Delhi, said the BJP was deliverately avoiding the caste census.

Sena unhappy

with Akhtar's

RSS remarks

Noted poet-lyricist Javed

Akhtar's comparison of the

Rashtriya Swayamsevak

Sangh (RSS) with the Tali-

ban was utterly misplaced,

the Shiv Sena said on Mon-

day. Analogising a fanatical

STAFF REPORTER

"They want to utilise the caste conflicts in various States for their own political gains," the party said in a statement here.

Amending quota cap

The CPI said it demanded and supported a caste census. "However if the present restriction of 50% imposed by the Supreme Court decision is not amended, the whole exercise may prove futile," it said.

The party also extended

support to the Bharat Bandh call given by the Maha Kisan Panchayat to be held on September 27.

"The government has to forgo their arrogant attitude and listen to the farmers who have been protesting nearly for an year. The government cannot go on turning a blind eye towards them any more," CPI general secretary D. Raja said regard-

Make Rahul Cong. chief again: IYC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) passed a resolution on Monday calling for Rahul Gandhi to be made president of the Congress partv once again.

The resolution was passed unanimously on the final day of the two-day national executive meeting of the IYC in Goa, the Congress's youth wing said in a

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Division

Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560 068.

No. BBMP/EE/BD/TEND-06/2021-22 Date: 04-09-2021 INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) KW: 3 & 4 (SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION) Two Cover System) (Only through E-Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Division, invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/BWSSB/ Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Name of the Work

140	0.0000000000000000000000000000000000000	in Lakhs
1)	Improvements to roads, drains and UGD works at Muniyappa Layout 7th Main 4th Cross and surrounding area in Ward No.189 Hongasandra (4th Call).	55.00
2)	Construction of Samudaya Bhavana at Hulimavu in Ward No. 193 Arakere (6th Call).	60.00
3)	Package-1-BZ-BD-(W-189) • Improvements to Road in Om Shakti layout and surrounding areas, • Improvements to drain and asphalting to APR Choultry Road and surrounding areas, • Improvements to Drain and CC Roads in Shanthi Nagar Road and surrounding areas, • Improvements to drains in MSR layout and surrounding areas.	280.00

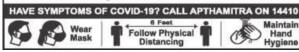
4) Package-2-BZ-BD (W-174, 189, 193) Providing name boards CC Camera in HSR Layout ward No.174, Providing and Fixing CC Camera in ward No.189, Hongasandra, Providing supplying and fixing the CC Camera all accessories in ward No.193, Arakere (3rd Call).

5) Package-3-BZ-BD (W-186, 189, 193) Providing Stainless Steel Street Signage Boards at Jaraganahalli in Ward No. 186, Providing SS Sheet Signage Boards in Ward No.189, Hongasandra, 310.00 Providing supplying and fixing street name boards in Ward No.193, Arakere (3rd Call).

6) Package-4-BZ-BD-(W-174) Development of Park at HSR Layout 1st Sector in Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency Ward No.174, 400.00 Development of Park at HSR Layout 3rd Sector in Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency Ward No.174.

EMD in Lakhs: As per GO No.12/2020. Dtd: 22-12-2020 & BBMF OM No.PR/E-9251/2020-21, Dtd: 30.01.2021, EMD payment has been relaxed. But undertaking has to be uploaded in the e-procurement portal as per Annexure - A. Calendar of Events: 1). Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal: 07-09-2021. 2). Pre bid meeting will be held on: 14-09-2021 at 11:00 a.m. 3). Last date for submission of tender documents: 21-09-2021 on or before 4:00 p.m. 4). Technical bids will be opened on: 22-09-2021 after 4:30 p.m. onwards. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Division, BBMP





CoE Advt. No.: 07/2021 Recruitment of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for

Centre for Excellence (CoE) on E-waste Management E-MET invites applications from eligible and highly motivated candidates to fill up the following temporary and time bound position under Grant-in-aid project entitles "Establishment of Centre of Excellence on E-waste Management". The position is purely temporary and is co-terminus with the project duration (i.e. 29,09,2024).

Position	Educational Qualifications and Experience
	Essential:
Ohiof	Qualification: (1) Masters degree in Engineering/Technology/Scier from a recognized, accredited and reputed institute/ university (2) M degree from a recognized, accredited and reputed institute/university
Chief	Experience: Minimum 12 years of overall experience in Start-up

Aprx, value

of work

Officer
(1 no.)

Executive
Officer
(1 no.) organizations/incubators/accelerators/centres-of-excellence entrepreneurship/development cells / mentoring organization etc or it flagship programmes. Desirable: Ph D in relevant field

Maximum age: Not more than 50 years (relaxable in cases of exceptionally qualified and/o

Emoluments: Rs.1,50,000/- per month (All inclusive, consolidated and Fixed)

Last Date for receipt of applications: 28.09.2021 For application format & other important details, please visit our website www.cmet.gov.in

DIRECTOR

VIGILANCE & SECURITY DEPARTMENT e-TENDER NOTICE e-Tenders are invited for " Annual Maintenance Contract pertaining to

08 Nos., of X-Ray Baggage Scanners (Make: UNCTECK, Model: CX6040BI) installed VQC-I, Tirumala". DATE OF OPENING TENDER: (1) Bid Document download start date &

time: 04-09-2021 @ 04-00 PM (2) Bid submission closing date & time: 23-09-2021@04-00 PM (3) Pre-Bid meeting: 15-09-2021@11-00 AM Tender documents can be downloaded from the web site

https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact phone numbers 0877-2264079, 2264555. Fax: 0877-2264554. Mail ID: cc2acvsottd@gmail.com

Roc.No.PR4/13934/Adv.No.150/PR0/2021/Dated:06-09-2021 EXECUTIVE OFFICER



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT DESIGN DIVISION Request for Qualification

Tender No. 09/CE

Global Invitation for Qualification for "DEVELOPMENT OF OIL JETTIY 09, TO HANDLE ALL TYPES OF LIQUID CARGO, AT OLD KANDLA, ON BOT BASIS, UNDER PPP MODE", for a concession period of thirty (30) years.

Deendayal Port Trust invites Applications from Interested parties (the "Applicants") in accordance with the Request for Qualification (RFQ) Document in order to pre-qualify Applicants who can subsequently bid for the Project as per Request for Proposal (RFP). Estimated Cost of the Project is INR 123.40 Crores

The RFQ Document of the proposed Project may be obtained from the office of the Chief Engineer, Deendayal Port Trust, at Gandhidham on submission of a demand draft / Online transfer (non-refundable) of INR.23,600/- [Rs.20,000/- + Rs.3,600/ towards GST]** (Rupees Twenty Three Thousand Six Hundred only) (plus INR.200/- for dispatch by courier/speed post) for RFQ document for domestic as well as foreign applicants, to be issued by any scheduled bank drawn in favour of Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer (FA&CAO) Deendayal Port Trust, payable at Gandhidham

The RFQ Document for the proposed project can be downloaded from website http://www.deendayalport.gov.in The schedule of different activities till

Ι	Sale of I	RFQ	Document		10/09/2021 to 26/1
_				 	

2 Last date of receiving queries regarding RFQ |05/10/2021 3 Pre-Application Conference

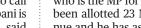
the applicants are required to submit their GST Registration Number invariably

Chief Engineer Deendayal Port Trust livering Maritime Excellence FAX: +91-2836-220050 Tele: +91-2836-233192

movement with Hindutya constituted an insult to Indian culture, it noted. An editorial in Sena mouthpiece Saamana observed that despite being a Hindu majority country, Indian governments had successfully raised the flag of secularism.

"How can you say those who favour the concept of a 'Hindu Rashtra' are of Talibani mindset? We [the Sena] do not agree with this. While you can have differences with the RSS, to call their philosophy Talibani is completely wrong," said the editorial, rebuking Mr. Akhtar. "Nations like Pakistan

and China have supported the Taliban regime because in these two countries, human rights and individual freedom have no value. But this is certainly not the case with India and we are an incredibly tolerant country," the editorial stated.



"The bust was put up by Ram Vilas *ji*'s supporters as a tribute to him. It is ridiculous to say that we must not put up his pictures or bust. And we will take the bust wherever we shift," a close



official residence sparks row

Son and MP Chirag has been allotted another house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

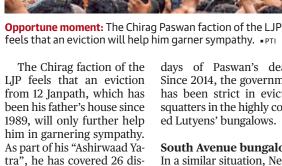
Less than a year after his death, erection of a bust of Ram Vilas Paswan, former Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party founder, at 12 Janpath, his official residence for more than 31 years, has sparked a controversy with some quarters alleging a possible effort by his family to continue to occupy the house.

Paswan died on October 8 from a prolonged illness. The bust was put up a few days ago.

Sources close to his son Chirag Paswan said the family did not want to hold on to the bungalow. Mr. Chirag, who is the MP for Jamui, has been allotted 23 North Avenue and he has asked for an upgrade. The family has established a Trust in Paswan's

'Supporter's gesture'

aide of Mr. Chirag said.



tricts in Bihar so far. "Wherever he goes, people are showering a lot of love on him because they feel that after losing his father, his uncle betrayed him," a leader of the Chirag faction

The family, under the rules of the Directorate of Estates of the Union Urban

Development Ministry, had

been served notice for vacat-

ing the building within 15

days of Paswan's death. Since 2014, the government has been strict in evicting squatters in the highly coveted Lutyens' bungalows.

South Avenue bungalow

on to the bungalow long after his father's death in July 2007. But in December 2014, after the Modi government took over, he was forced to leave the house, though he was a Rajya Sabha member

In a similar situation, Neeraj Shekhar, son of former

Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, was evicted from his 3 South Avenue bunga-He had managed to hold

then.

Sukhet's villagers trade waste for wellness, get free LPG refills

Villagers who provide 20 kg of cow dung and farmyard waste a day for vermicomposting receive free fuel in a novel project in Madhubani district of Bihar

AMARNATH TEWARY

While the rising prices of LPG cylinders are pushing refills out of reach for most people, especially in rural areas, bucking the trend is Munni Devi, a mother of three sons and owner of three cows in Sukhet village in Jhanjharpur block of Madhubani district in Bihar.

Earlier, most of Munni Devi's time was spent over an earthen stove in a corner of her house. Fired with wood, crop waste and cow dung, the stove billowed noxious smoke into the house, leaving her ill and breathless. Every month she had to consult a local doctor (breathing) huffani trouble.

Rampari Devi, in her sixties, and her daughter-inlaw Lalo Devi too had similar stories of ill-health and visits to doctors.

Though they had LPG connections, the rising cost of refills put the cleaner

cooking fuel out of reach. But not any more.

In the last six months, the lives of these rural women has changed dramatically with the Sukhet model that allows them to get their LPG cylinders refilled every two months in exchange for cow dung and the farmyard waste. The unique programme, which was lauded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his latest episode of 'Mann ki Baat' on August 29, offers four-fold benefit to the villagers: it ensures a pollution-free environment at home, waste disposal, monetary assistance for LPG cylinders and availability of organic fertiliser to the local farmers.

Today the mud stoves of Sukhet lie abandoned.

Man on a mission

The Sukhet model is an initiative by the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPAU) at Pusa in Samastipur district and the

brainchild of Vice-Chancellor Ramesh Chandra Srivasvermicompost tava, a enthusiast.

"I was quite impressed with the government's Ujjawala Yojna to provide free LPG connections to people but I found out that in rural areas people are not being able to refill LPG cylinders for two reasons: their economic condition and the patriarchal nature of society. I mulled over the problem and later introduced this model, popularly known today as the Sukhet model for refilling their cylinders in exchange for farmyard waste and cow dung," Dr. Srivastava told The Hindu.

The agri scientist had earlier launched vermicomposting to produce organic manure in two unlikely settings – the temples of Baba Baidyanath Dham in Deoghar of Jharkhand and Garibnath Temple of Muzaffarapur in Bihar – where flowers and leaves offered to the dei-



Energy boost: Women from Sukhet village have benefited the most from the waste to wealth scheme. • AMARNATH TEWARY

ties are collected and composted.

Under the Sukhet model, two local workers visit households that have cattle to collect cow dung and farmyard waste and bring it to a vermicomposting yard.

"Any family which gives us 1,200 kgs of cow dung and wet garbage waste every two months gets their LPG gas cylinders refilled for free. Everyday, they have to meet the target of 20 kg of cow dung and garbage waste to avail the refill. Since February 4, 2021, as many as 44 households of this village are getting this facility while many more have evinced keen interest," said Sudhir Das, who is in charge of the Sukhet model and the Jhanjharpur Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) . "The target is to take this model to 100 hou-

seholds of the village in first

phase," he added. The Sukhet panchayat consists of five villages - Sukhet, Godhanpur, Mazidi, Bisoul and Balliyari. The panchayat has 2,500 households and 7,000 voters and has mixed population of all castes and communities.

"However, out of total 44 households availing the Sukhet model facility, more than half are from the Yadav caste," said Ashutosh Yadav, a research fellow of RPAU,

"The only problem is that only those households who have cattle to give us cow dung are able to benefit from the Sukhet model," he pointed out.

Along with Mr. Das and Mr. Yadav, two supporting staff, two drivers and a scientist from Pusa are engaged to make this model a "role model for other villages and panchayats in the

"RPAU, Pusa is going to emulate the Sukhet model in seven more places in Bihar - East Champaran, West Champaran, Siwan, Saran, Gopalganj, Vaishali and Samastipur," Srivastva.

Scaling up

"Our plan is to implement this Sukhet model in 16 districts of Bihar where KVK units are located under RPAU, Pusa. It will also generate employment for the local youth and to make vilself-sufficient," said Shankar Jha, assistant professor, soil sciences, at RPAU.

On the sustainability of the model, Dr. Srivastava said: "Primarily I would suggest three points to be taken care of - treat it as micro industry, consider the contract work under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) scheme and through CSR funds by indus-

Sunil Yadav, a villager, has

donated 3.5 kattha of his land to set up a bambooroofed vermicompost unit at the entrance to the village, just a kilometre off the National Highway 57. He has been appointed as supervisor of the Sukhet model and gets a monthly salary of ₹10,608. Two other workers, who collect dung and farmvard waste from the households, are paid ₹9,600

"The villagers also purchase the good organic manure produced here at the unit at ₹600 per quintal," said Mr. Das. "After five vears we'll hand over the whole structure with all facilities to Sunil Yadav to sustain the model in the village," he added.

Ramesh Yadav, a farmer who had just bought a 50 kg sack of vermicompost, said: 'We get good quality of vermicompost cheaper than the market price here at our village. What could be better than this?"



Manda buffalo gets 'unique breed' tag

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHUBANESWAR

The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) has recognised the Manda buffalo, found in the Eastern Ghats and plateau of Koraput region of Odisha, as the 19th unique breed of buffaloes found in India.

The Manda are resistant to parasitic infections, less prone to diseases and can

This buffalo germ-plasm was first identified through a survey conducted by the Animal Resource Development (ARD) department of Odisha in collaboration with the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT).

Bishnupada Sethi, former ARD director and Susanta Kumar Dash, an animal geneticist of OUAT, had played a key role in seeking national recognition for the Manda breed.The NBAGR, affiliated to Indian Council of Agriculture Research, made an assessment and recognised it as an indigenous and unique

Vaccine in the works against Nipah virus

Trial on African green monkeys shows promising results in offering protective immunity

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

Can a Covishield-like vaccine give protection against the Nipah virus? Preliminary animal trial results seem to suggest so. In July, researchers at the Jenner Institute, Oxford University and the National Institutes of Health, United States, reported that the ChadOx1 vaccine vector, when customised to the Nipah virus, fully protected African green monkeys, a

No approved vaccine yet exists for the lethal Nipah virus that has killed a 12-year old boy in Kozhikode, Kerala. An outbreak of the virus in the State in 2018 killed 17 of the 18 confirmed with the

The study appears on the



The ChadOx1 vaccine vector was customised to protect against the Nipah virus.

pre-print server bioRxiv, indicating that it is yet to be

ChAdOx1 is a multi-purpose vaccine vector, meaning it can be customised to carry DNA from a wide variety of pathogens. The version the Covishield or AstraZeneca vaccine is the ChAdOx1 with a piece of spike protein of SARS-CoV-2.

For the Nipah study, the scientists loaded a piece of glycoprotein from a Nipah virus strain found in Bangladesh, where annual outbreaks occur. This test vaccine for the purposes of the study was called ChadOx1

8 monkeys chosen

One group of four monkeys was administered either two shots or a single shot of the ChadOx1NiV and another group of four was given shots of a dummy protein (ChAdOx1 GFP), again vectored by ChAdOx1. All the eight were then "challenged" or artificially infected with the

Nipah virus, some given via the nose and others through the throat.

Within three days, the unvaccinated group manifested disease symptoms and within 5-7 days were euthanised after they were confirmed to manifest severe disease. On the other hand, the vaccinated animals showed no disease.

Throat and nose swabs from all unvaccinated animals revealed evidence of replicating virus whereas swabs from one only one vaccinated animal showed such signs of virus.

"These data suggest the vaccine may provide close to complete protective immunity in African green monkeys," the scientists report in their study, " If the next panmember of the genus Henipavirus [to which the Nipah virus belongs], the current study could be influential in the development of a rapid vaccine.'

demic were to be caused by a

Hamster trial

The study in monkeys follows a study by the group on Syrian hamsters. Encouraging studies on the primates pave the way for trials in pe-

For instance, the group's work on developing a vaccine for the Middle Eastern Respiratory Virus (MERS) and tested in rhesus macaques paved the way for the development of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which was among the first vaccines to

Prioritise lives over festivities, says Uddhav

Maharashtra CM flags rise in cases

STAFF REPORTER

Expressing concern that Maharashtra stood on the brink of a "third wave", Chief Minister Udhav Thackeray on Monday exhorted all political parties to immediately stop agitations and cancel political and social meetings to avoid crowding and prevent the spread of the contagion.

Mr. Thackeray's appeal comes amid an incremental rise in COVID-19 cases and with the Ganesha Chaturthi festivities due to commence later this week.

"We can celebrate festivals later. Let us first prioritise the lives and health of our citizens. The situation can go out of hand in view of



Uddhav Thackeray

the spike in daily cases," Mr. Thackeray said.

Despite Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar stating last week that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government did not plan to impose additional restrictions on movement during the festival, there are indications that Mr. Thackeray may announce some curbs soon.

SC notice to govt. on plea against NEET quota

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the government to respond to a petition challenging the decision to provide 27% quota to Other Backward Classes and 10% reservation to Economically Weaker Sections in the All India Quota category for NEET admissions.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud, Vikram Nath and Hima Kohli issued notice, returnable by September 20, to the government on the petition filed by Neil Aurelio Nunes and others.

The petition has sought to quash a July 29 notification announcing the reservation policy. The quota covers undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental courses. The government believes the policy would help marginalised sections get better opportunities. The petitioners said the selection process had already begun for the academic year and could not be interfered with.

After arrest of actor Leena Paul. four more held in cheating case

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi Police has arrested four more persons - apart from actor Leena Paul – in connection with a cheating case registered based on a complaint by Aditi Singh, wife of former promoter of Ranbaxy Malvinder Mohan Singh.

Police said that the four have been identified as Kamlesh Kothari, Samuel, Arun Muthu and Mohan Raj - all

SCAN TO PLAY

associates of conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar and his partner Ms. Paul.

Police said that all the accused were produced before the court on Monday and Ms. Paul, Mr. Raj and Mr. Muthu were sent to 15-day police custody.

Police have invoked the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime (MCOCA) Act against Mr. Chandrasekhar. Police said that Ms. Paul allegedly helped Mr. Chandrasekhar in duping Ms Singh.

A First Information Report was registered on August 7 after Ms. Singh informed the police that a man posing as a senior official of the Law Ministry in June last year had offered to help secure bail for her husband, who was in jail at the time. The man had promised to

According to the police, Mr. Chandrasekhar is an accused in 21 cases, including the Election Commission bribery case.

help in return for money.

CBI arrests four more in JEE (Mains) case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested four more persons in connection with the alleged irregularities in the JEE (Mains) examination.

Among the arrested are two laboratory technicians, Arvind Saini and Kuldeep Garg; assistant professor Sandeep Gupta; and a peon named Tulsi Ram.

The accused worked at a private engineering college in Sonepat, Haryana.

The agency had earlier arrested seven persons, including two directors and four employees of Affinity Education Private Ltd., in the same case.

The accused persons charged ₹12 lakh to 15 lakh per candidate to facilitate admissions to top National Institutes of Technology

They allegedly helped the candidates solve their question papers through remote access from the examination centre in Sonepat.

TH CROSSWORD+ 13346 We are digital now. Come solve online.

13 Frequent drinkers, accountants who give stirring speeches? (9)

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

15 Carnivore eats last eggs at European capital (5)

16 Starts to approach big broad ecological yard at cathedral (5)

18 Strict, severe aunt initially missing (9)

22 Plant cover for music medley (8) 23 Stop army partly at siesta (6)

25 African eagles seen in a riot (10) 26 Theory confused aide (4)

27 She initially remains with waistbands (6) 28 Hollow tipsy tirade of despot (6)

1 Accountant on ship has regular actual ice cream (7)

2 Starts to recount individual stories having introduced Indian sage (5)

3 Prospective wives' accounts missing numbers at first (7)

5 Lose heart in indignation during power cut (6) 6 Tin crushed in spa when running (9)

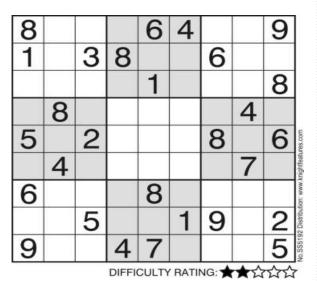
7 Almost new sedan crashed into groups of nine (7) 8 Stumped barber could be authorised (13)

14 Superiors in command of prophets? (9)

17 Bread makers consume second meal in mugs (7) 19 Lunatic missing son near Langley outskirts ludicrously (7)

20 Burgeoning Sodium smell (7) 21 Skin fragment from first ear (6)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13345 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

	F	R	Ī	G	_	D		Ε	R	Α	S	Ε	R			2	7	1	4	6	5	8	3	9
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	S		D		R		s		J		٦		L		ŀ	ö	ö	1	7	2	2	5	6	-
М	0	U	T	I	О М	R	G R	Α	Ν		L A	Ε	E	S	ŀ	0	9	4	1	_	0	0	0	
	G	R	A	s	P		A	С	Т	D	R	Α	N	Ν		1	5	8	3	1	6	9	2	4
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F	А	R	Е		Α	R	Ť	Т	υ	U		Α	Т	E	ľ	1	2	7	1	3	Q	6	a	5
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FAITH

Nammazhvar's influence

Nammazhvar is special among the Azhvars, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. Nammazhvar authored four works. His Thiruviruttam with hundred verses gives us the essence of the Rg Veda; Thiruvasiriyam gives the essence of the Yajur Veda. Peria Thiruvandadi gives the essence of the Atharva Veda. Thiruvaimozhi gives the essence of the Sama Veda. His works are not translations of the Vedas into Tamil. What he gives us through his works is what we need to attain moksha. Vedas tell us what yagas we have to perform to obtain wealth, what yagas we should perform to have longevity and so on. But these are worldly matters, and are not about reaching the feet of the Lord. So Nammazhvar does not dwell on these portions of the Vedas, but only talks of Vedanta in his works. He says in Thiruvaimozhi, that the Lord gave mati (jnana) and got rid of mayarvu (ajnana). This jna-

na culminated in bhakti. In Vedartha Sangraha, Ramanujacharya shows that the highest state of jnana is bhakti. Nammazhvar says that if you assert that God exists, He exists. If you say that He does not exist, He still exists! If you say there is no pot, it means that there is perhaps no pot at some place, or that the potter has run out of pots to sell. It does not mean pots do not exist at

all. You cannot talk about something that does not exist. So, what happens if someone asks, "So would I be right if I said rabbits have horns?" The answer would be that while the claim itself is absurd, the fact remains that the words used to make the claim refer to existing objects. There are rabbits in the world, and horns exist too. It is just that there is no interrelation between the two. Nammazhvar's verses were a great influence on Ramanujacharya, when he explained the philosophy of Visishtadvaita.

10 Grown up Earl starts yelling about contaminator (10)

1 Wine flask in automobile vault needing no introduction (6) 4 Rodent ingested, at first, sugary dessert (6) 9 Doctor sues practices (4)

11 Lunatic, one in frenzied surroundings (6) 12 Flowers, for example, in bonsai rearrangement (8)

24 Tiara fragment in spiced yoghurt? (5)

War is over, it's time for peace: Taliban

Spokesman Mujahid asks former troops to join the regime, threatens to 'hit hard' any insurgencies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Taliban on Monday called on former members of the Afghan forces to integrate with the new hardline rulers.

"The Afghan forces who were trained in the past 20 years will be asked to rejoin the security departments alongside Taliban members," spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told a press conference in the capital Kabul.

The spokesman added that any insurgency against their rule would be "hit hard", after earlier saying they had captured the Panjshir Valley – the last pocket of resistance.

"The Islamic Emirate is very sensitive about insurgencies. Anyone who tries to start an insurgency will be hit hard. We will not allow another," Mujahid said. "Anyone who picks up arms and start another resistance, without any doubts, will be our enemy. The war has ended, the country is getting out of the crisis. It is now time for peace and reconstruction. We need the people to support us."

Three weeks after seizing power but with no govern-



Call for cooperation: Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid speaking during a press conference in Kabul. • AP

ment so far announced, the spokesman said an "interim" system would first be announced to allow for changes. "Final decisions have been taken, we are now working on the technical issues," he said.

"We will announce the new government as soon as the technical issues are resolved."

Women's freedoms in Afghanistan were sharply curtailed under the Taliban's

This time, women will be allowed to attend university as long as classes are segregated by sex or at least divided by a curtain, the Taliban's education authority said in a lengthy document issued on Sunday.

But female students must wear an abaya (robe) and niqab (face-veil), as opposed to the even more conservative burga mandatory under the previous Taliban regime.

However, some universities in Kabul remained closed on Monday and those that did open saw a drastic fall in the number of students - some who complied with the new rules, and others who resisted. Afghans are also facing a host of other challenges, including looming financial and humanitar-

Provincial Governor vows to fight Islamic State

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

As a Taliban commander, he spent years battling the former Afghan government. Now, with his hardline movement back in power, Mullah Neda Mohammad vows to continue fighting against rival jihadists, the Islamic State (IS) group.

Following the Taliban's victory in August, Mohammad took over as governor of Nangarhar province, home to the IS Afghanistan-Pakistan chapter's stronghold.

"We are searching for individuals who are hiding," Mohammad said, claiming his forces have arrested 70 to 80 IS members since they took control of Nangarhar's provincial capital Jalalabad, the country's fifth biggest city.

IS have been responsible for some of the deadliest attacks in Afghanistan of recent years, massacring civilians at mosques, shrines, public squares and even hospitals.

The group claimed responsibility for a devastating suicide bombing near Kabul airport on August 26 that killed more than 100 Afghans and 13 U.S. soldiers.

It was the deadliest attack against American forces in Afghanistan since

After the blast, the U.S. military said it had carried out a drone strike against an IS "planner" in the Nangarhar province.

Still, Mohammad says he does not believe IS poses a great a threat as they did in Iraq and Syria.

"Here they have suffered many casualties in northern and eastern Afghanistan," he said in Jalalabad, at the governor's palace, now decked with Taliban flags.

With the Taliban in power, "there will be no reason for (IS) to be here", he said.

"We don't consider IS as a threat."

Belarusian protest leader sentenced to 11 years in jail

Maria Kolesnikova, Maxim Znak charged with extremism

REUTERS

Maria Kolesnikova, one of the leaders of mass street protests against Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko last vear, was sentenced to 11 years in prison on Monday, the State-run Belta news agency and the Belarusian reported.

Ms. Kolesnikova, 39, was detained after she ripped up her passport to prevent Belarusian security forces from deporting her in a standoff at the Ukrainian border in September.

The musician-turned-politician became one of the faces of the mass opposition movement during the August 2020 presidential election, which the protesters said was rigged to extend Mr. Lukashenko's grip on power.

Mr. Lukashenko, who has denied electoral fraud, has been in office since 1994 and has faced fresh Western sanctions since launching a violent crackdown on his opponents.

Ms. Kolesnikova and another senior opposition fi-

Upbeat spirit: Maria Kolesnikova making a heart sign while in handcuffs for the cameras in Minsk. • REUTERS

gure, Maxim Znak, were charged with extremism and trying to seize power illegally. Both denied wrongdoing and Ms. Kolesnikova called the charges absurd.

Mr. Znak was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Footage from the Sputnik Belarus channel showed the two in a glass cage ahead of the verdict. Ms. Kolesnikova raised her handcuffed hands to make her trademark heart sign and smiled for the cameras.

"Maria & Maksim are the heroes for Belarusians. The regime wants us to see them crushed & exhausted. But look - they are smiling & dancing," said exiled opposition figure Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya on Twitter. "They know – we will release them much earlier than these 11 years. Their terms shouldn't frighten us -Maksim and Maria wouldn't want this."

The trial, which began last month, was closed to the public on national security grounds. The circumstances of the case, the investigators and the witnesses were not disclosed.

Guinea's new junta leaders tighten grip

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guinea's new military leaders sought to tighten their grip on power after overthrowing President Alpha Conde, warning local officials that refusing to appear at a meeting convened on Monday would be considered an act of rebellion against the junta.

After putting the West African nation back under military rule for the first time in over a decade, the junta said Guinea's Governors were to be replaced by regional commanders. A nightly curfew was put in place, and the country's Constitution and National were both Assembly dissolved

The junta refused to issue a timeline for releasing Mr. Conde, saying the 83year-old still had access to medical care. The West African regional bloc ECO-WAS has called for his immediate release and threatened to impose sanctions if the demand was not met.

Mr. Conde's removal by force on Sunday came after the President sought a controversial third term in office last year, saying the term limits did not apply to

What is the 'food emergency' in Sri Lanka?

Regulations allow govt. to provide essential foods at a 'concessionary rate'

MEERA SRINIVASAN

On August 30, 2021, Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, using powers vested in the country's Public Security Ordinance, declared Emergency regulations pertaining to the distribution of essential food items. The regulations sought to empower authorities to provide essential food items at a "concessionary rate" to the public by purchasing stocks of essential food items, including paddy, rice and sugar, at government-guaranteed prices, and prevent market irregularities and hoarding.

President Rajapaksa has appointed Major General N.D.S.P. Niwunhella as the Commissioner General of Essential Services. In the week since the regulations were promulgated, several questions have risen on their legal ambit, and their likely impact on the country's larger economic crisis persisting for two years now.

Is there a precedent?

According to Austin Fernando, a retired civil servant who served as Commissioner General of Essential Services in the 1980s, the post came into prominence after the 1983 'Black July' riots to ensure that affected families

- Tamils who were targeted and attacked - had food supplies and other essentials; to facilitate their movement and return to their homes. "I held the post from 1986 to 1988 and was also tasked to look after the requirements of thousands of displaced in the North and East affected by the conflict," he told The

What is the criticism?

Criticism of the Emergency regulations has largely been over the government's legal choices, and their political implications.

In a commentary on the regulations published in Sri Lankan media, senior constitutional lawyer, and former parliamentarian Jayampathy Wickramaratne argued that the government - with a comfortable parliamentary majority – "had all the time in the world" to bring in any legislation needed to deal with the crisis but opted not to do so.

'The danger is that given the present government's propensity to stifle dissent, emergency regulations would be used to curb protests and other democratic



People queuing outside a supermarket to buy essential food items in Colombo. • AFP

action", he wrote in The Island newspaper.

Is there a food shortage? There is fear of one. The possibility has grabbed international headlines, with the government's drastic measures against hoarding, triggering speculation over food security in Sri Lanka that is home to 21 million people. Fuelling the speculation are different factors, including the country's known reliance on imports for essentials – such as petroleum, sugar, dairy products, wheat, medical supplies - its fast-dwindling foreign reserves, from \$7.5 billion in November 2019 to \$2.8 billion in July 2021, and

coming years. The pandemic's lethal blow since early 2020, to all major sources of foreign exchange earnings – exports, worker remittances and tou-

the daunting foreign debt re-

payment schedule in the

rism - has further compounded the economic

Sri Lanka's economy contracted by 3.6 % last year. According to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan rupee depreciated by 10.1% against the dollar this year. It hovered around 200 against a dollar last week. The fear of a possible food

shortage also stems from the Rajapaksa administration's decision in April to ban import of chemical fertilizers and adopting an "organic only" approach.

Meanwhile, many, especially daily-wage earners, and low-income families, are complaining about being unable to afford, and in many cases access, essentials such as milk, sugar, and rice dur-

EXPLAINER

ing the current lockdown. imposed on August 20 following a rapid surge in daily Covid-19 cases and fatalities. and extended twice since.

Prices of essential commodities - including rice, dhal, bread, sugar, vegetables, fish – have risen several times during the pandemic, and more rapidly in recent

What's govt.'s response? The government has denied reports of a food shortage. In a statement responding to international media reports, the Department of Government Information accused traders of creating an "artificial shortage". With the recent Emergency regulations, the government has "dealt with the situation," it said.

Will govt. strategy help?

Few outside the government think so. "These Emergency regulations are not sustainable," said K. Amirthalingam, Professor of Economics at the University of Colombo. "Sri Lanka does not have a universal public distribution system or ration cards that can ensure essential goods reach all consumers. The current regulations do not address our fundamental economic problem, and instead pose the risk of creating black markets," he said.

In his view, the recent measures, coupled with the government's move last vear to restrict import of non-essential goods, are taking Sri Lanka back in time. "After four decades since our economy was liberalised, we are going back to 1970s," he said, referring to the time when then PM Sirimavo Bandaranaike promoted import substitution, a policy that her critics associate with food shortage and long queues of people waiting outside shops

Six Palestinians escape from Gilboa jail in Israel



through which the men escaped from Gilboa prison. • AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE JERUSALEM

Six Palestinians broke out of an Israeli prison on Monday through a tunnel dug beneath a sink, triggering a massive manhunt for the group that includes a prominent ex-militant.

The Israel Prison Service said an alert was sounded around 3 a.m. (0000 GMT) by locals who spotted "suspicious figures" outside the Gilboa prison in the country's north.

The group includes Zakaria Zubeidi, a former militant leader from the flash-

Tender No.

point city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank, the IPS confirmed in a statement.

In footage that recalled the iconic 1994 prison escape film The Shawshank Redemption, the service released a video which showed agents inspecting a narrow tunnel beneath a sink and another showing a hole just outside the prison

Gilboa – which opened in 2004 during the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising - is a high security site where hundreds of Palestinians are detained.

Due Date | AMENDED

16.09.2021

Tender

walls.

Greece creates a Ministry to deal with climate crisis

Ex-EU Commissioner appointed Minister

ASSOCIATED PRESS ATHENS

Greece's center-right government has created a new Ministry to address the impact of climate change and named former European Union commissioner Christos Stylianides as Minister.

Mr. Stylianides, 63, who served as commissioner for humanitarian aid and crisis management between 2014 and 2019, was appointed in the wake of wildfires that burned more than 1,000 square km of forest on the island of Evia and in southern Greece.

Intense heat waves in southern Europe in July and described in Greece at the worst in decades - fuelled deadly wildfires in Turkey as well and blazes in Italy, France, and Balkan countries.

The appointment was announced on Monday after a previous candidate, former armed forces chief and Defence Minister Evangelos Apostolakis, withdrew, citing the lack of promised cross-party consensus for the new post.

As Minister of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, Mr. Stylianides will head firefighting, disaster relief and policies to adapt to rising temperatures resulting from climate change.

"I have accepted (the position) with the full awareness of the challenges and expectations that come with it. The consequences of climate change have overtaken us, and we must accelerate major change without delay," Mr. Stylianides said. "Disaster prevention and preparedness is the most effective weapon we have."

A former Greek Air Force chief, Gen. Evangelos Tournas, was named as Deputy Minister.

Before serving as commissioner, Mr. Stylianides was the European Union's head coordinator for the bloc's response to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

Mr. Stylianides, who is a Cypriot national, will be awarded Greek citizenship before being sworn in Fri-



He was accused of crimes committed against protesters

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Saadi Qadhafi, a son of Libya's late dictator Muammar Qadhafi who was overthrown and killed in a 2011 uprising, has been freed from jail, said the interim government.

Mr. Saadi - the strongman's third son, now aged 47 - was known for his playboy lifestyle and briefly played as a professional footballer in Italy. "Saadi Muammar Qadhafi

has been freed from prison," following on from a court ruling several years ago, a Justice Ministry source said late on Sunday in comments confirmed by the Government of National Unity.

Several media reports suggested Mr. Saadi had already taken a flight to Turkey. The Turkish Foreign Ministry, however, said on Monday it had no information about Mr. Saadi's possible arrival in Istanbul.

Libya's Presidential Council on Monday also an-



Saadi Qadhafi

nounced the release of sevother prisoners, including Qadhafi's former Cabinet and intelligence chief, Ahmad Ramadan, who was nicknamed "Black Box" for being the keeper of the dictator's secrets.

Mr. Saadi fled to Niger following the 2011 NATObacked uprising, but was extradited to Libya in 2014.

He was held in a Tripoli prison, accused of crimes committed against protesters and of the 2005 killing of Libyan football coach Bashir al-Rayani.

In April 2018, the court of

appeal acquitted him of Rayani's murder.

Since the 2011 uprising, Libya has sunk into chaos, with an array of rulers and militias vying for power. A 2020 ceasefire ended

the factional fighting and paved the way for peace talks and the formation of a transitional government this March, ahead of elections set for December.

preparations are marred by disputes over when to hold elections, what elections to hold and on what constitutional grounds. Mr. Saadi was the third son of the flamboyant colonel who took power after a bloodless coup in 1969.

For 42 years, the selfstyled "Leader of the Revolution" ruled his "Jamahiriya", or "state of the masses' with an iron grip, though not necessarily a coherent direction. He was accused of using the country's oil wealth to fund and arm rebel groups across Africa and beyond.

TENDER

JE/DB/(e-GP)/E 9,10.11/2021 - 22

to buy essentials.

Invites online bid for various work (Tender No.UE/DB/(e-GP)/E10/2021-2022, No.UE/DB/(e-GP)/E11/2021-2022 - Re-tender) work from registered contractors in State PWD/CPWD, who have completed one similar nature of work costing more than lar nature of work costing more than 40% (Forty percentage) of the quoted PAC during the last five years. The firm period of tender is 120 days from the date of tender. Last date and time of abmission of tender by online is o 3.09.2021 at 5.00 p.m. and by speed ost is on 15.09.2021 at 10.30 a.m.

For more details visit 'Tenders' in www.keralauniversity.ac.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

1 09 2021

DIPR/2614/Tender/2021 TNPL - Maker of bagas சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம். **GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY**

Material Description

Procurement of Multi Colou

laminated Wrapper Reels of various sizes - 486 MT

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION NOTICE INVITING TENDER

State Election Commission, Puducherry invites eTender towards Web Streaming of Polling activities of 'Civic Elections, 2021' in the UT o Puducherry. The tender document can be downloaded from the websit https://pudutenders.gov.in

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KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road

Bengaluru - 560 001. website: www.kiadb.in No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-20/6864/2021-22

Date: 06.09.2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK e - Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting item rate tender under two cover system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-II & above Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work: Construction of RCC Storm Water Drain beside the plot No.140 & 140/A at Badanguppe Kellamballi Industrial Area, Chamrajanagar Taluk & District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is: 29.09.2021 upto 04:00 pm Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:1441/2021-22 STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE. Follow Physical Distancing

Maintain Hand Hygiene

MARKET WATCH

	06-09-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	58297	0.29
US Dollar	73.10	-0.10
Gold	46503	0.71
Brent oil	72.32	

NIFTY 50		
		CHANG
Adani Ports	751.20	3.7
Asian Paints	3315.55	23.2
Axis Bank	800.80	2.8
Bajaj Auto	3781.10	23.6
Bajaj Finserv	. 16747.00.	12.6
Bajaj Finance	7506.35	17.0
Bharti Airtel	654.60	3.8
BPCL	490.80	0.!
Britannia Ind	4079.05	45.1
Cipla		
Coal India		
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech		
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
State Bank		
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma		5.1
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd		
Products Ltd		
	297.45	1.9

EXCHANGE RA	TES							
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 06								
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL						
US Dollar	72.91	73.23						
Euro	86.50	86.90						
British Pound	.100.89	101.37						
Japanese Yen (100)	66.36	66.65						
Chinese Yuan	11.29	11.34						

Singapore Dollar

Malaysian Ringitt.

.. 1.35

Hetero's COVID-19 drug copy gets EUA from DCGI

54.30.....54.55

Hetero's generic version of Tocilizumab has received emergency use authorisation (EUA) from the Drugs Controller General of India

Council to mull capacity-based GST on sectors seeing evasion

It will review panel's report in Sept. 17 meeting; analysts flag risks in approach

VIKAS DHOOT

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is likely to consider a ministerial group's report on introducing a differentiated regime for sectors where tax evasion is very high, such as brick kilns, sand mining, and gutkha and pan masala production. even as experts have urged caution about carve-outs.

The Council, which will meet physically, for the first time since the pandemic's onset, on September 17 in Lucknow, had earlier constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to consider demands of some States to tax these products based on production capacity rather than



Seeking a fix: Tax evasion is high in the likes of brick kilns. sand mining and pan masala units. • B. VELANKANNI RAJ

output and introduce Special Composition schemes. Tax evasion is high in these sectors – for instance, ₹830 crore of evasion was detected at a single pan masala unit earlier this year. The 7-member GoM, convened by Odisha Finance Minister Niran-

jan Pujari, is tasked with examining the feasibility of a capacity-based tax regime and other alternatives to plug tax leakages. "The biggest risk of extending a capacity-based or composition scheme to such sectors is twofold – it goes against the

very edifice of GST as one of the objectives was to ensure buoyancy in revenues with increase in sales volumes," Atul Gupta, senior director at Deloitte India, said, adding it could open the floodgates for such demands from other sectors, like textiles.

"It will not be easy to implement... and it may not even yield the desired result of curbing evasion, the main reason for which is extremely high tax rates," said Rajat Bose, partner, Shardul

Amarchand Mangaldas & Co. Such a levy " gives the wrong signal to an honest taxpayer by conceding that Revenue authorities are not competent to check evasion and... puts a premium on tax evasion," Mr. Gupta said.

Govt. must constitute GST tribunal: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the government had no option but to constitute the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Appellate Tribunal. The tribunal has not

been constituted even four years after the central GST law was passed in 2016. "You have to constitute a Tribunal," a Special Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana told the government. The court was hearing a petition by advocate Amit Sahni. He said Section 109 of the GST Act mandates the constitution of the Tribunal.

He added, "citizen aggrieved ... are constrained to approach respective High Court" and the same was overburdening the work of the High Courts.

'Tower firms face big hit if Vodafone Idea folds up'

About 1.8 lakh tenancies may be lost

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Vodafone Idea's financial troubles have wide-ranging implications for the telecom industry with the mobile tower sector faced with the prospect of substantial tenancy losses if the beleaguered operator is forced to shut down operations, ratings agency ICRA warned in a note on Monday.

"VIL has been under financial stress as reflected by mounting losses and burgeoning debt levels, which is likely to impact its financial lenders as well as Government, apart from having a bearing on its employees, its subscribers and associated industries, most prominently towers," ICRA said. It added that in case of a VIL exit, tower firms might see about 1,80,000 tenancies falling



50% were expected to be regained by the tower companies as tenancies over a period of 18-24 months, the agency said.

There are about 5.5 lakh towers and each tower can have multiple tenancies.

Stressing that government support was 'critical', ICRA urged an extension of moratorium on spectrum dues beyond FY2022 as a relief measure that would aid both, the industry and VIL.

Maruti vehicles get pricier by up to ₹21,000

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Maruti Suzuki India on Monday announced a 1.9% increase in prices of almost its entire range of vehicles.

"The company announced a price change for select models owing to increase in various input costs," Maruti Suzuki said in a filing with the exchange. "The weighted average price increase in exshowroom prices (Delhi) across select models is 1.9%," the company added.

The move would result in an increase of about ₹4,000-₹21,000 depending on the model. This is the company's fourth price rise this year due to increase in input costs

Murugappa turnover rises 9.5% to ₹41.713 cr.

Group's profit surges 53% to ₹4,500 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The turnover of the Murugappa Group rose 9.5% to ₹41,713 crore in FY21 while net profit surged by almost 53% to ₹4,500 crore.

Profit after tax, excluding profit from stake sale in group firms, grew by 26% to ₹3,713 crore, the group said.

EID Parry accounted for

₹4,400 crore in net sales, Cholamandalam MS General Insurance ₹4,388 crore, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance ₹9,584 crore, Tube Investments of India ₹5,827 crore, Coro-International mandel ₹14,145 crore, Carborundum Universal ₹2,604 crore and other businesses ₹765 crore,

according to a statement.

The aggregate capital expenditure on expansion, modernisation, debottlenecking and digitalisation infrastructure, excluding M&As, reduced from ₹1,009 crore to ₹445 crore following challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Free cash flow

Manufacturing entities generated a free cash flow of ₹5,059 crore (₹1,903 crore).

These entities reduced loan outstanding of ₹2,148 crore, leading to an improvement in total debt equity from 0.47 times as on March 31, 2020, to 0.20 times as on March 31, 2021,

TMB files **DRHP** for ₹1,000 cr. IPO

SANGEETHA KANDAVEL

The 100-year-old Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. has filed a Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

According to the DRHP, the bank would issue up to 1,58,40,000 equity shares of face value of ₹10 each. The share sale is expected to raise up to ₹1,000 crore from the primary market.

The offer will comprise fresh issue of 1,58,27,495 equity shares and existing shareholders will offload equity through offer-for-sale.

'Second wave's easing, vaccinations spell hope'

Impact may be limited to Q1: SFL's Viji

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The tapering of the second wave coupled with an aggressive vaccination drive has brightened the nearterm prospects for the economy, Sundaram Finance Ltd. (SFL) chairman S. Viji said on Monday.

Addressing the AGM, Mr. Viji said that the adverse economic impact of the second wave may be limited to the first quarter of FY22. On the global chip shor-

tage, he said pandemic-driven lockdowns in East Asia compounded the challenge. "This, coupled with rela-

tively high input prices of

fuel and commodities, pre-

sents the risk of a dampener

to the upcoming festival season," he cautioned. MD Rajiv Lochan said in-

frastructure, rural and farm sectors were witnessing unprecedented investments following the government's push and SFL expected it to lead to growth opportunities in construction-equipment and tractor segments.

NMDC cuts ore prices by ₹1,000/tonne

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mining major NMDC has reduced prices of iron ore Lump and Fines by ₹1,000 a tonne, respectively.

Effective September 4, the new prices are ₹6,150 per tonne for Lump Ore and ₹5,160 for the same quantity of Fines, the company said in a filing on Monday.

This is the third month in a row the country's largest iron ore producer has reduced the prices. In July, NMDC had reduced the prices by ₹200 per tonne, for both Lump and Fines. The next month it slashed the price of Lump by ₹300 a tonne to ₹7,150 and that of Fines by ₹200 to ₹6,160.

TV PICKS

Sri Lanka vs South Africa: 3rd ODI, Sony Ten 2 (SD &

US Open: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m. & 2 a.m. (Wednesday)

WC 2022 European qualifiers: Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 12.15 (Wednesday)

IN BRIEF

Aditi finishes T-12 at

Creekhouse: Stark wins Aditi Ashok endured a rollercoaster final round, carding an even par 72 to finish a creditable Tied-12th at the Creekhouse Ladies Open on Sunday. Maja Stark held her nerve to claim a four-shot victory, PTI

Misbah and Wagar resign

ISLAMABAD Misbah-ul-Haq and Waqar Younis have guit their coaching roles with Pakistan a month before the T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates. Saqlain Mushtaq and Abdul Razzag have been named as interim coaches.

Bengal T20 Challenge from today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Anustup Majumdarled Kanchenjunga Warriors will take on the Sudip Chatterjee-led Barrackpore Bashers in the first match of the Bengal T20 Challenge, starting at the Eden Gardens on Tuesday.

The first match, beginning at 4.30 p.m., will be followed by the duel between Durgapur Dazzlers and Krishnanagar Challengers at 8 p.m.

The matches will be played at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. from Wednesday till the league phase. The tournament will be streamed live on the Fancode app.



A positive atmosphere: Anand

'It is better if we do not let expectations get ahead of us'

CHESS OLYMPIAD

K. KEERTHIVASAN

Led by five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand, the Indian chess team appeared in high spirits ahead of the second World online chess Olympiad here. The Olympiad will be held from September 8 to Winner of the last online

edition, the 12-member Indian side (barring P. Harikrishna, who is in Prague, K. Humpy, and D. Harika (who are in their respective cities, Vijayawada and Hyderabad) has been put up in a city hotel and will play the tournament from the hotel.

"I found it difficult playing at home last time. This time we are all together on the same floor [of the hotel] and the atmosphere is very positive," said Anand, at a press conference here on Monday.

such as France, Belarus,

Moldova, Slovenia, Egypt,

Lalruatmawia,

decisive goals

KOLKATA

Pedro score the

DURAND CUP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISL outfit Jamshedpur FC be-

gan its Durand Cup cam-

paign on a winning note.

downing I-League side Sude-

va Delhi FC by a solitary goal

in a Group B match at the

Mohun Bagan ground on

Second division side FC

Strong teams On India's chances in Group-B, with countries

Anand said: "It is better if we do not let expectations get ahead of us. All teams are strong. We have to be on guard," he said.

stage (quarterfinals).

Sweden and Hungary, China and Azerbaijan in the fray,

There are forty teams in the Top Division and the top two teams from four groups will make it to the play-off

Humpy, India's top woman player, said after having

won the tournament (along

with Russia) last time, "there

are a lot of expectations

Good start by JFC, Bengaluru United

Bengaluru United won its

Group A contest, beating 10-

man CRPF 1-0 at the Kalyani

in the 34th minute through

Tata Football Academy grad-

uate, Lalruatmawia. The

Steelmen held on to the slen-

der lead for the rest of the

encounter as Sudeva failed

Subho Paul, the FC

Bayern Munich under-19

world squad player in the

Sudeva ranks, squandered a

fine opportunity to equalise

when his attempt from the

to convert its chances.

Jamshedpur went ahead

Stadium.

from us. We have to start from the beginning and enjoy the game. I am sure we will achieve success."

All set: The Indian team is confident of putting up a good show. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to All India Chess Federation (AICF) secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan, there were quite a few internet issues in the first online World Olympiad last year. "This time, Microsense being the best in the business is providing the facilities. Internet will not be an issue here," he said.

AICF president Sanjay Kapoor said he is determined

penalty spot in the 61st mi-

nute was saved by Jamshed-

pur goalkeeper Vishal Yadav.

Spanish striker Pedro

Manzi found the target in the

63rd minute to secure full

points for Bengaluru United.

CRPF was reduced to 10 men

in the 72nd minute when

goalkeeper Moses Antony

was sent off for handling the

The results: Group A: FC

Group B: Jamshedpur FC 1

(Lalruatmawia 34) bt Sudeva

Bengaluru United 1 (Pedro

ball outside the box.

Manzi 63) bt CRPF 0.

Delhi FC O.

to "change the profile of chess through our various programs. COVID-19 came in between, but nothing can stop us," he said.

Microsense managing director S. Kailasanathan said: "Hopefully things would turn out to be the best for

The Indian team: Viswanathan Anand, Vidit Gujarati, P. Harikrishna, B. Adhiban, Nihal Sarin, K. Humpy, D. Harika, Tania Sachdev. Bhakti Kulkarni. R. Vaishali, R. Praggnandhaa & Savitha Shri.

Bottas to join Alfa Romeo

REUTERS

Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas will leave Mercedes and race for Alfa Romeo in a multi-year deal from 2022, the Swiss-based Formula One team said in a statement on Monday.

The move clears the way for George Russell to leave Williams and take his place alongside seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton in an all-British line-up.

Moonlight Ruby claims Hyperion Plate

HYDERABAD: Mr. Jatin L. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.
Trivedi's Moonlight Ruby 3. HYPERION PLATE (1,400m), (Neeraj up) claimed the Hyperthe main event of Monday's (Sept. 6) races.

The winner is trained by Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan. 1. SILVER PHANTOM PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): JEAN LAFETTE (R. Ajinkya) 1, Burano (Ashad Asbar) 2, Bandit King (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Miss Little Angel (Trevor) 4. 1, Nk and Nk. 1m 14. 64s. ₹60 (w), 15, 14 and 72 (p).

127, Tanala: 14,410. Favourite: Galwan. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

SHP: 41, THP: 145, FP: 311, Q:

2. HELEN OF TROY PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): WATCH MY STRIDE (Akshay) Kumar) 1, Trump Star (Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Hard To Toss (Deepak Singh) 3 and Sea Wolf (B. Nikhil) 4. 2-3/4, 1/2 and 2. 1m 14. 46s. ₹32 (w) 14, 17 and 20 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 61, FP: 227, Q: 139, Tanala: 1,808. Favourite: Ashwa

Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Ey unni & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy.

MOONLIGHT RUBY (Able Love (B. Nikhil) 2, Zamazenta (C. Umesh) 3 and Zeus (Trevor) 4. 1, 1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m 28. 76s. ₹64 (w), 16, 14 and 67 (p), SHP: 43, THP: 117, FP: 263.

Q: 82, Tanala: 9,358. Favourite:

Owner: Mr. Jatin L. Trivedi. Trainer: Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan.

4. HILL FORT PLATE (Div.I)
(1,200m), rated up to 25 (Cat.
III): STAR BABE (Rohit Kumar) 1,
Sheldon (Trevor) 2, Big Day (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Red River (R.S. Jodha) 4. Not run: Silver Set. 1, 1 and 2. 1m 15. 76s. ₹22 (w), 11, 13 and 35 (p). SHP: 45, THP: 72, FP: 85, Q: 46, Tanala: 576. Favourite: Star Babe.

Owner: Mr. Ch. Naga charayya. Trainer:

Sequeira.
5. HIDDEN BLOOM PLATE (1,600m) Maiden, 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat.III): MORINGA (Trevor) 1, N R I Touch (Akshay Kumar) 2, Grand Finale (A.A. Vikrant 3 and Forever

Bond (R. Laxmikanth) 4. Not

run: Flying Jet. 2-3/4, 5-1/4 and 1-

1/2. 1m 41. 76s. ₹22 (w), 12, 14 and 18 (p). SHP: 42, THP: 48, FP: 91, Q: 53, Tanala: 280. Favourite: Moringa.

Owners: Mr. Champaklal Zaveri, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri rep. Zaveri Stud Farm Private Limited, Miss. Harsha N. Desai & Miss. Niti N. Desai. Trainer: L.V.R

6. HILL FORT PLATE (Div.II) (1,200m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III): TOP IN CLASS (Akshay Kumar) 1, Flamingo Fame (Trevor) 3, California Beauty (G. Naresh) 3 and Ice Berry (C.P. Bopanna) 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and 2-1/4. Im 15. 94s. ₹34 (w), 17, 12 and 24 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 64, FP: 102, Q: 38, Tanala: 360. Favourite: Flamingo Fame.

Owners: Mr. Mirza Ayub Baig, Mr. Sudheer Reddy, Mr. Mo-hammed Abdul Wajid Khan & Mr. Satyanarayana Reddy Pan-nala. Trainer: S.S.F. Hassan.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹10,326 (39 tkts.), 30% 825 (209 tkts.). Treble: (i) 2,088 (19 tkts.), (ii) 284 (321 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: 2,652 (34 tkts.).

It's Abhishek vs Velavan in final

Sunayna Kuruvilla stretched to five games by Urwashi Joshi

SQUASH

KAMESH SRINIVASAN GREATER NOIDA

Fourth seed Abhishek Pradhan subdued the top seed Abhishek Agarwal 11-7, 9-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-5 in the men's semifinals of the HCL PSA Challenger squash tournament at the Shiv Nadar University on Monday.

Chennai event, as Abhishek will take on third seed Velavan Senthilkumar in the Velavan maintained his

It will be a repeat of the

undefeated streak in the last two tournaments with a straight-game victory over Rahul Baitha.

In the women's section, top seed Sunayna Kuruvilla was stretched to five games by third seed Urwashi Joshi, who recovered from the brink of defeat in the third game to prolong her fight. Sunayna prevailed 11-9, 11-9,



Urwashi Joshi in the semifinals. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

11-13, 7-11, 11-8. In the final, Sunayna will

face the second seed and the champion of the last event in Chennai, Tanvi Khanna. In their thriller last meeting, Tanvi had tamed Sunayna 15-13 in the fifth game in the Chennai final last month.

Tanvi conserved her energy for the final, as she eased past Anjali Semwal

straight games in the semifinals.

The results (semifinals):

Men: Abhishek Pradhan bt Abhishek Agarwal 11-7, 9-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-5; Velavan Senthilkumar bt Rahul Baitha 11-4, 11-8, 11-8.

Women: Sunavna Kuruvilla bt Urwashi Joshi 11-9, 11-9, 11-13, 7-11, 11-8; Tanvi Khanna bt Anjali Semwal 11-8, 11-5, 11-5).

Bumrah on fire as India scripts a sensational win at The Oval

Works in tandem with Jadeja to spark a collapse after Shardul breaks through; Umesh mops up the tail; Ends a 50-year wait at the iconic venue, goes 2-1 up







At full throttle: Bumrah swung the contest India's way, castling Pope and Bairstow in quick succession. • AFP

INDIA IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah sparked a dramatic collapse as India beat England by 157 runs to win the fourth Test at The Oval on Monday and take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

The visitors bounced back in style following their innings defeat in the third Test at Headingley and took an unassailable lead in the se-

India's victory came 50 years after its first Test – and series - win in England at The Oval in 1971.

England, set a target of 368, was well placed at 141 for two after lunch on the final day, but Jadeja and Bumrah both struck as the hosts lost four wickets for six runs, slumping to 147 for six.

There was no way back from there. England lost two more wickets before tea, including captain Joe Root, who was bowled, playing on to Shardul Thakur for 36.

Jadeja was rewarded for a probing spell on a wearing pitch. Haseeb Hameed, 43 not out overnight, added 20 off 108 balls on Monday. The left-arm spinner pierced the opener's defence with a delivery that pitched just outside the leg-stump and turned to clip the top of offstump. Ollie Pope, who made 81 in the first innings, was bowled for two by Bumrah, giving the fast bowler his 100th Test wicket. Bumrah then took his second wicket in five deliveries when he castled Jonny Bairstow for a duck with a brilliant yorker.

Moeen Ali fell soon after, the all-rounder also falling for nought after deflecting a Jadeja delivery that turned and bounced straight to short-leg.

Umesh Yadav cleaned up the tail much to the delight of the Indian fans among a capacity crowd revelling in the south London sunshine. He took six wickets in the match, sealing the contest by having James Anderson caught behind off the new ball shortly after tea.

In the morning, though it was Umesh and Bumrah who opened the attack, it was Shardul who broke the opening partnership.

With just his fourth ball of the innings, and one delivery after Burns had completed a fifty to take England to 100, Shardul's leg-cutter saw the left-hander edge to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant.

Hameed completed a 123ball fifty – his fourth in five before he was dropped by Mohammed Siraj at mid-on off Jadeja. The leftarmer, however, nailed the

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS 191 in 61.3 overs **ENGLAND — IST INNINGS** 290 in 84 overs INDIA - 2ND INNINGS 466 in 148.2 overs

ENGLAND - 2ND INNINGS

(Target: 368)

Rory Burns c Pant b Shardul 50 (125b, 5x4), Haseeb Hameed b Jadeja 63 (193b, 6x4), Dawid Malan run out 5 (33b), Joe Root b Shardul 36 (78b, 3x4), Ollie Pope b Bumrah 2 (11b), Jonny Bairstow b Bumrah O (4b), Moeen Ali c sub (Suryakumar) b Jadeja O (4b), Chris Woakes c Rahul b Umesh 18 (47b, 1x4), Craig Overton b Umesh 10 (29b, 1x4), Ollie Robinson (not out)

10 (32b, 2x4), James Anderson c

Pant b Umesh 2 (5b); Extras (b-2, lb-5, nb-7): 14; Total (in 92.2 overs): 210.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-100 (Burns, 40.4 overs), 2-120 (Malan, 53.1), 3-141 (Hameed, 61.3), 4-146 (Pope, 64.5), 5-146 (Bairstow, 66.3), 6-147 (Moeen, 67.2), 7-182 (Root, 80.1), 8-193 (Woakes, 84.1), 9-202 (Overton, 88.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Umesh 18.2-2-60-3, Bumrah 22-9-27-2, Jadeja 30-11-50-2, 14-0-44-0, Shardul

Man-of-the-Match: Rohit. India won by 157 runs to take a 2-1 lead in five-match series. Fifth and final Test: September 10-14. Manchester

- India's ninth victory in 66 Tests against England in England
- The fourth time the Indians have won a Test in England after conceding the first innings lead
- Lead conceded 71, won by four wickets, The Oval, 1971
- 24, won by 95 runs, Lord's 2014
- 27, won by 151 runs, Lord's 2021
- 99, won by 157 runs, The Oval, 2021
- The second occasion in this series, after Lord's, that Kohli's men have overturned a first innings deficit to win a Test

opener with a beauty. Dawid Malan, slow to respond to Hameed's call, was run out for five as substitute Mayank Agarwal pounced on the ball at cover and threw to Pant.

■ Bumrah reached the 100-wicket landmark in 24 Tests, eclipsing Kapil's record (25) for Indian pacers

Missile man reaches a milestone

Bumrah races to the 100-wicket mark in just 24 Tests

S. DINAKAR

Jasprit Bumrah Areached wicket No. 100, in only his 24th Test, it was time to travel back to the start of an incredible journey.

Six five-wicket innings hauls and a strike-rate of 50.90 (before the ongoing Test) underline the 27-yearold spearhead's potency.

Sometimes you've got to be present at the spot to comprehend the significance of a decision.

Ahead of the India-South Africa Test at Cape Town, the first Test of the 2018 series, the chatter was about the inclusion of Bumrah in the eleven. There were forceful points made either way. "He has not played enough First Class cricket. How will he bowl long spells," asked some.

There were others, including the Indian team management, who were willing to back Bumrah for his sheer explosiveness; ambling across to the crease and unleashing thunder-

Here was a bowler who had an unusual action. And the batsmen were picking him late.

Unique

Indeed, he was a unique bowler. Despite the load-up being far and away from the body, his arm was so high



X-factor: Bumrah's pace and accuracy make him a dreaded bowler. • GETTY IMAGES

Bumrah's journey

46 **101 6/27** 9/86 22.79 51.4 6/0 and upright at the point of

release. He could be used judiciously, in short bursts, The decision was made.

Bumrah made his Test debut at Cape Town. And his three for 39 in the second innings encapsulated his qualities as

Crucially, he added additional dimension to the attack with his freakish pace and unsettling bounce.

Along with Mohammed Shami he brought in velocity and craft to the Indian bowling. Bumrah was striking the batsmen on the body, on the knuckles and the helmet

with his nasty bounce from a good length and just short of it. He was softening up the opposition.

Avg. SR 5WI/10WM

By the time the year 2018 ended with the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, Bumrah had a whopping 48 wickets to his name.

India made history by triumphing twice in Test series Down Under and pace legend Glenn McGrath marvelled at how Bumrah's pace did not drop even when he ran in late for his final spell.

The fiery Bumrah brings in the X-factor with him. And he's as dangerous as they

Experience with reversing the ball did the trick: Bumrah

Explains how the bowlers took the pitch out of the equation

S. DIPAK RAGAV

In a Test that witnessed ma-Iny notable performances, it was Jasprit Bumrah's inspired spell after lunch on the final day that swung the contest India's way.

At the post-match conference, skipper Virat Kohli praised the pace spearhead. "As soon as the ball started reversing a bit, Jasprit said 'just give me the ball'. He bowled a six-over spell and got us two breakthroughs which completely shifted the momentum to our side," said Kohli.

Speaking about that decision and his spell, Bumrah said, "Obviously it was very important to create pressure. I went up and told him that I think we should start well and try to create pressure.

"We needed to start really well because if suddenly you give a lot of runs, the momentum goes away and you come under pressure. You wouldn't want to be playing catch up then,"

About bowling on a flat pitch with little assistance for the bowlers, Bumrah explained, "The ball was reversing a little bit but not like how it does in India. So we thought that since we have



Telling blow: After Bumrah's twin strike, Shardul got rid of the in-form Root. • GETTY IMAGES

bowled a lot with the reversing ball, we have to try out that option and it worked in our favour."

Workload

Commenting on his workload, the 27-year-old said, "When you are playing a Test, you don't realise what has been done before, or how many overs you have bowled, because the important thing is to do the job for the team.

"I work really hard on my fitness because I want to play cricket for a long period of time.

"That is why I work hard in the gym, work hard with my diet, and everything I can try and control.

"Keeping that in mind, I know I have got the ammunition in me... whenever I have to push, I can push for the team. That was the thing I was focusing on and not on the workload."

Shastri, Arun, Sridhar to miss decider

AMOL KARHADKAR

Head coach Ravi Shastri, bowling coach B. Arun and fielding coach R. Sridhar were confirmed to have contracted COVID-19 after returning positive RT-PCR tests on Monday. Physiotherapist Nitin Patel tested

All four support staff members had been in isolation after Shastri's lateral flow test had returned positive on Saturday – the other three were deemed close contacts of the head coach.

The development has put the last Test of the series, scheduled to start in Manchester on Friday, in slight doubt, with both the ECB and BCCI, as well as the team managements, treading cautiously.

The Hindu has learnt that with the three coaches start-

ing to develop mild symptoms, all of India's squad members underwent a lateral flow test and the RT-PCR test before the start of the last day's play at the Oval.

Just like on day 4, India was allowed to take the field on Monday only after everyone cleared the lateral flow test.

The India camp fears that the number of those infected could increase in the coming days - especially given that at least one of the coaching staff members had used the recovery table in the dressing room on the third day before it was used by the players.

Meanwhile, Rohit Sharma and Cheteshwar Pujara were off the field after undergoing scans on the "left knee" and "left ankle", respectively, according to the

Bumrah nominated for ICC monthly award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was on Monday nominated for the ICC 'Player-of-the-Month' award for August, following his brilliant performances with bat and ball in the ongoing Test series against England.

Brazil-Argentina clash suspended

Besides Bumrah, the others in the men's category included England Test skipper Joe Root and Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi.

The nominees among women were Thailand's Nattaya Boochatham, and the Ireland duo of Gaby Lewis and Eimear Richardson.

Teens Alcaraz and Fernandez continue to cause a flutter

Former becomes the youngest man to reach New York quarterfinals in Open Era, latter stuns Kerber

U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Spanish 18-year-old Carlos Alcaraz, who upset Greek third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, reached his first Slam quarterfinal by downing 141stranked German qualifier Peter Gojowczyk 5-7, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2, 6-0.

Alcaraz, ranked 55th, is the youngest US Open men's quarterfinalist since Brazilian Thomaz Koch in 1963.

The Spaniard will face Canadian 12th seed Felix Auger-Aliassime, who beat American Frances Tiafoe 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(8), 6-4.

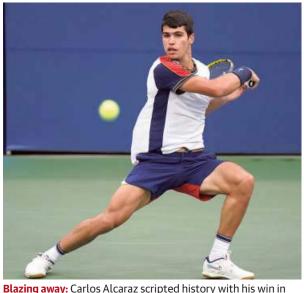
Canadian teen Leylah Fernandez followed her shock upset of 2020 US Open winner Naomi Osaka by defeating German 16th seed and three-time Grand Slam champion Angelique Kerber 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-2.

"That's going to be a very tough match," Fernandez said. Second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus eliminated Belgian 15th seed Elise Mertens 6-4, 6-1. Sabalenka will next face Czech eighth seed Barbora

Krejcikova, who beat Garbine Muguruza 6-3, 7-6(4). Switzerland's Belinda Bencic, the Olympic gold medallist, defeated Iga Swiatek 7-6 (12), 6-3 to make the last eight

for the third time. Russian second seed Daniil Medvedev defeated Daniel Evans 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, making his fourth trip to the last eight in the past five Grand Slams as he chases his first

Medvedev next faces 117thranked Botic Van de Zandschulp, who outlasted Argentine 11th seed Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 5-7, 6-1 in four hours and 20 minutes.



Blazing away: Carlos Alcaraz scripted history with his win in the fourth round. • AP

Alexander Zverev made it to the quarterfinals with his 15th straight victory. The No. 4 seed from Germany beat 13th-seeded Jannik Sinner

6-4, 6-4, 7-6(7). Zverev started his winning

streak at the Olympics,

where he beat Novak Djokov-

THE RESULTS

Fourth round: Men: 12-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Frances Tiafoe (USA) 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (8), 6-4; Carlos Alcaraz (Esp) bt Peter Gojowczyk (Ger) 5-7, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2, 6-0; Botic van de Zandschulp (Ned) bt 11-Diego Schwartzman (Arg) 6-3, 6-4, 5-7. 5-7. 6-1: 2-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt 24-Daniel Evans (GBr) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. 4-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt 13-Jannik Sinner (Ita) 6-4, 6-4, 7-6(7).

Doubles: 4-Rajeev Ram (USA) & Joe Salisbury (GBr) bt 13-Rohan Bopanna & Ivan Dodig (Cro) 6-7 (3), 6-4, 7-6(3).

Women: Leylah Fernandez (Can) bt 16-Angelique Kerber (Ger) 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-2; 8-Barbora Krejcikova (Cze) bt 9-Garbine Muguruza (Esp) 6-3, 7-6(4); 2-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt 15-Elise Mertens (Bel) 6-4, 6-1. 11-Belinda Bencic (Sui) bt 7- Iga Swiatek (Pol) 7-6(12), 6-3. Fallen seeds: Men: 11-Schwartzman, 24-Evans. Women: 7-Swi-

atek, 9-Muguruza, 16-Kerber.

WC QUALIFIER

ASSOCIATED PRESS SAO PAULO

Alleged breaches of CO-VID-19 restrictions led to the superclasico between Brazil and Argentina being suspended in South American qualifying for the World Cup.

FIFA will now decide the future of the qualifier. The match was stopped after 7 minutes with a 0-0 score when local health authorities walked onto the field in a bid to remove three England-based Argentina players who they believe should have been in quarantine.

In Europe, Luis Enrique shook up his team and got the result he wanted as Spain beat Georgia 4-0.

The results: Europe: Group B: Spain 4 (Gaya 14, Soler 25, Torres 41, Sarabia 63) bt Georgia O; Kosovo 1 (Muriqi 90+2) drew with Greece 1 (Douvikas 45+2). Group C: Bulgaria 1 (Chochev



Goal glut: Carlos Soler, second from right, scores Spain's second against Georgia. • REUTERS

82) bt Lithuania O; Switzerland O drew with Italy O.

Group E: Belarus 2 (Lisakovich 29-pen, Sedko 31) lost to Wales 3 (Bale 6-pen, 69-pen, 90+3); Belgium 3 (Lukaku 8, E. Hazard 41, Saelemaekers 65) bt Czech Republic O.

Group I: Albania 1 (Broja 87) bt Hungary O; England 4 (Lingard 18, 78, Kane 72-pen, Saka 85) bt Andorra O; San Marino 1 (Nanni 48) lost to Poland 7 (Lewandowski 5, 21, Swiderski 16, Linetty 44, Buksa 67, 90+2, 90+4). Group J: Iceland 2 (Bjarnason 78, Gudjohnsen 84) drew with

12, Alioski 54); Romania 2 (Tosca 11. Manea 18) bt Liechtenstein 0; Germany 6 (Gnabry 6, 15, Reus 35, Werner 45, Hofmann 52, Adeyemi 90+1) bt Armenia South America: Brazil v Argen-

North Macedonia 2 (Velkovski

tina suspended, Ecuador O drew with Chile O; Paraguay 1 (Sanabria 40) drew with Colombia 1 (Cuadrado 53-pen); Uruguay 4 (De Arrascaeta 15, 67-pen, Valverde 31. Alvarez Martinez 47) bt Bolivia 2 (Martins 59, 84pen); Peru 1 (Cueva 35) bt Venezuela 0. A ND-NDE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

Indian para-athletes conjure an incredible and inspiring show

With five gold and 19 medals overall, the nation has had the highest tally in an epoch-making campaign

PARALYMPICS

PRESS TRUST INDIA

Inspirational, incredible and

indomitable. India's paralympians managed to be all these and much more in an epoch-making campaign at the Tokyo Games where an unparalleled 19 medals, including five gold, helped them sign off 24th in the overall tally the highest ever.

The tally also included eight silver and six bronze medals but most importantly, it was a performance during which history was scripted almost everyday with the contingent living up to the 'Spirit in Motion' motto of the Games.

Even on the last day of competitions, the medal rush did not stop and Krishna Nagar won a gold after Noida's District Magistrate Suhas Yathiraj signed off his brilliant run with a silver to complete a remarkable badminton show.

Icing on the cake

The duo's performance was like icing on the cake for the contingent which found new heroes, celebrated some established ones and brought para-sports firmly into spotlight in India.

In all, 54 came to Tokyo and 17 of them left with medals around their necks.

It was an improved performance no doubt but calling it just improvement would be an understatement given that India's overall Games haul was a mere 12 before this edition.

To put things in perspective, at the 2016 Rio Games,



Proud bunch: The Indian para athletes are a picture of joy after exceeding all expectaions in the Tokyo Games. • SAI MEDIA

India had 19 athletes across five disciplines with four returning with medals in the

"Phenomenal Rise of Indian Paralympians! A New Era has Begun," said sports minister Anurag Thakur.

Several firsts

There were several firsts to celebrate and the euphoria lasted the entire duration of the Games.

Two athletes, shooters Avani Lekhara and Singhraj Adana, finished on podium twice, creating their own legacies in their debut Paralympics.

The 19-year-old Lekhara became the first Indian woman to win a Games gold (10m air rifle) and later added a bronze in 50m rifle 3 positions to ensure that her name would now be part of

It was an inspiring show by the teenager who was paralysed waist down after being injured in a car accident

every India-centric Paralym-

And to think of it, all her father had hoped to achieve by taking her to the shooting range was for Lekhara to get over the anger she had internalised after the accident which left wheelchair-bound.

She was fittingly India's flag-bearer at the closing ceremony, an honour that she

dous performance.

The 39-year-old Adana, on the other hand, was a late bloomer after taking a liking to the pistol while dropping his nephew to the range.

His right hand impaired, Adana knocked off a 10m air pistol bronze and 50m pistol silver to ensure that India had more than one doublemedallist in the same Games for the first time ever.

Medals in archery

There was the first medal in archery through Harvinder Singh (bronze), impaired after wrong medication for dengue, the first medal in table tennis by waist-down paralysed Bhavinben Patel (silver) and also a remarkable

two gold medals in badminton through short of stature Nagar and a polio-stricken Pramod Bhagat.

Another shooting star was Manish Narwal, all of 19, already a world champion and now a Paralympic champion as well.

Narwal's right hand is impaired and he originally wanted to be a footballer but fate had other plans for the Lionel Messi fan.

Not to mention the legends - Devendra Jhajharia (javelin throw) and Mariyappan Thangavelu (high jump). The two long-time flag-bearers of Indian para-sports, who won gold medals in 2016 Rio, and finished on podium again, this time with silver

the difference: Bhavina PRESS TRUST OF INDIA When the COVID-19 pandemic derailed her preparations for the Paralympics, table tennis player Bhavina Patel found a perfect practice partner

Bhavina Patel. • PTI

TT robot facilitated by SAI made

Besides, the TOPS gave us other equipment like racquets," Bhavina told PTI in an interview after returning from Tokyo.

Made in Hungary, Amicus Prime claims to be the best ping pong robot available with 21 pre-saved drills and ball frequency of up to 120 per minute.

"During the pandemic time (lockdown), my husband arranged a table for me at home only. That time my coach got me a second hand robot with

which I used to practice but after that I got the SAI robot in February-March 2020," she said.

She also spoke in detail about the huge difference the robot made in enhancing her game.

"My strokes got stronger after playing with the robot. I used to play 5000 balls in a day with the robot. The ball control and placements increased a lot, spin control, cut control also enhanced. All these differences came because of that robot," she elaborated.

Bhavina also credited her family, especially her husband Nikunj Patel, a former junior level cricketer for Gujarat.

"...he backed me to the hilt, pushed me saying 'you can do this and you have to do his because after seeing you many athletes will come forward, you have to become their inspiration'.

medals, cementing their place among all-time greats

improved my game a lot.

"So, I got good variations

NEW DELHI

in a robot provided by the

Sports Authority of India,

an assistance which she

difference in her historic

She credited her success

to the TT Robot (Butterfly -

Amicus Prime, which cost

"I got a robot through

SAI TOPS (Target Olympic

Podium Scheme). It has

many advanced features

like you can get strokes

from different angles.

'Good variations'

from it in my game. It

silver-winning show in

feels, made all the

₹2,73,500) and an

Ottobock Wheelchair

(costing ₹2,84,707).

of Indian sports. Bigger than their medals were the circumstances they beat like every athlete that they competed against.

So if Lekhara found her strength with a rifle in her hand after a car accident, Jhajharia, at 40 and with an arm lost to electrocution as a child, showed what longevity truly means in sport.

Nearly half (8) of India's

haul this time came from the track-and-field arena with javelin thrower Sumit Antil shining the brightest with a gold en route which he shattered his own world record five times over. Antil was pursuing a ca-

reer in wrestling before a bike accident led to the amputation of his left leg, changing the course of his life forever.

At 18, Praveen Kumar became India's youngest medallist with a silver in high jump which came with an Asian record for the debutant, whose left leg is impaired. Another shinning star was Sundar Singh Gurjar, who finished behind Jhajharia in javelin throw.

In fact, all of them, even the ones who didn't win a medal, are a personification of fortitude, having braved and beaten circumstances that were difficult at best and improbable at worst.

DELHI ROUND-UP

Harshdeep Hans

Harshdeep Hans (4/20)

scripted Jai Maa Ambey Academy's 138-run victory

in the 15th Hari Chand

over DC. Raghav Academy

memorial (u-17) tournament

Jai Maa Ambey Academy 227

in 45 overs (Akash 46, Riyan

25 overs (Garvit Grover 48,

Harshdeep Hans 4/20).

Harshit Aneja

shines

Alam 31, Saurav Godiyal 3/41)

bt D. C. Raghav Academy 89 in

Harshit Aneja's unbeaten 78

set the tone for S.B. Youth's

West Delhi Academy in the

West Delhi Academy 115 in 32

Aman Goswami 4/19) lost to

S.B. Youth 118/2 in 21 overs

(Harshit Aneja 78 n.o.t out,

overs (Gauray Sharma 52.

eight-wicket victory over

Sonex (u-15) tournament.

stars for Jai Maa Ambey

here.

The scores:

'Time to focus on winning Asian Games'

The objective is to earn automatic qualification for Paris, says Manpreet

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India men's hockey team skipper Manpreet Singh said it's time to stop basking in the glory of their historic bronze medal at the Tokyo Games and start focussing on qualifying for the Paris Olympics by winning next year's Asian Games.

The Indian team has been showered with accolades since returning home following a bronze-medal winning feat at Tokyo, a medal that broke India's 41-year-old jinx at the Olympics.

Busy calendar

It's been a month since the Indian men's team beat Germany 5-4 in the third place play off and Manpreet said it's time to start planning for a busy 2022 calendar.

"I think these past few weeks have been great with people showering us with all their love and praises. Now, I feel it's time we rest our bodies and mind," the India



Crucial support: Manpreet feels the fanbase earned after the Olympics is great for the sport. • AP

skipper said in a release issued by Hockey India.

"We have enjoyed all the felicitations, the honour and accolades we received has been overwhelming but now we must start thinking about how to better ourselves for the 2022 calendar."

With the all-important Asian Games scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China from September 10 to 25 next year, the team's top priority will be to qualify for the Paris Olympics by

winning the gold at the continental tournament.

"Last time, we ended up with a bronze and lost out on winning the automatic qualification.

"We were lucky to have the FIH Olympic qualifying matches in India. But we can't depend on the same again," he said.

'The best would be for us to qualify by winning the Asian Games, so it gives us the right amount of time to prepare for 2024 Olympics."

While the men's team won the bronze, the women's side also finished at a creditable fourth place at Tokyo and Manpreet believes their Olympic performance will only increase the popularity of the sport.

New beginning

"I truly feel this is a new beginning for Indian hockey. With the women's team too doing so well at the Olympics, hockey is witnessing the same kind of support it once had.

"I was told many people from different professions woke up early to see our matches just like they would back in the glory days when Indian hockey fans would stay glued to the radio to hear the commentary.

"I feel this fanbase we have earned after the Olympics is great for the sport in general and now it is on us to give these fans bigger and better feats to ensure their supports continues and the popularity of hockey grows

Shubhankar finishes tied 12th

Nicolai Hojgaard claims his maiden European Tour title

ITALIAN OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's Shubhankar Sharma reserved his best for the final round as he turned in a sizzling five-under 66 to sign off tied 12th at the DS Automobiles Italian Open golf.

On fire Starting the final day with a bogey, Shubhankar was on fire from the fifth. He had seven birdies in the next holes from fifth to 13th and looked set for a top-10 finish. But back-to-back bogeys on the 14th and 15th set him back before he finished with a birdie on the 18th for 66.

At 8-under, Shubhankar finished five shots off the

winner, Nicolai Hojgaard. Nicolai held off a strong pack to claim his maiden European Tour title with a one shot victory. His twin broth-

er Rasmus finished 18th. The Danish 20-year-olds became the first brothers to win back-to-back events on the European Tour after Ras-



one-shot victory. • AP

mus Hojgaard won last week's Omega European Masters in Switzerland. Nicolai came into the final

round with a one shot lead and had found himself two clear on the back nine before back-to-back bogeys at the 14th and 15th wiped out his advantage and left him level with Tommy Fleetwood and Adrian Meronk going down the last.

He arrived at the 18th tee

knowing he needed a closing birdie to win, and he did just that – holing from three feet to finish the tournament on 13 under par and clinch his maiden victory at this level, with Rasmus joining him on

the green to celebrate. Meronk and Fleetwood finished in a share of second place on 12 under just one shot behind Højgaard after posting rounds of 66 and 71 respectively.

While FIFA says it is in a

consultation phase still, In-

fantino has been deploying

Arsene Wenger to push the

case. The former Arsenal

manager is now chief of glo-

bal football development at

FIFA, advancing views at

odds with those from his pre-

While Arsenal manager,

Wenger complained about

the African Cup of Nations

being held every two years -

especially as it disrupted the

asked them to organize this

cup at least every four years

and during the summer,"

Wenger said in 2005. "But

it's still every two years and

during the winter. I don't

"For years now, we have

vious career.

Changing view

European season.

Priyanshu Chahal 30). All-round show by Bugga

Arnav Bugga's all-round effort (4/19 and 53) helped Lal Bahadur Shastri Club beat Yug Cricket Academy by five wickets in the Push Academy (u-13) league.

In the other matches, Yuzi Chahal Academy, Ravinder Fagna and Push Dahiya Academy emerged victorious

The scores:

Yuq Cricket Academy 184 in 39.1 overs (R.D. Singh 63, Arnav Bugga 4/19) lost to Lal Bahadur Shastri Club 185/5 in 36.5 overs (Arnav Bugga 53, Sartaj Yadav 33).

Yuzi Chahal Academy 362 in 39.1 overs (Aayush Bhardwaj 158 n.o., Tanmay Singh 48, Raunak Ghosh 6/40) bt Push Tulip 72/9 in 24.3 overs (Kishan Bhandari 6/3).

Ravinder Fagna 209/4 in 40 overs (Sameer Khan 98, Harsh Kumar Singh 51 n.o.) bt Mahesh Cricket Academy 126 in 35.4 overs (Chander Chauhan 60, Mohammad Shanib 3/26).

Push Dahiya 246/4 in 40 overs (Rounak Modi 94 n.o., Rivaan Veer Bhavana 55) bt Maple Cricket Coaching 83 in 29.1 overs (Aryan Gogu 33, Akshat Parashar 4/13).

Team still has a lot to prove: Stimac

Feels India and Nepal performed better in second match

FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KATHMANDU

The Indian football team's head coach Igor Stimac feels the side "has a lot to prove and many points to improve on" despite heading back home unbeaten in the two international friendlies against Nepal.

After a 1-1 draw in the first friendly, India notched up 2-1 win in the second game against Nepal on Sunday thanks to second-half strikes by Farukh Choudhary and skipper Sunil Chhetri.

Need to congratulate

"We need to congratulate the players on their attitude and their willingness to go and win the game," Stimac said at the post-match press conference.

"I especially need to appreciate my players because they were much more pa-



Igor Stimac. ■ REUTERS

tient, waiting for the first goal, to open up the Nepali defence, and as you know, when that happens, everything is much easier. "But I think India still has

a lot to prove and many points to improve on," he

Stimac felt that both sides



put up better performances

in the second match. "I think it was a good game of football that all the fans could enjoy. This second game was much better than the previous one.

Rising confidence

"After we scored the first goal, we started rising with confidence and playing as we need to play. I think overall India were the better of the two sides over the two games, and deservedly are going forward with a win,"

Commenting on the hosts' performance Stimac "Nepal played well, they improved a lot. I can see how much it means to the team when it has two months of preparation."

UEFA worried over FIFA's push for biennial World Cups

Ceferin says the European body has serious reservations over the plans

ASSOCIATED PRESS

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin has "grave" concerns" about FIFA's plans to stage World Cups every two years and is astonished by the lack of consultation by Gianni Infantino's governing body, according to correspondence obtained by The Associated Press on Friday.

Responding to a letter from Football Supporters Europe executive director Ronan Evain, Ceferin backed the group's "extremely valid and important" concerns about the potential damage caused to domestic and regional competitions from doubling the frequency of World Cups

New rift

The push by Infantino to transform the international calendar so every year would feature a men's or women's World Cup is opening



up a new rift with UEFA at a time when the financial impact of the pandemic is being felt across global football. "UEFA and its national as-

sociations also have serious reservations and grave concerns surrounding reports of FIFA's plans," Ceferin wrote to Evain in the letter seen by the AP. The plans first surfaced in May when Saudi Arabia's national federation

congress in May for FIFA to tional events.

as one of the closest allies of Infantino, who has made at least two visits this year to see Crown Prince hammed bin Salman.

explore biennial men's and women's World Cups - despite not having a women's team to compete in interna-The Saudis have emerged

nominally proposed at the

know why." In 2012, Wenger had reit-Cup every two years."

erated: "I would rather plan without an African Nations