

**TRUST**  
 of our  
**students**  
 & parents  
 inspires us  
 to keep  
 making a  
**difference**

We thank  
 them for entrusting  
 their faith in us



**Harshvardhan Agarwal**

**All India Rank - 9**  
 in JEE Advanced 2020

Student of Three Year  
 Classroom Program (X - XII)

- All India Rank - 6 in JEE Main 2020
- NTSE Scholar 2017-18 • KVPY Fellow (XI) 2018-19 • KVPY Fellow (XII) 2019-20
- Silver Medallist in IPhO 2018



**Manan Agarwal**

**All India Rank - 14**  
 in JEE Advanced 2019

Student of Two Year  
 Classroom Program (XI - XII)

- NTSE Scholar 2016-17
- KVPY Fellow (XI) 2017-18 • Qualified NSEP & NSEC 2018 and NSEA 2017 & 2018 • Qualified INPhO 2019

**FIITJEE is proud to  
 have contributed to  
 the success of both  
 the brothers**



**Mr. Mahavir Prasad & Mrs. Seema Agarwal**  
 Proud Parents of Harshvardhan & Manan

Both my sons, Manan Agarwal and Harshvardhan Agarwal had sky-high academic dreams. Besides their desire to excel in all competitive and scholastic exams, they aspired to become IITians and for that, they needed support and guidance from expert professionals who would prepare them to reach their ultimate goal. This is when we decided to enrol them at FIITJEE. It was here that my sons received the food for their inquisitiveness, assistance of highly experienced faculty and aid of the original and well-researched study material. Their weak academic areas were strengthened, and they were given apt guidance on how to go ahead with the JEE preparation. The best part is that the faculty here takes the best care of the students and is easily approachable, as even we parents have their contact numbers, which help us to remain updated about our child's progress. Even at the height of the pandemic when offline classes were not possible, FIITJEE did not let Harshvardhan's academics suffer & immediately switched to online mode of learning which helped him immensely to continue his preparation with full zeal & without any loss of focus.

Through various mock tests & practice sessions, the faculty helped them imbibe a deep understanding of each subject clearing all the possible doubts and made them achieve their biggest dream. Yes, they both are successful IITians today. No doubt, their determination coupled with the unceasing support of the FIITJEE faculty has done wonders to their life and career. Big thanks to FIITJEE!

Mahavir Prasad  
 P/o MANAN & HARSHVARDHAN AGARWAL



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 video testimonial,  
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# FIITJEE Trailblazers in JEE Main 2021

## 9 FIITJEE Students secure a perfect 100 NTA Score



<b>Kavya Chopra</b> UDAYA - One Year + Four Year Classroom Program	<b>Pal Aggarwal</b> UDAYA - One Year + Four Year Classroom then switched to PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program	<b>Siddharth Kalra</b> Four Year Classroom Program	<b>Atharva Abhijit Tambat</b> PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program	<b>Vaibhav Vishal</b> One Year Classroom Program <i>(for XII pass students)</i>	<b>Bakshi Gargi M</b> Intensive Contact Program	<b>Bratin Mondal</b> Intensive Contact Program	<b>Amayi Singhal</b> All India Test Series & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program	<b>Ananth K. Kidambi</b> All India Test Series & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program
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## 50 FIITJEE Students secure 99.99 or better NTA Score

Sr. No.	Name	NTA Score	FIITJEE Program	Sr. No.	Name	NTA Score	FIITJEE Program
1	Kavya Chopra	100.000000	UDAYA - One Year + Four Year Classroom Program	26	Shankar B. Sambasivam	99.9961456	SUPREME - Four Year Integrated School Program
2	Pal Aggarwal	100.000000	UDAYA - One Year + Four Year Classroom then switched to PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program	27	Gaurav Bansal	99.9956135	Four Year Classroom Program
3	Siddharth Kalra	100.000000	Four Year Classroom Program	28	Panchajanya Dey	99.9941774	Four Year Classroom Program
4	Atharva Abhijit Tambat	100.000000	PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program	29	Roshana	99.9935879	Two Year Classroom Program
5	Vaibhav Vishal	100.000000	One Year Classroom Program	30	Hrishit B P	99.9935879	Rankers Study Material & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program
6	Gargi Bakshi M	100.000000	Intensive Contact Program	31	Nidhish Garg	99.9935823	Two Year Classroom Program
7	Bratin Mondal	100.000000	Intensive Contact Program	32	Somu Hitesh	99.9934203	Four Year Classroom Program
8	Amayi Singhal	100.000000	All India Test Series & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program	33	Janish Jain	99.9934203	All India Test Series & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program
9	Ananth K. Kidambi	100.000000	All India Test Series & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program	34	Krishna N Agaram	99.9932832	Three Year Classroom switched to PINNACLE-Two Year Integrated School Program
10	Ameya Vikrama Singh	99.9990405	Four Year Classroom Program	35	Barun Parua	99.9932832	Rankers Study Material & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program
11	Suren	99.9990357	Four Year Classroom Program	36	Anway S. Deshpande	99.9932832	Rankers Study Material & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program
12	Aniket Suhas Borkar	99.9990321	All India Test Series & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program	37	Jainesh Manish Mehta	99.9925414	All India Test Series & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program
13	Raghav Brijmohan Ajmera	99.9990296	Intensive Contact Program	38	Rahul Kumar	99.9924994	Three Year Classroom Program
14	Rishit Shrivastava	99.9990296	Rankers Study Material & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program	39	Rishit Singla	99.9924779	Four Year Classroom Program
15	B S Anirudh	99.9987133	Rankers Study Material & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program	40	Premankur	99.9923445	Two Year Classroom Program
16	Shourya Trikha	99.9980642	All India Test Series & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program	41	Akshit Goel	99.9923445	Four Year Classroom Program
17	Naman Agarwal	99.9978690	All India Test Series & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program	42	Sunrit Roy Karmakar	99.9923445	Four Year Classroom Program
18	Parth Patel	99.9974008	All India Test Series & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program	43	Ayush Gupta	99.9922568	Four Year Classroom Program
19	Harsh Himanshu Vora	99.9973895	Rankers Study Material & Concept Strengthening Classroom Program	44	Dhananjay Raman	99.9921799	UDAYA - Two Year Classroom Program + Four Year Classroom Program
20	Chaitanya Aggarwal	99.9971214	Grand Masters Package	45	Kirtan Vijaykumar Patel	99.9913217	PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program
21	Udhav Varma	99.9970675	Four Year Classroom Program	46	Joel Anto Paul	99.9913217	Four Year Classroom switched to PINNACLE-Two Year Integrated School Program
22	Adyasha Patra	99.9970675	Four Year Classroom Program	47	Akshat Sanghvi	99.9910153	Three Year Classroom Program
23	Tejas Anand	99.9970675	Four Year Classroom Program	48	Ayush Teotia	99.9910153	Four Year Classroom Program
24	Sourabh P	99.9967762	Four Year Classroom Program	49	Pratham Sahu	99.9909028	Four Year Classroom Program
25	Kushagra Gupta	99.9967762	Four Year Classroom Program	50	K S Venkatesh	99.9903564	PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program

### 479

FIITJEE Students secured 99.9 or better NTA Score

### 3676

FIITJEE Students secured 99 or better NTA Score

### 22

FIITJEE Students topped their respective States

### 46

FIITJEE Students topped their respective Cities

For details of the result, please visit [www.fiiitjee.com/jeemain2021](http://www.fiiitjee.com/jeemain2021)

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**FIITJEE Talent Reward Exam - 26th December 2021**

For Students Presently in Class V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X & XI

It will be an offline exam, to be conducted in various cities across the country. However depending upon the situation, it may also be conducted in Home Based Proctored Online Test Mode in the respective state(s) / region(s).

# Attention XII Pass Students !

Are you aiming for JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2022 ?

Joint Topper in JEE Main 2021 talks to you

## 100 NTA Score in JEE Main 2021



**Vaibhav Vishal**  
Student of One Year Classroom Program  
**(For XII Pass Students)**

I, Vaibhav Vishal, joined FIITJEE in 2020, last year, for one year classroom programme as a 12<sup>th</sup> pass out. I haven't joined any courses in any other institute. Despite being in a situation hit by pandemic & the classes going online, I found the classes here almost as good & student friendly as offline classes. The teachers were super helpful & explained each & every topic in detail. The syllabus was completed in time & our doubts were answered patiently by teachers. This gave me ample time to practice & revise the concepts. I am thankful to the proper test system of FIITJEE which includes regular quizzes, phase tests, AITS's, AITS's with concept recapitulation tests in between.

*Vaibhav Vishal*

## FIITJEE Talent Reward Exam

(for XII Pass Students)

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Being conducted after JEE Advanced 2021 & classes commence after the JEE Advanced Results

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Dear Students, if you feel that you will not be able to deliver your best and secure your desired Rank in this year's JEE Main or JEE Advanced, then you should not waste any time and start preparing for JEE 2022. Remember, FIITJEE is the only Institute in the Country which has cultivated the expertise to empower & transform XII Pass Students in just one year's time to secure Top Ranks in JEE Main & JEE Advanced.

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**RSS-affiliated farmers' union seeks guaranteed prices for crops**  
 page 8



**Rajasthan HC issues warrants in Pehlu Khan lynching case**  
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**Massarat Alam named successor of Geelani, to head Hurriyat**  
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**Raducanu's run continues as Andreescu bows out; Djokovic progresses**  
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**NEARBY**



**Citizens exhort DU to reinstate English syllabus**

NEW DELHI  
 Over 1,100 writers, civil society members and academicians have written to Delhi University urging it to reinstate texts written by Mahasweta Devi, Bama and Sukirtharini in the English (Honours) syllabus.  
**CITY** PAGE 2

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**OPPORTUNITIES** PAGE 2

## Mullah Akhund to head interim Taliban govt.

Sirajuddin Haqqani to be Interior Minister

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
 REUTERS  
 KABUL

The Taliban announced the top members of their government on Tuesday, in a move that will cement their power over Afghanistan and set the tone of their new rule, nearly a month after they took control of Kabul.

On Tuesday evening, chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told a press conference that the new government would be an interim one, and that Taliban veteran and head of the Shura council Mullah Mohammad



**Future plans:** Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid speaking at a press conference in Kabul on Tuesday. ■ AP

Hassan Akhund would serve as its acting Prime Minister. Mullah Akhund had served as Deputy Foreign Minister under the earlier Taliban regime, and is on a UN blacklist.

The position of Interior

Minister was given to Sirajuddin Haqqani, the leader of the feared Haqqani network, who also doubled up as a Taliban deputy leader.

**CONTINUED ON** PAGE 8  
**MORE REPORTS** PAGE 11

## SC agrees to adjourn hearing of pleas for Pegasus case probe

Govt. likely to file affidavit after consulting officials

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to the Central government's request to adjourn the hearing of petitions for an independent probe into allegations of the government using Israeli-based Pegasus spyware to snoop on citizens.

A three-judge Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, pushed the hearing to September 13 after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said he could not

**Spying saga** | A look at the timeline of events after the Pegasus incident came to light

- In July 2021, several media outlets reported that Pegasus was used to spy on politicians, journalists, and activists in at least 10 countries
- Several petitions were filed in the SC seeking an independent probe
- On August 10, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta asked for more time to go through the petitions
- On August 17, the SC issued a pre-admission notice and said it would consider the further course of action

meet with officials to discuss the issue. He indicated that the government may file an affidavit in the case, and he needed time to meet the officials concerned.

In August, the government filed a two-page affidavit denying "all and any allegations". "Haven't you already filed an affidavit?" the CJ referred to the August affidavit. Mr. Mehta submitted that

the court had left it open for the government to file another, detailed affidavit, if necessary.

The court issued pre-admission in the case on August 17. In fact, on that day, the government argued against a public hearing of the case, citing national security concerns. It asked the court, instead, to allow it to form an independent committee of experts to look into Pegasus snooping reports.

"As a responsible government, we are submitting that we will form a committee of neutral experts," Mr. Mehta had told the court.

**CONTINUED ON** PAGE 8

## COVID-19 vaccine doses cross 70 crore, says Health Ministry

Momentous achievement, says Mandaviya

STAFF REPORTER  
 CHENNAI

The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed the 70 crore mark on Tuesday. The last 10 crore doses were given in just 13 days, the fastest so far, the Union Health Ministry said.

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya took to Twitter to congratulate all the health workers and public on the "momentous achievement".

The seven-day average number of doses administered daily has been consistently improving since August-end. The average daily doses have improved from around 50 lakh in mid-August to 83 lakh at the end of

September first week.

To fully vaccinate all adults by 2021, over 1 crore vaccinations have to be done every day in the remaining days. So far, this mark has been crossed on three days - August 27 (1.07 crore), August 31 (1.35 crore) and September 6 (1.15 crore). On Tuesday, as of 7 p.m., 72,40,929 doses had been administered.

**CONTINUED ON** PAGE 8

## Cairn sees end to tax dispute with India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

The U.K.-based Cairn Energy is working with the Government of India to expedite "documentation and payment of refund" of \$1.06 billion of retrospective taxes at the centre of its high-stake dispute with India that it expects to be resolved in the "near term".

In its half-yearly report released on Tuesday, Cairn said it plans to return \$700 million to the shareholders

through special dividends and buybacks, out of the expected tax refund.

"Progress in resolving our Indian tax issue and active portfolio management leave Cairn well-positioned to deliver growth from a sustainable business, focused on generating further value and returns for shareholders," said Simon Thomson, chief executive of Cairn Energy PLC.

**CONTINUED ON** PAGE 8

## ULFA (I) favours Assam CM as mediator for possible talks

An appointed 'Indian' won't know our history: Paresh Baruah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 GUWAHATI

The outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent) or ULFA (I) favours Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma as the mediator for possible peace talks with the Central government.

ULFA (I) had declared a three-month ceasefire in May. It was extended by another three months.



ULFA (I) chief Paresh Baruah ■

man, said ULFA (I) had always kept its "doors open".

"Former Chief Ministers Hiteswar Saikia, Prafulla Kumar Mahanta and Tarun Gogoi made some efforts but they did not work out. The government later divided us," he said.

This was in reference to August 2012 split in the outfit into the pro-talks group led by ULFA chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa and the anti-talks group that Baruah headed. The latter was later called ULFA (I).

Baruah is said to be based on the Myanmar-China border while most members of his outfit are sheltered in the camps of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang-Yung Aung) in Myanmar's Sagaing Division.

**'Seen Sarma's intent'**

"We won't mind if the government of India appoints him [Sarma] as the mediator. He is capable, knows our history and we have seen his intent for resolving the conflict," the outfit's chief, Paresh Baruah, told a local news channel.

He said any "Indian" [per-

son beyond Assam or the Northeast] appointed as a mediator would not know "our history" and 42 years of struggle for the sovereignty of Assam.

**'Doors open'**

Baruah, who reconstituted the outfit a few days ago to appoint himself as the chair-

### Field work



**Utmost care:** Workers removing weeds from a turmeric field near Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, on Tuesday. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

## Missing in AAP's Punjab campaign: a local leader

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
 CHANDIGARH

As the Aam Aadmi Party prepares to battle it out in the coming Punjab Assembly election, finding a local leader with a State-wide appeal in order to pose a challenge to heavyweights such as Parkash Singh Badal of the Shiromani Akali Dal and Congress leader Amarinder Singh seems to be a big challenge for it.

In June last, AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal declared in Amritsar that a member of the Sikh community would be the party's CM 'face' in Punjab. However, with polls due early next year, the anxiety among the party cadre is growing.

**DETAILS** PAGE 5

## 'What better than Kashmir if you can't go to Europe?'

With curbs on flights abroad, the Valley has seen a spurt in high-end tourists, as has Meghalaya

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
 SRINAGAR

The prolonged COVID-19 pandemic may have spelt doom for the tourism and hospitality sector at large, but Kashmir has bucked the trend. The Valley has emerged as the most sought-after destination in 2021 for premium domestic tourists accustomed to jaunts abroad, resulting in a major bump in business for luxury hotels and golf courses.

A similar trend is emerging in Meghalaya, the second northeastern State after Sikkim to open for tourists, where high-end hotels are doing better than low-end and budget properties.

Tourist footfall in Kashmir Valley destinations, such as

Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg, during July-August numbered around one lakh, according to official figures from the J&K Tourism Department. Around 76,880 tourists visited in the winter season, between January and March 2021.

"Following the second wave of the pandemic, the tourism sector has been able to make a recovery in Kashmir. Tourists were not able to go abroad, especially Europe, so what better destination than Kashmir! We received around 1 lakh tourists in July-August and are hopeful of footfall going up in the coming months," said Sarwad Hafeez, Tourism Secretary, J&K. The government's



**Kashmir diaries:** Tourists posing for a photograph on a shikara at Dal Lake on the outskirts of Srinagar. ■ AP

decision to increase direct flights from cities such as Hyderabad and Mumbai, and setting up night landing infrastructure at the Srinagar airport has further spurred the numbers.

"Most high-end hotels have above 70% occupancy, unlike budget hotels where occupancy is on the lower side. We fear there could be a drastic fall in travellers once overseas flights restart," said Farooq Khutoo, president of the

Travel Agents Association of Kashmir.

**Echoes in Shillong**

In Meghalaya, the Federation of Shillong Hotels says the occupancy rate of lower-end hotels in the Meghalaya capital and elsewhere in the State has been less than 5%, while that of higher-end hotels is 20%-25%.

"Lower-end and budget tourists have perhaps not recovered from the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns or restrictions, while the higher-end tourists have been raring to break free of home confinement," said Parambir Singh Sehdev, president of the Federation. (With inputs from Rahul Karmakar in Guwahati)

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**BJP MP booked for cheating developer of over ₹65 crore**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI**  
The Delhi Police filed a case against BJP leader Kanwar Singh Tanwar for allegedly cheating a real state developer of over ₹65 crore, officials said on Tuesday.

The Economic Offence Wing had registered the FIR against Mr. Tanwar on August 23 on the directions of a court, they said.

He has been booked under IPC sections 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating), police said. According to the FIR, Brahma City Private Ltd was in the process of acquiring land in Gurugram in Haryana to develop an integrated township. To acquire the land the company had appointed Ranjan Gupta to act as a facilitator, it said.

In 2008-2009, Mr. Gupta introduced Tanwar to the company and the accused elaborated his credentials and claimed that he and his companies and associates have a large chunk of land in the area, according to the FIR. He represented that he could also arrange and negotiate with farmers for collaboration and development of the lands, it said.

Mr. Tanwar offered to aggregate and transfer all rights of a total of 105 acres of land at ₹3.30 crore per acre in favour of the company, the FIR stated. According to an agreement, Brahma City Private Ltd paid ₹84,35,00,000 to the accused and his associate persons or companies for transfer of all rights of 63 acres of land, it said.

The accused failed to perform his part according to the agreement.

**Eminent citizens exhort DU to reinstate English syllabus texts**

Over 1,100 academics say works that have been taken out are 'seminally important'

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

Over 1,100 writers, civil society members and academicians have written to the Delhi University urging it to reinstate texts written by Mahasweta Devi, Bama and Sukirtharini in the English (Honours) syllabus.

The texts were dropped from the syllabus by statutory bodies of DU following recommendations by an Oversight Committee.

Along with academicians and students from various universities across the country, the petition was endorsed by several writers, including Arundhati Roy, Vikram Chandra, filmmaker Anand Patwardhan, historians Romila Thapar and Ramachandra Guha and actors Shabana Azmi, Sharmila Tagore and Nandita Das.

*Drapadi* by Ms. Devi,



Texts were dropped by statutory bodies of DU following recommendations by an oversight committee. ■ FILE PHOTO

*Sangati* by Bama and two poems by Sukirtharini were among the texts, which have been deleted from the English honours syllabus.

**Dalit oppression**

"The deleted texts are seminally important as they help realise the systemic oppression of the Dalit and Adivasi communities that was prevalent, especially in gendered

terms, and provide a better appreciation of our contemporary ethos and polity. Is this not something that the young men and women of independent India need to know and engage with? How else will a better and equal world be shaped? Or are we to relegate the protesting woman and the Adivasi to the peripheries of the syllabus of Delhi University 2021?

What are we afraid of?" the petition read.

Urging the university to revisit its decision, the petition further added, "Decades after 1947, Indian literature in translation and in English were allowed entry into the colonised precinct of English syllabus of Delhi University. Is the process to be halted in terms of caste, class and gender contours of authors and the worlds that they bring alive?"

Earlier, English professors from several colleges across DU had objected to the statement issued by the varsity on the revised syllabus.

In the statement issued, professors said that the English honours syllabus had been passed through a democratic process "until the entire process was flagrantly violated and bypassed by the Oversight Committee."

**Court directs police chief to ensure quick, 'proper' probe into riots cases**

'Many languishing in jail due to lackadaisical attitude of police'

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

A Delhi court has expressed displeasure at the Delhi police for failing to conclude the investigation in the north-east Delhi riots cases despite more than one and a half years having elapsed.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Arun Kumar Garg remarked that "lackadaisical attitude" of the investigating agency in probing the riots cases was leading to accused "languishing in jail for over a period of almost one year" with no real progress in the actual trial.

The court made the observation while hearing a case against one Dinesh Yadav, arrested for rioting, in which the police failed to submit the supplementary chargesheet till now.

The judge noted that the accused is languishing in jail for about one year and the "court was unable to



Gutted buildings and vehicles after the riots in north-east Delhi last year. ■ FILE PHOTO

proceed with the case on merits along with other riots cases due to lackadaisical attitude of the investigating agency, including the supervising officers upto the rank of the DCP and above".

The court asked the Commissioner of Police, Delhi to take "appropriate action as per law so as to ensure proper and expeditious investigation/ further investigation in the present case as well as the other

riots cases". The court gave "last and final opportunity" to the police to file supplementary charge sheet within a period of three weeks, failing which, it will proceed further with the matter without giving any further opportunity to the police.

On September 1, the court had directed the Commissioner of Police, Delhi to ensure the conclusion of investigation or further investigation in riots cases in a time bound manner not later than one month.

The judge had said that this was necessary for the Court to proceed with the trial in the riots cases expeditiously "which is being lingered on due to inaction on the part of investigation agency since long".

In the north-east Delhi riots, about 750 cases were registered.

**I owe my victory to my cousin, says Paralympics bronze medallist**

Dilip never told our families about me skipping school to train, says javelin thrower Sundar Singh Gurjar



**Brother's bond:** Sundar Singh Gurjar, right, with Dilip Gurjar. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI**  
Dilip Gurjar, 32, is a proud brother after javelin thrower Sundar Singh Gurjar won a bronze in the recently concluded Tokyo Paralympics. The two grew up together and Mr. Sundar owes it to his cousin, he says.

Mr. Dilip is posted at Connaught Place police station as constable and has been serving the Delhi police since 2010.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the bronze medallist said that the best thing his cousin, Dilip, did for him is to not rat him out in front of his family when he skipped school to train.

"Dilip has played a very important role in my success. Starting from Class VIII, we both used to go to school together, but I used to skip it and attend training. Around 4 p.m., the two of us would go back home together. But he never

told our families about it and I continued to train," said Mr. Sundar.

The constable – who had met senior officers from the district on Monday when his brother was honoured for his accomplishment – felt extremely proud of his cousin.

**Proud moment**

"I had specially taken a day off on August 30 when he was to perform in Tokyo. A big event was organised in

our village in Rajasthan. It's a feeling I can't express," he said.

Mr. Dilip said that even if he wanted to, he couldn't have pursued a career in sports because his family conditions didn't allow. He lost his father when he was five years old. Alongside his higher secondary education, he continued to help his mother and two elder brothers in farming till the age of 18. He then got a private job and studied to

join Delhi Police. "One needs a lot of money to be able to pursue a career in sports. I didn't have the privilege. But I am happy that my cousin did it," he said.

Mr. Dilip's acquaintances only got to know that he is Mr. Sundar's cousin when the former sought permission to receive him at the airport on Sunday. Mr. Sundar lost his left hand in 2015 and bounced back as a para athlete the next year.

**2 constables arrested in extortion case**

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

Two Delhi Police constables have been arrested for allegedly extorting money from businessmen, the police said on Tuesday. The arrests were made after complaints surfaced about three persons involved in kidnapping and extorting money from businessmen.

The accused used to impersonate other policemen and threaten the victims.

A manhunt is on for the third accused.

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<b>Testing Engineers</b> Test Engineer/Senior Test Engineer/Test Lead 2 and above yrs. exp. Position: 18	Automation and manual testing - Robot Python Framework, BDD/ATDD, Cucumber, Java/Python, JSON
<b>Cyber Security Engineer</b> 5 and above yrs. exp. Position: 02	Security-related professional certification, Cloud Certified Professional, Python, Java, NodeJS, compliance frameworks
<b>Cloud Solution Architect</b> 10 and above yrs. exp. Position: 02	Cloud solution architect experience, Java, Python, C#, etc, experience with Docker, Kubernetes, Database knowledge (SQL, NoSQL)
<b>Senior DevSecOps Engineer</b> 7 and above yrs. exp. Position: 02	AWS Certified - DevOps / Solutions Architect, Configuration and Deployment tool - Ansible, Terraform, RHEL Certified, CI Tools - Jenkins, Azure DevOps, Linux Server Administration

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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

**FRIDAY, SEP. 10**  
RISE 06:04 SET 18:32  
RISE 09:13 SET 20:53

**Delhi Weather** max min

Delhi City 34 28  
Safdarjang 34 28  
Palam 34 28

**Delhi Palam Today**  
34°C Light rain and thunderstorm will occur with cloudy sky at some places. Day would remain warm and humid.

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

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**IN BRIEF**



**Capital records 50 new infections, one death**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Capital recorded 50 new COVID-19 cases and one death according to a government health bulletin released on Tuesday. It said that 69,932 tests were conducted with a positivity rate 0.07%. There are 368 active cases in the city with 95 under home isolation. The number of beneficiaries vaccinated in the past 24 hours was 1,62,767, of which 1,06,558 took their first dose. A total of 1,42,51,101 people have been vaccinated since the drive began.

**Permanent media cell set up at CEO office**

**NEW DELHI**  
Chief Electoral Officer Ranbir Singh on Tuesday announced that a permanent media cell has been set up at the CEO office here, to disseminate information to the media regularly. The cell has been set up as per the directions of the Election Commission of India and Group 'A' officer Kaanchan Azad, who is deputy director from DIP, has been appointed as an Officer on Special Duty (Media) in the CEO office. "One of the major pillars of our democracy, media plays a key role in the electoral process," the CEO said.

**DTC inks deal for charging stations**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) for the installation of charging stations and battery swapping stations at finalised DTC locations.

The CESL is a subsidiary of State-owned Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of public sector companies under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.

As per the directions of the signed MoU, EESL through its subsidiary organisation CESL has agreed to procure, install, operate and maintain charging units and related infrastructure at the location of the DTC area at its costs and expenses, the government stated.

The charges for usage of location will be paid by CESL to DTC every month at the rate of ₹1 per kWh of energy dispensed.

Initially, the contract period is of 10 years.

# Rules tweaked, COVID-19 relief process to be easier

Health Dept. verification no longer mandatory, say officials

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

The Delhi government has tweaked the process to get compensation if a person's family member has died due to COVID-19. The decision will "speed up" the process, said officials.

Earlier, even after submitting the mandatory documents, one of these two conditions had to be fulfilled — the death must be certified as COVID-19 death as per a list by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA); else, the death must have happened within one month of testing COVID-19 positive. Plus, it had to be verified as COVID-19 death by the government Health Department, as per a notification of the scheme.

**Applications pending**

Now, the verification by the Health Department is not mandatory, as per an official order. *The Hindu* had reported on Sunday that applications were being sent to the Health Department, if names were not on the MHA list and it was a "bottleneck".

More than 2,200 applications were pending as the names were not on the MHA list till Monday.



Medical workers attend to COVID-19 patients at Jaipur Golden Hospital in Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"Further, to ameliorate distress faced by other families during this period, any other case where the deceased has tested COVID positive and expired, within one month of the report shall also get the benefits," an official order issued on Monday evening read.

The order said the decision was taken in view of the discussions meeting held by the Social Welfare Minister on August 26. "This decision is expected to speed up the process of approvals as now officials do not have to send files to the Health Department if the name is not in the MHA list. This will make it easier," a Delhi government official said.

On June 22, 'Mukhyaman-

tri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojna', was notified to "provide immediate financial relief" to families who have lost their dear ones to COVID-19.

Under the same scheme, a one-time ₹50,000 is given to a family if they have lost someone to COVID-19 and a monthly assistance of ₹2,500 each to specific categories of people, who have lost their family members the virus.

The beneficiaries of the scheme include children who have lost one or both parents due to COVID-19.

There are 6,200 children who are left with a single parent and 292 left orphaned as on August 16 due to COVID-19, as per a Delhi government report.

# Naidu pushes for awareness campaigns on eye donation

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday called for dispelling myths and false beliefs on eye donation and suggested launching of massive multimedia campaigns in local languages in every State by involving celebrities and icons to create awareness among the people.

Speaking at the 36th National Eye Donation Fort-night celebrations, he referred to the huge gap between demand of donor cornea tissues and supply. "The need of the hour is to increase awareness among people about the importance of eye donation," he added.

Meanwhile, the R.P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences at AIIMS has initiated a study to ascertain the presence of COVID-19 in parts of the eye of those who have died due to the infection, the centre's chief J.S. Titiyal said.

He said the study will help ascertain the presence of the virus in the cornea, optic nerve and retina of COVID-19 infected deceased. Doctors noted that there is no proven evidence so far which establishes any direct link between COVID-19 leading to blindness.

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# Delhi govt. launches course to encourage entrepreneurship

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday launched the Business Blasters programme of the Delhi government that gives ₹2,000 as seed money to students of Classes XI and XII of Delhi government schools to develop an entrepreneurial mindset.

Mr. Sisodia said that the programme would revolutionise education in the country. "Business Blasters will form the foundation of a developed India. If we start Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum [EMC] and Business Blasters programme in all the schools across the country, then the day is not far when we will change the history in our textbooks that India is not a developing country but a developed country," Mr. Sisodia said.

He said that the EMC will make India a country of educated and capable youth. The biggest drawback with the education system, he said, is that we are imparting knowledge to our children but we have not inculcated an entrepreneurial mindset. "We are teaching them to work hard, but have failed to instil in them the courage to become an entrepreneur," Mr. Sisodia said.

# Delhi to urge States to join its pollution fight

Delegation to meet Union Minister: Rai

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The Delhi government on Tuesday said that it was preparing a winter action plan to reduce pollution, which include dealing with the issue of stubble burning.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said that a delegation from the Delhi government will be meeting with Union Environment Minister and Commission for Air Quality Management to discuss stubble burning in neighbouring States and present measures to combat it.

Mr. Rai urged the neighbouring States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to reduce vehicular and dust pollution and said that if the governments cooperate and adopt ample anti-pollution measures, then not just Delhi, but the entire North India can get freedom from pollution.

"It is very difficult to re-

duce pollution in the whole of North India just by making efforts in Delhi. We will set out on the tough roads too, but the whole fight will be a lot easier if all the States cooperate," Mr. Rai said.

The Minister said that last year with the help of the Pusa Institute, trials were conducted to figure out whether crop stubble could be decomposed using bio-decomposer solutions and the Delhi government found the bio-decomposer to be highly effective when it was sprayed on stubble.

"We are now at a juncture where all the governments of the States surrounding Delhi need to take cognisance of the bio-decomposing solution. Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and U.P. governments need to step up and adopt this measure so that we can get relief from stubble burning," he said.

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Helpline (Time: 10 AM - 5 PM, Monday-Friday) Mr. Deepak Kumar Thakur: 7070630510  
Email: [admissionhelpdesk@cuja.ac.in](mailto:admissionhelpdesk@cuja.ac.in), Website: [www.cuja.ac.in](http://www.cuja.ac.in)  
Ref. No.: Ad. Cell/2021/07 Sd/- Registrar

**TAMIL UNIVERSITY THANJAVUR**  
**APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR -TAMIL UNIVERSITY, THANJAVUR SEARCH COMMITTEE NOTIFICATION**

The Government of Tamil Nadu vide G.O.Rt. No. 174, Tamil Development and Information Department, dated 27.07.2021, has constituted a Search Committee, consisting of the following persons, to recommend a panel of three persons, to the Chancellor, for appointment of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur.

1	Justice Tmt. Prabha, Sridevan	Chancellor Nominee
2	Dr. M. Rajendran	Government Nominee
3	Dr. V. Jayadevan	Senate Nominee
4	Dr. M. Selvam	Syndicate Nominee
5	Dr. T. Padmanaban	Syndicate Nominee

The Search Committee invites applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University from distinguished academicians with highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment and possessing the necessary educational qualifications and work experience, as notified by the Government of Tamil Nadu in its G.O. Ms.No.51, Tamil Development and Information Department, dated 12.03.2018.

The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a period of three years, or till the attainment of 70 years of age, whichever is earlier.

Interested candidates, possessing the requisite qualifications and experience, may apply in the prescribed application form, which can be downloaded from [www.tamiluniversity.ac.in](http://www.tamiluniversity.ac.in). The application duly filled shall be sent by e-mail / registered post duly super scribing the Envelope "Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University", so as to reach the following address, on or before 05.00 p.m. on 07.10.2021. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

**DR. J. SREEVIDYA,**  
(Associate Professor, Anatomy, Madras Medical College)  
Nodal Officer Search Committee for Selection of Vice-Chancellor,  
Tamil University, Old Jail Complex, Park Town, Chennai 600 003  
E mail: [tamilvsearch21@gmail.com](mailto:tamilvsearch21@gmail.com)

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e-TENDER NOTICE NO. CR-NGP-M-02 DTD 01.09.2021  
The revised Closing (Opening Date) shall be read as:

Existing	To be read as
CR-NGP-M-02 DTD 01.09.2021 23.09.2021 at 12:30 Hrs.	CR-NGP-M-02 DTD 06.09.2021 27.09.2021 at 12:30 Hrs.

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E-Auction Sale Programme scheduled to be held in the month of SEPTEMBER-2021 at MX Depot scheduled on 11.09.2021 and 25.09.2021 has been rescheduled on 16.09.2021 and 28.09.2021. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. Please visit Western Railway website of Material Management Department i.e. [www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in) as well as on [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) e-auction portal for further information.  
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**SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON**

General public is here by informed that this Person **Namely:** Naushad Ahmad, S/o Late Irshad, R/o H. No. R-275, Ramesh Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, Age: 42 Years, Height: 5 feet 8 inch, **Complexion:** Shallow Face: Oval, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Black Colour Shirt and blue Colour Jeans Pant, has been missing since 01.09.2021 from H. No. 1929, 5th Floor, Mohalla Kabristhan, Turkman Gate, Delhi, in the area of P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 03A, Dated 02.09.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.  
**SHO**  
E-Mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi  
Website: <http://cbl.nic.in> Ph. 011-23271751, 23279338  
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-24368638, 24368641  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/976/CD/2021

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely:** Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 30-35 Years, Height: 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Red Colour Cheakdar Shirt and blue colour Kapari and Brown Colour Under Wear, who was found dead K.M. Pole No.11/19, 11/21 UP Main Line, Near Haiderpur Village fly over Railway Line. In this regard a case DD No. 21A, dated 3.09.2021 has been registered at P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.  
**Sd/- SHO**  
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DP/244/RLY/2021 Tel. No.: 011-23692455

**ENTERPRISE CONNECT**

**Punjab National Bank launches festive offer, waives loan processing charges**  
With the festive season around the corner, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched Festival Bonanza Offer to enhance the availability and affordability of credit to customers. Under the festive offer, the Bank will waive all service charges/ processing fees and documentation charges on its retail products like Home Loans, Vehicle Loans, myProperty Loans, Personal Loans, Pension Loans and Gold Loans. PNB now offers an attractive interest rate starting from 6.80% on home loans and 7.15% on car loans. The Bank is also offering personal loans to the public from 8.95%, which is one of the lowest in the industry. Bank has also announced offering home loan top-up at an attractive rate of interest. Customers can avail of the exciting offer - available till December 31, 2021 - through any of the PNB's branches around the country or via digital channels. Despite the impact of the pandemic, PNB is committed to its customers by offering them customized products, incentives and ease of banking services. The Bank is confident that this festive season will see an encouraging revival in overall consumer spending, thereby boosting its credit portfolio.  
**IREDA Inks MoU with TANGEDCO for Green Energy projects**  
Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO), for providing its technical expertise in developing Renewable Energy projects and fund raising. The MoU was signed by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA and Shri Rajesh Lakshoni, CMD, TANGEDCO. Under the MoU, IREDA will extend its technical expertise to TANGEDCO for Renewable energy project development, bid process management, and implementation support. IREDA will also assist TANGEDCO in debt raising through developing financial models, assistance in the understanding market instrument, underwriting services for the proposed debt requirement, and conducting pre-market surveys, road shows to generate interest amongst prospective investors. Signing the MoU, CMD, IREDA said: "The MoU highlights IREDA's continuous efforts for the development of Renewable Energy sector in line with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. This is a transformational opportunity for IREDA and TANGEDCO to achieve perfect synergy between the two organizations. It will facilitate knowledge sharing and provide consultancy services, which will contribute to driving sustainable development of the country. We look forward to extending our consultancy services to other State Govt. as well for the development of Renewable Energy sector." It is understood that there are huge opportunities for the development of renewable energy in Tamil Nadu. Accordingly, TANGEDCO is planning for 20,000 MW of Solar Power Project, with adequate Battery Storage, 3,000 MW of Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project, and 2,000 MW of Gas Based Power Plant for efficient Renewable integration. The estimated loan required for the above projects is about Rs.1,32,500 Crores (approx.). IREDA, as the largest lender of the Renewable Energy sector is committed to play an important role in the fulfillment of the financial requirements for RE projects.  
**Pankaj Kumar takes over charge of Director (Offshore) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).**  
As Director (Offshore), Mr. Kumar will be responsible for the entire gamut of Offshore Oil & Gas fields contributing around 70 per cent of Crude Oil and 78 per cent of Natural Gas production of the Maharashtra ONGC. Mr. Kumar is a thorough Oil & Gas industry professional with more than 34 years of experience across ONGC's business functions, varying from Operations Management of Offshore and Onshore fields, Well Engineering, Joint Venture Management, Corporate Strategic Management and Asset Management. He has held key positions as Chief of Corporate Strategy & Planning group of ONGC and Asset Manager

**Hike capacity of natural STP: Jain**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI  
Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Satyendra Jain on Tuesday visited the natural Sewage Treatment Plant at Ghoga drain and directed officials to increase its water treatment capacity from 10 lakh litres per day to 50 lakh litres per day. The recycled water will be used for groundwater recharge by creating a lake, he said.

**CITY UNION BANK LIMITED**  
Credit Recovery and Management Department  
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail : [crmd@cityunionbank.in](mailto:crmd@cityunionbank.in), Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

**PUBLICATION - DEMAND NOTICE**  
Notice under Section 13(2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 - Sent on 16-07-2021 by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due and the same was returned by Mr. Rajesh Arora, Mr. Suman Arora. Hence this.  
No.1) M/s. New Tech Imports Pvt. Ltd. at No.1/778, Nicholson Road, Kashmir Gate, New Delhi - 110006. No.2) Mr. Rajesh Arora, at K-19, Model Tower II, New Delhi - 110005. No.3) Mr. Suman Arora, S/o. Rajesh Arora, at K-19, Model Tower II, New Delhi - 110005.  
Dear Sir/Madam,  
Sub: Loan account / Overdraft with City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Karol Branch in the name of New Tech Imports Pvt. Ltd.  
The Bank issued Notice under the SARFAESI Act on 16-07-2021 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of Rs.22,42,39,299/- (Rupees Twenty Two Crore Forty Two Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Nine Only) as on 06-07-2021 with further interest for 512020010006501 (ADHOC) at 13.00% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded), 512020010006501 (OLCC) at 11.00% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded), with monthly rests from 07-07-2021 till the date of repayment. The Notice sent to you by Registered Post has been received by No.1 of you and returned by Nos.2 & 3.  
Therefore, we hereby once again call upon you to pay Rs.22,42,39,299/- (Rupees Twenty Two Crore Forty Two Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Nine Only) with further interest for 512020010006501 (ADHOC) at 13.00% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded), 512020010006501 (OLCC) at 11.00% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded), with monthly rests from 07-07-2021 till the date of repayment within 60 days from the date of this Notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This Notice is published/disseminated without prejudice to any other right/remedy available to the Bank.

**Note: 1) That our 102-New Delhi-Karol Bagh Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OS) SPECIAL-BR-501812080052554) dated 14-06-2019 requested by No.1 of you represented by Nos. 2 & 3 of you as Directors for which Nos. 2 & 3 of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of Rs. 1,00,00,000/- at a ROI of 11.50%. The same has been classified as NPA on 09-05-2021 and the outstanding balance as on 06-07-2021 is Rs. 1,06,89,891/- plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rests to be charged from 07-07-2021 till the date of realization.**  
**Note: 2) That our 102-New Delhi-Karol Bagh Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (FTL - ADHOC-501912090017848) dated 08-09-2020 requested by No.1 of you represented by Nos. 2 & 3 of you as Directors for which Nos. 2 & 3 of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of Rs. 1,35,32,000/- at a ROI of 11.50%. The same has been classified as NPA on 09-05-2021 and the outstanding balance as on 06-07-2021 is Rs. 1,44,47,792/- plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rests to be charged from 07-07-2021 till the date of realization.**

**Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank**  
**Schedule - A : (Property Owned by M/s. New Tech Imports Pvt. Ltd.)**  
Free hold built-up property bearing No. 1/778, situated at Nicholson Road, Kashmir Gate, Delhi, measuring 55.45 Square Yards and bounded as under: North: Road, South: Remaining Portion of Said Property, East: Gali, West: Remaining Portion.  
**Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. Rajesh Arora)**  
Eastern and Western Portion built-up Property Bearing No. 1/778, area measuring 142.86 Square Yards from bottom to top with its Roof Right upto Sky situated at Nicholson Road, Kashmir Gate, Delhi - 110006 and bounded as under: North: Road, South: Property No. 1/775, East: Property No. 1/777, West: Remaining Portion of Property No. 1/778.  
**Schedule - C : (Property Owned by Mr. Rajesh Arora)**  
Portion of built-up Property Bearing No. 1/778, area measuring 106.67 Square Yards from Bottom to top with its Roof Terrace Rights upto Sky situated at Nicholson Road, Kashmir Gate, Delhi - 110006 and bounded as under: North: Remaining Portion of the said Property, South: Property No. 1/775, East: Property No. 1/777, West: Remaining Portion of the said Property.  
**Schedule - D : (Property Owned by Mr. Rajesh Arora & Mr. Suman Arora, S/o. Rajesh Arora)**  
Entire Fourth Floor, with roof rights and 1/4th undivided share of still parking (being at Ground Floor), on Property Bearing No.11, and area measuring 300 Sq Metres, Model Town Residential Scheme (presently known as North - Ex Model Town), Delhi - 110009, measuring 2009.22 Sq Ft. Property in the name of: 1) Mr. Rajesh Arora. (For half undivided share in the Fourth Floor of the said property). 2) Mrs. Suman Arora. (For half undivided share in the Fourth Floor of the said property) Bounded by: North: Main 60 Ft. Wide Road, South: Plot No. 10, Model Town, East: Plot No. 32, Model Town, West: Plot No. 12, Model Town. Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 16-07-2021 Authorised Officer  
Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001. C. No. LE51/1001/287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : [www.cityunionbank.com](http://www.cityunionbank.com)

**Afghan refugees have vacated stir site, police tell HC**

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
The Delhi police informed the Delhi High Court on Tuesday that the Afghan nationals, protesting outside the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees office here seeking refugee status, have vacated the spot. "The protest by Afghan refugees has been withdrawn from UNHCR office," the police said in a status report filed before the court, which was hearing a petition filed by Vasant Vihar Welfare Association seeking the removal of protesters in the proximity of residential areas. The counsel, appearing for the association, said "Yesterday [Monday] evening I received a status report. There are no protests and nothing remains." In view of the change in circumstances, Justice Rekha Palli closed the proceedings initiated by the association with liberty to approach the court again if need arises. Additional standing counsel Satyakam, appearing for Delhi Police, stated that "a small nudge goes a long way" and "nothing remained" in the petition in the absence of any protest at the site. The court had last week directed the Delhi government and the police to reduce the number of Afghan nationals protesting at the spot and to ensure they follow COVID-19 protocol. The court had said the law was same for everybody and questioned the authorities as to how there can be 500 persons protesting when the guidelines do not permit it.

**Office of The Superintending Engineer**  
9th Circle Public Work Department Dehradun  
Office of the Superintending Engineer, 9th Circle PWD, Dehradun Uttarakhand  
Website- <http://pwd.uk.gov.in> E-mail: [sepdwd@rediffmail.com](mailto:sepdwd@rediffmail.com)  
Letter No. 7194/1C-9/21 Dated: 07/09/2021

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**  
Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer 9th Circle, Public Works Department, Dehradun on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites item rate tender in two bid system for the following work. Information regarding tender shall be available on <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> from date 13.09.2021

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Validity of Tender (In days)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (In Month)	Contractor Category of Registration
1	Construction of internal roads, drains & Walls of Ward No.-1 Matsi, Ward No.-4 Rajpur, Ward No.-7 Jakhn and Ward No.-09 Arya Nagar in Mussoorie Constituency, Distt. Dehradun under State Sector.	5.87	120	5000.00 + 18 % G.S.T.	12	Registered in 'A' & above category in Road works in Central Govt. / State Govt. / any Govt. Undertaking
2	Construction of internal roads & drains of Ward No.-5 Dhorankhas, Ward No.-12 Kishan Nagar and Mithi Behni in Mussoorie Constituency, Distt. Dehradun under State Sector.	5.81	120	5000.00 + 18 % G.S.T.	12	

**Note:- Submission of following documents in original is essential in office of undersigned upto/before the last date and schedule time of uploading tender by the bidders.**  
1- Cost of tender document Rs. 5000.00+ 18.00% G.S.T. as applicable in the form of demand draft in the name of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division Public Work Department, Dehradun, Bank Draft for Rs 5000.00 & GST Rs 900.00 to be submitted separately.  
2- Rs 100.00 Non Judicial stamp affixed with duly signed Rs. 1.00 Revenue stamp for the validity of the Tender including certificate for validity up to 120 days.  
3- Earnest Money to be pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division Public Work Department, Dehradun.  
4- Attach Copy of Uttarakhand PWD Registration (According to Uttarakhand Finance Deptt. G.O. No. 47/XVII(7)/32/2017 Dt. 02 April 2018)

Superintending Engineer  
9th Circle, PWD,

**SI thrashed, robbed in Vasant Vihar**

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
A police Sub-Inspector was robbed of his wallet after being threatened and beaten up by three bike-borne men in south-west Delhi's Vasant Vihar on Saturday night, the police said. SI Kunal, who is posted at Bindapur police station in Dwarka, was on his way home to Munirka when the incident took place. Luckily, the SI did not sustain major injuries as he was wearing a helmet. A case has been registered.

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DEEPAKSHI KHURANA IPS 2018 MARKS 303  
7840888102, 7678628820

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE COURT OF THE HONOURABLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT MUNSIF, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI  
O.S.No:69/2020  
Mrs. Vasantha, W/o. Subramanian No.29/37, Annanagar, Simco Meter Opp. Tiruchirappalli Dt .....Plaintiff  
Vs  
Government of India Represented by Executive Secretary Army Section, New Delhi  
....6th Defendant  
Your goodself is the 6th defendant in O.S.No: 69/2020 on the file of the Honourable Principal District Munsif (PDM), Tiruchirappalli, Tamilnadu. The above case is posted on 23-9-2021 for your appearance. You are hereby directed to appear either in person or through your advocate in the above case on 23-09-2021 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the Honourable court may pass ex parte order against your goodself.  
Advocate for Plaintiff P. CHRISTU RAJ, B.Sc.,BL Advocate

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE COURT OF THE HONOURABLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT MUNSIF, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI  
O.S.No:145/2020  
M. Bose, S/o. Muthan No.5/4A, Annanagar, Simco Meter Opp. Tiruchirappalli Dt .....Plaintiff  
Vs  
Government of India Represented by Executive Secretary Army Section, New Delhi  
....6th Defendant  
Your goodself is the 6th defendant in O.S.No: 145/2020 on the file of the Honourable Principal District Munsif (PDM), Tiruchirappalli, Tamilnadu. The above case is posted on 23-9-2021 for your appearance. You are hereby directed to appear either in person or through your advocate in the above case on 23-09-2021 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the Honourable court may pass ex parte order against your goodself.  
Advocate for Plaintiff P. CHRISTU RAJ, B.Sc.,BL Advocate

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**BEFORE THE HONOURABLE SUB COURT OF ERNAKULAM**  
I.A.No. 2 of 2020  
in O.S. No. 431 of 2020  
Plaintiff: Rajesh Michael Personal Manager  
Defendant: Fedders Lloyd Corporation Limited  
PETITIONER/GARNISHEE:- Justin Ronald A.J @ A.J Justin, Proprietor Cochlin Logistics XLI/ 2414 A, Kalabhavan Road, Ernakulam North, Cochin 682018  
RESPONDENTS/ DEFENDANTS 2 & 3:- 1. Personnel Manager, Personnel Department, Fedders Lloyd Corporation Limited, (now known as Lloyd Electrical Engineering Ltd), Plot No.2, Industrial Area, Kalkaji, New Delhi- 110 019 2. Branch Head, Fedders Lloyd Corporation Limited, (now known as Lloyd Electrical Engineering Ltd), A unit of Havells India Ltd, 10/672 B, Malika Pedika, Alagad P.O., Paravur, Ernakulam 683 511  
Notice is hereby given to you both, the Respondents in the above I.A.No.2/2020 filed by the petitioner/garnishee to release the petitioner from the garnishee and cancel the bond in I.A.No.4052/2010 of the Hon'ble Sub Court, Ernakulam and for consequent direction is posted on 4/10/2021 for the service of notice by publication and affidavit. Hence if you are interested in defending the above application, you should appear before the above Court on 4/10/2021 at 11 AM either personally or through advocate, otherwise the matter will be decided on merits without hearing you. Dated This the 2nd day of September, 2021  
Sd/- ADV. JOMY GEORGE Counsel for the Garnishee

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IN BRIEF



**Sunday lockdown, night curfew end in Kerala**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
A COVID-19 review meeting chaired by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday decided to withdraw the Sunday lockdown and night curfew in the State. Meanwhile, Karnataka has urged the public to defer their plans to visit Kerala till October-end, in the light of the COVID-19 situation in the neighbouring State.

**Two Bengal natives killed after being hit by train**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
Two migrant workers were found dead allegedly after being hit by a train near Thumba in Kerala on Tuesday. The police identified the deceased as James Oran, 39, and Ganesh Oran, 26. Both hailed from West Bengal.

# Senior citizen dies navigating a pothole

Incident comes when Bengaluru residents are protesting against the state of the city's roads

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

Days after citizens held protests on the pathetic condition of the roads in Bengaluru, a physically challenged senior citizen was reportedly killed while he was reportedly trying to navigate a pothole on Mangammanapalya Main Road, near Vishveshwarya Layout, on Monday night. The deceased, 75-year-old Khurshid Ahmed Khan, lived alone in Bismillah Nagar, and sold hats and artificial jewellery sets by the street side. He was returning home after work on his scooter rigged up with two additional wheels for support. According to the police, he lost his balance and fell down while trying to navigate a pothole that was filled with rain water. He sustained severe head injuries and died on the spot.

After complaints from motorists and pedestrians on the health hazards posed by pothole-ridden roads, the administration decided to set up task forces at the zonal level and even set a month-end deadline to fill all the potholes. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who also holds charge of Bengaluru Development, said the issue had come up during the review meeting he chaired last week, and the Civic Commissioner had been instructed to take up the work of filling potholes and redoing bad stretches on a war footing after the monsoon receded.

**Blame game**  
There was confusion among the city's agencies over whose jurisdiction the Mangammanapalya Main Road falls. Chief Civic Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was not maintaining the road. According to sources, there was also confusion within the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). It was only later in the day that



**Death trap:** The Mangammanapalya Main Road that Khurshid Ahmed Khan was driving on. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BDA Commissioner Rajesh Gowda acknowledged that the authority was responsible for maintaining the road. However, the BDA blamed the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) for the condition of the road. "The BWSSB has

cut the road to lay a pipeline. It is the contractor's job to redo the road and bring it back to a motorable condition. We are checking on this specific case. The compacting done may have given way due to traffic and rainfall. We will fix it as soon as possible," Mr. Gowda said.

The Kamakshipalya traffic police registered a case of death due to negligence against BDA officials under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and for rash driving against the deceased under Section 279 of the IPC.

# Autistic child assaulted during therapy session

Mother noticed marks on the toddler

STAFF REPORTER  
HYDERABAD

A two-and-a-half-year-old autistic boy was allegedly assaulted at a therapy centre at Karkhana, Telangana, during autism therapy sessions. While a complaint was registered at the Karkhana police station on September 2, the horrific incident came to light on Tuesday after Director of Public Health Dr. G. Srinivas Rao responded to a video tweeted by Murali Krishna, the victim's uncle. The video purportedly showed injuries on the victim's torso. "We filed an FIR against Pinnacle Therapists, sir please see below video my nephew is a victim of

child abuse. Pinnacle Therapy was suppose to help my nephew with speech therapy, occupational therapy & behavioural therapy." Mr. Krishna posted on the platform, tagging the handles of Information Technology Minister K.T. Rama Rao, Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar and the official Hyderabad City Police handle. The victim's mother, A. Priyanka, said in the complaint that it was only when they reached home after the completion of the two-hour session on September 2 that she noticed nail marks on the victim's body when she was changing his clothes. An investigation is on.

# Heavy rain continues in Telangana

Several districts put on red alert for next two days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall over Telangana for the next two days. Several districts, including Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Asifabad, Nirmal, Adilabad, Bhadrachalam, Kothagudem and Khammam, have been put on red alert for the next two days. Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in other parts. Several parts of the State were experiencing heavy rainfall in the last couple of days due to a low pressure



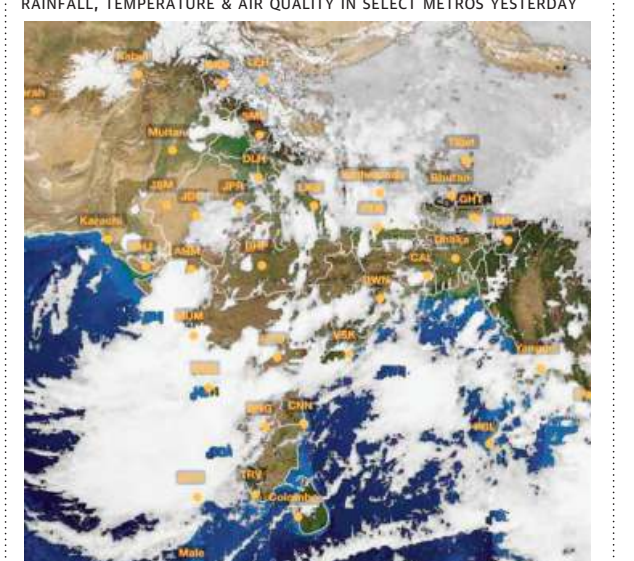
**Under water:** Sircilla, in particular, bore the brunt. Water entered the bus stand complex and the Collectorate.

area that had formed over the Bay of Bengal. Heavy rain continued to lash Rajanna-Sircilla, Warangal and Khammam districts since Monday. Flood waters entered several residential colonies and low-lying areas. Several persons were reported to be stranded due to overflowing canals, while

roads to several villages had been cut off. Sircilla, in particular, bore the brunt. Water entered the bus stand complex and the newly-constructed Collectorate, while water entered houses in several colonies. A control room had been set up, and holidays declared for educational institutions.

Collector Anurag Jayanthi said efforts were on to assess loss to property and crops, and exhorted the public to report their losses to the authorities through the control room (Phone no: 93986 84240). Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu, presently in New Delhi, also asked the Collectors to be on alert and take steps to meet any eventuality. Minister K.T. Rama Rao held a teleconference with the Rajanna-Sircilla administration and directed officials to intensify relief and rehabilitation measures. Relief camps should be set up. He directed the officials to depute disaster response force teams to the district and asked them to take steps to divert the flood waters.

**WEATHER WATCH**  
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Wednesday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at a few/isolated places Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa and coastal Karnataka. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.5	25.2	Kozhikode	15	30.3	24.0
Ahmedabad	1.9	34.7	26.4	Kurnool	—	29.3	23.1
Aizawl	4.1	29.2	19.5	Lucknow	0.6	34.4	27.7
Allahabad	—	33.9	27.5	Madurai	—	36.4	25.5
Bengaluru	—	26.0	20.0	Mangaluru	11.2	24.8	23.0
Bhopal	—	32.4	25.4	Mumbai	3	29.7	24.0
Bhubaneswar	5.3	31.4	25.0	Mysuru	—	29.0	21.0
Chandigarh	—	42.0	26.3	New Delhi	—	33.6	27.8
Chennai	32	34.5	24.8	Patna	—	30.9	28.0
Coimbatore	4	31.2	24.0	Port Blair	—	31.0	25.1
Dehradun	—	31.2	24.0	Puducherry	—	31.0	23.5
Gangtok	16.6	21.2	17.2	Pune	—	38.2	26.9
Goa	69	27.0	23.1	Raipur	—	33.2	25.0
Guwahati	121	29.2	24.3	Ranchi	—	27.0	23.2
Hubbli	—	24.0	21.0	Shillong	—	22.7	17.5
Hyderabad	10.9	26.0	21.9	Shimla	—	24.4	20.6
Imphal	—	30.5	21.2	Srinagar	—	33.6	18.2
Jaipur	—	33.8	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	7	30.7	22.8
Kochi	—	30.4	23.8	Tiruchi	—	34.7	25.6
Kohima	—	25.2	18.0	Vijayawada	23	31.0	24.8
Kolkata	22	31.9	25.6	Visakhapatnam	52	31.2	24.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	123	64	50	57	1
Bengaluru	6	39	38	17	53	2
Chennai	3	31	68	20	40	3
Delhi	8	40	104	105	166	4
Hyderabad	3	70	18	9	14	5
Kolkata	13	19	19	23	32	6
Lucknow	14	63	35	95	122	7
Mumbai	28	7	100	59	62	8
Pune	110	26	110	115	78	9
Visakhapatnam	20	46	53	25	47	10

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ruppnagar, Punjab recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 216 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Yadgir, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: 1 Poor 2 Moderate 3 Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

# Respite for employees of closed Assam paper mills

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI  
Employees of two Assam paper mills closed since 2015 can continue to stay in the residential quarters until their dues are settled, the Assam government said on Tuesday. The decision not to evict the employees from the quarters of the Hindustan Paper Corporation's mills at Jagiroad in Morigaon district and Panchgram in Hailakandi district was taken after a meeting between representatives of the State government and the unions of the mills on Monday evening. "We will work out the modalities for an agreement on the final settlement of the pending issues," Manobendra Chakraborty, the president of the Joint Action Committee of Recognised Unions (JACRU), told The Hindu. The JACRU, however, said many issues remain unresolved at the meeting.

# Is AAP heading for repeat of 2017 poll mistake in Punjab?

A local face to lead the party in Assembly election yet to be finalised

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH  
As the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) prepares to battle it out in the coming Punjab Assembly election, finding a native leader with a State-wide appeal in order to pose a challenge to heavyweights such as Parkash Singh Badal of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Congress leader Amarinder Singh seems to be a big challenge for it. In June last, AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal declared in Amritsar that a member of the Sikh community would be the party's Chief Minister 'face' in Punjab. However, with polls due early next year, the anxiety among the party cadre is growing. "Sooner the better" Some political observers and party insiders feel that sooner the party announces the leader, the better it would be for its electoral prospect. "The playing field in the coming polls is wide open amid the ongoing infighting within the ruling Congress. The AAP has an opportunity to make an impact, but they



AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal

need to get their act together. It is repeating the mistake it did in the 2017 polls by not announcing a 'local' face to lead their campaign. Only few months are left for the elections, and by this time, they should have set up a team. They need a local face, otherwise they will have to seek vote in the name of Arvind Kejriwal, as they did in 2017. The AAP needs to avoid such a situation, as the 'outsider leadership' tag had apparently hadn't worked in its favour," said Ashutosh Kumar, professor, political science department of Punjab University. Notably, several AAP members have come out in support of party's two-time Lok Sabha member Bhagwant Mann. They demanded the central leadership to an-

nounce him as the leader. A party member, requesting anonymity, stated a section of the cadre believed that time was running out and the leadership should immediately announce the leader. "The delay is only letting down the morale of volunteers. We need to hit the ground with rallies and approach the voters," he pointed out. A party source asserted that the party had been deliberating on finalising the leader and it could be announced once the election schedule is declared by the Election Commission of India. Punjab-based noted writer and political analyst Desraj Kali observed that the road ahead for the AAP was not without challenges. "While there seems to be an inclination among Dalits and small farmers towards the AAP in the Malwa and Majha regions, finding a leader with a mass appeal across the State is a challenge for the party," he highlighted. Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Harpal Cheema of the AAP, stressed that the party would announce the CM's face at an appropriate time.

# Naveen Patnaik cautions against third wave

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR  
Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday cautioned people against possible third wave of COVID-19 in the State in the wake of deteriorating situation in Maharashtra and Kerala. Reviewing the State's COVID-19 situation, Mr. Patnaik laid emphasis on respecting COVID-19 guidelines, especially by educational institutes which have opened on a limited scale a couple of months ago. He directed authorities to conduct inspections of institutes to find out if standard operating procedures were being followed.

**School students infected**  
Mr. Patnaik's warning came on a day when Kanapura High School in Kamakhyanagar area of Odisha's Dhenkanal district was closed for seven days after 20 persons, including 14 students, tested positive for COVID-19. This was the first school to be shut down on account of infections among students.

# Odisha passes Bill capping reservation of seats at 50%

Amendments pave way for elections to urban local bodies and panchayati raj institutions  
STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR  
The Odisha Assembly on Tuesday passed the Odisha Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, to cap reservation at 50%, a move that has paved the way for conducting elections to urban local bodies in the State. The Naveen Patnaik Government had introduced the Bill with amendments proposed in the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950, and the Odisha Municipal Corporation Act, 2003, on Monday. The Odisha Panchayat Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which seeks amendment to the Odisha Grama Panchayats Act, 1964; Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act, 1959 and Odisha Zilla Parishad Act, 1991 was also introduced in the House on Tuesday. While elections to urban local bodies are long overdue, the tenure of the present three-tier panchayati raj institutions is coming to an end early next year. Due to the confusion over reservation, the government had not been able to conduct elections to urban local bodies, which are currently being governed by bureaucrats. The Opposition parties had been demanding immediate election to the local bodies. In 2013, the Orissa High Court passed an order stating that the upper ceiling limit of reservation of seats for the SC, ST and Backward Classes shouldn't exceed 50% in accordance with the judgment passed by the Supreme Court in the K. Krishna Murthy case. The State Government had moved the Supreme Court through a special leave petition and, subsequently, through a review petition challenging the order of capping reservation at 50%. The Supreme Court had, however, upheld the decision of the Orissa High Court. Law Minister Pratap Jena said the government was left with no other option, but to amend the relevant provisions of the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950, and the Odisha Municipal Corporation Act, 2003.

# PRESS NOTICE No. 04 / 2021-22 NOTICE INVITING BIDS

The Superintending Engineer, PMGSY, Nagpur Region, Nagpur on behalf of Government of Maharashtra invites the Item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of bridges under ADB funded Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the district of Bhandara for package number NO 07 (BHA-ADB-BR-01 to BHA-ADB-BR-07) with span length. 438.00 mts, works cost Rs. 2489.55 lakhs with maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with Govt. of Maharashtra, in Public Works Department I Rural Development Department or Non-registered contractors.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: **08 September 2021.**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

Last Dale / Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: **28 September 2021 up to 17.00hours.**

For further details please log on to <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

sd/-  
**(N. S. Ansari)**  
Superintending Engineer  
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana  
Nagpur Region, Nagpur  
DGIPR/2021/2022/1835

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir J&K Pollution Control Committee Jammu**

Winter office: November - April  
PariveshBhawan, Gladni, Transport Nagar, Narwal  
Jammu, (J&K) 180008. Ph. Fax. 0191-2476925

Summer office: May-October  
Shiekh-Ul-Islam Campus, Behind Govt. Silk Factory,  
Rajbagh, Srinagar(J&K) 190008. Ph.Fax: 0194-2311165.  
email: [memberssecretaryjkpcbb@gmail.com](mailto:memberssecretaryjkpcbb@gmail.com)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Sub: Public Hearing for Minor Mineral (River Bed Mineral) Block scheduled on 05.10.2021 for Block-4 of District Poonch (J&K). As per EIA Notification No. 7(1) Section (III) issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India vide S.O. 1533 dated 14th September, 2006 (as amended till date). Public Hearing of the below mentioned mining block for minor mineral extraction is to be carried out.

The Public Hearing is being conducted by J&K Pollution Control Committee as per provisions of EIA notification. The TOR (Terms of Reference) have been forwarded by JKEIAA vide no. JKEIAA/2021/1466/631-35 dated 25.03.2021 for the said Public Hearing along with draft EIA/EMP, which is scheduled to be conducted as per below mentioned details:

Name of Agency	Area	Location of minor mineral area / Coordinates	Name of Village/ Tehsil / District	Location of public hearing Venue (Date and time)
Shri Karanvir Singh, S/o Sh. Surinder Singh, RO 1, Lane No. 3, Shaheed Udharn Singh Nagar, Pathankot Punjab	8.86 Hect.	Block 4, having an area 8.86 ha, River Suran downstream, Sher. Kashmiri bridge Part-IV District Poonch. Coordinates: A 33°44'35.03" -N 74°11'29.1" -E D 33°44'47.05" -N 74°13'38.80" -E	Rahand Distt. Poonch (J&K)	Date -05-10-2021, Time-10.30 AM to 01.00 PM At Village : Jhalas Dist. : Poonch (J&K)

The Executive Summary of EIA and draft EMP in English and Hindi of the above proposed mining block is available in the website of JKPCCC i.e., [www.jkpcbb.nic.in](http://www.jkpcbb.nic.in) as well as in the following offices:-

- The Commissioner / Secretary to Govt. Forests, Ecology & Environment Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
- Director, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India Northern, Regional Office, Chandigarh.
- Director, Ecology Environment & Remote Sensing / Member Secretary, JKEIAA Parivahan Bhawan, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.
- Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.
- Deputy Commissioner, District Poonch.
- Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu.
- Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Poonch.
- District Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining Department, Poonch.

All concerned are hereby informed through this notice to send their suggestions/ written objections or comments on or before 05<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021 addressed to Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Parivesh Bhawan, Gladni, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu (09.30 AM to 05.30 PM) on any working day or by email [memberssecretaryjkpcbb@gmail.com](mailto:memberssecretaryjkpcbb@gmail.com)

The panel for conducting Public Hearing shall be as under-

- District Magistrate, Poonch, J&K or his representative not below the rank of Addl. District Magistrate.
- Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Transport Nagar, Narwal, Jammu or his authorized representative.
- District Mineral Officer, Department of Geology and Mining Department Poonch.
- Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Poonch

All interested persons/organizations/groups/stake-holders are invited to participate in the above mentioned Public Hearing on the aforementioned date strictly observing all SOPs and guidelines of COVID-2019 issued in this behalf. At the venue and time and give their suggestions, views/comments and objections, if any, to the authorities conducting the Public Hearing.

Any person having interest in this public hearing can also have access to the Executive Summary of EIA from Office of District Pollution Control Committee, Poonch.

Sd/-  
**(B.M.Sharma) IFS**  
Member Secretary, JKPCCC, Jammu  
DIP/J-2700-P/21

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## Nipah amidst a pandemic

Quick development of vaccines for tropical infections is a success of the coronavirus era

India is far from being anywhere near the finish line with regard to the coronavirus pandemic, even as fears of a Nipah virus outbreak have surfaced in Kerala with one confirmed death in Kozhikode. While confirmed cases of the viral infection have been reported several times since 2001 in West Bengal and Kerala, it was the outbreak in 2018, in Kozhikode, that made headlines after 17 deaths and 18 confirmed cases, underlining the high infection-associated fatality. Outbreaks fanned by exotic viruses are not foreign to India: a glance at the weekly reports compiled by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme shows the diversity of viral or bacterial outbreaks that flash by with barely a mention, unless they threaten India's metropolises as outbreaks of dengue, H1N1, chikungunya or malaria sometimes do. However, the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic also draws attention to significant outbreaks that preceded it. Nipah in Kozhikode and Malappuram was the first outbreak where terms such as 'contact tracing', 'RT PCR', 'antigen test', and 'PPE kits' became part of the ordinary discourse in Kerala. The State's public health system, earlier commended only for quality primary health care, earned appreciation for its ability to establish links between the infected and their contacts and to isolate them to prevent further spread.

There are now established protocols – at the national level – for the three key aspects of a potential pandemic: infection control, treatment and vaccination. When a contagion hits, the world now understands what can and cannot be controlled within each geographic region's context. It is these lessons from the coronavirus pandemic that must inform future outbreaks. It had become routine for Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, at intervals, to report outbreaks of 'mystery fevers', when they were often easily diagnosable infections that were just a competent, accessible laboratory test away. Thus, while there is no knowing if the latest Nipah outbreak in India will peter out like in 2019 or be worse than in 2018, India must be heartened that the potential of an outbreak evokes national concern and an anticipatory response unlike the earlier and purely reactive approach. A standardised treatment for Nipah continues to be elusive and a spike in cases could spell disaster given the high mortality rate. However, some studies suggest that vaccines developed for the coronavirus, if adequately tweaked, may prove effective against the Nipah virus too. Another potential candidate vaccine is in early human trials. Because vaccination continues to be the best bet against the disease, the very fact that global attention and capital no longer need to be coaxed to developing vaccines for tropical infections is itself a key difference in how the world approaches outbreaks in the coronavirus era.

## Making them pay

A law to regulate app store operators is key to check Big Tech's monopolising nature

South Korea's newest legislation, dubbed the 'anti-Google' law, is something that Indian lawmakers should consider emulating. Last week, its Parliament passed an amendment to its Telecommunications Business Act with the aim of preventing app store operators, such as Google and Apple, from forcing app developers to use their in-store payment systems, for which they charge exorbitantly. The new law is also a check on the unfair use of market position. With digital commerce becoming ubiquitous, and with the Googles and the Apples controlling this experience through their platforms, it has become imperative for government laws to regulate them. South Korea happens to be the first off the block. But a lot of other jurisdictions are not far behind. Australia, which only recently brought in a law to make Internet platforms pay media companies for displaying their content, is now reportedly thinking of bringing digital payment services such as Apple Pay, Google Pay and WeChat Pay under its regulatory ambit. The European Union's draft law seeks to make these large platform companies, "gatekeepers" as it refers to them, comply with a set of dos and don'ts that gives the smaller companies a fair chance. The EU proposal is also centred around customers having more choice.

But that is not all. In the U.S., last month, three Senators brought in a Bill much along the same lines. Introduced by Democrats Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, and Republican Marsha Blackburn, it aims "To promote competition and reduce gatekeeper power in the app economy, increase choice, improve quality, and reduce costs for consumers." All this is happening in the backdrop of the pending verdict in the well-known case in which Epic Games, the company behind 'Fortnite', sued Apple on this very issue. The legal move was triggered after Apple ousted Epic from its platform for putting up its own payment system, bypassing Apple's. The app store operators are clearly on the back foot the world over. In India too, the angst of app developers has been evident in recent times. According to a report, Apple is facing an antitrust challenge in India from a Rajasthan-based non-profit called 'Together We Fight Society' on this issue. It remains to be seen if the regulator, the Competition Commission of India, orders an investigation. Last year, it started investigations into similar allegations against Google. A law to regulate app store operators is not a drastic departure from this government's thinking on such issues. Only recently, it promoted the setting up of the Open Network for Digital Commerce to "democratise e-commerce" and "to provide alternatives to proprietary e-commerce sites". The challenge, however, is to protect the smaller sellers and developers without undermining the ecosystem for technological innovation.

# Do not surrender the peace in Afghanistan

As Panjshir falls, international and regional powers must realise their need to act more responsibly



RADHA KUMAR

The fall of Panjshir in Afghanistan has highlighted the seamy side of an unspoken international consensus since August 12, that the Afghan war has ended and the task now is to see what sort of government the Taliban form.

Acting on this consensus, international and regional powers simply watched while the Taliban attacked the Panjshir valley, where resistance forces (picture) had assembled under the leadership of Ahmad Massoud and Amrullah Saleh. Mr. Massoud and Mr. Saleh were in negotiations with the Taliban for an inclusive government, but the Taliban used the talks time to surround Panjshir and cut off supplies, electricity and communications to the valley. Then they announced that talks had broken down and began a military assault, using weaponry that the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization supplied to the Afghan National Army. Much of Panjshir has now fallen and Mr. Massoud and Mr. Saleh are in hiding. Fahim Dashti, the resistance front's spokesperson and a leading civil society actor, was killed.

### Responsibility redoubles

With the fall of Panjshir all but complete, international and regional actors might feel there is little to be done. On the contrary, their responsibility to protect lives is redoubled by their inaction thus far. How much longer will we watch while the young and hopeful of the past 20 years are thrown to the wolves, group by group, individual by individual?

The resistance forces represent the more liberal elements of Af-

ghanistan. Many of them worked in the Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani administrations, including the Afghan army; others were in independent civil society organisations, including the free media. They support women's rights to education and public participation, elections and the orderly transfer of power, even independent human rights monitoring. They are Afghan nationalists who believe that Afghanistan should have sovereign good relations with all of its neighbours without being drawn into any of their hostilities. They deserve our support, not our indifference.

The Taliban pledged at Doha that they would not take Afghanistan by force. By and large, they succeeded in simply walking in, though there were areas such as Herat, in which the Afghan army fought and lost because the U.S. did not provide air support, despite being in place to do so. At the time, events were so rapid that the lack of U.S. response might be forgiven (by some). But the war over Panjshir unfolded over two weeks, and there was time and enough to react. What we saw, instead, was the international community – in particular, the U.S., the European Union, the United Kingdom and other democracies – averting its eyes.

### Need for a red line

Here is where the international community can and must draw a red line. They should announce sanctions until the Taliban resume talks with Mr. Massoud and Mr. Saleh, as well as progress in talks with Mr. Karzai and Dr. Abdullah. They can push for a United Nations monitoring force to ensure that humanitarian aid is allowed into the Panjshir valley, along with restored services, as demanded by Afghan clerics and women's groups. They can require that Panjshir be treated as a safe zone until negotiations yield the inclusive government that the Taliban



promised. They can say that they will not deal with any Taliban government that does not abide by these conditions.

During the novel coronavirus pandemic, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on warring parties across the world to cease fire. That call was not forcefully repeated for Afghanistan. The UN has called an emergency meeting for humanitarian aid, on September 13. But did the Secretary-General, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, even discuss the cessation of attacks on Panjshir, or restoration of its services, when he visited the Taliban a few days ago? Or will the September 13 meeting end in a meek acceptance that the Taliban's war gains – which only soared following U.S. President Joe Biden's announcement of full withdrawal by August 31 – can set the terms for peace?

In most other conflicts in which the international community has intervened – whether militarily or through mediation – the victors have not been allowed to set the terms for peace. In both Bosnia and Kosovo, all sides had to accept some form of decentralisation and minority protection; as did the warring parties in Sudan.

### Government formation

The key now is the Taliban's government formation. Reportedly, the group has announced the first members of a Taliban-only 'interim' administration, to allow for

further 'changes and reforms', according to Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid. Since it is highly unlikely that further 'changes and reforms' will involve an expanded administration with non-Taliban members in any meaningful number, that will put paid to the promise of an inclusive government. Yet, an inclusive government will benefit the Taliban too: it would allow them to plead inability to give sanctuary to their erstwhile partners. Without that restraint, there will be little to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a sanctuary for al Qaeda, the Jaish-e-Mohamed, the Lashkar-e-Taiba, ISIS-K (Islamic State Khorasan), East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), et al., whose members have already arrived in Afghanistan.

### There is leverage

International and regional powers can still attempt to prevent such an outcome by announcing sanctions on the Taliban until an inclusive government is formed, without which financial aid will not flow and Afghan assets will not be de-frozen. Friends of the Taliban – foremost Pakistan, but also Qatar, China, Iran, Russia and Turkey – need to impress on Taliban leaders that an inclusive government, which accommodates regional and non-Taliban political leaders, is the best and speediest route to international recognition and the stabilisation of their rule.

The international community is currently behaving as if it has next to no leverage. That is not true. Financial and humanitarian aid and recognition of a Taliban government are important not only to the Taliban but even more so to their supporters. Pakistan is looking to increased financial aid for the Afghan refugees it hosts, not to mention strategic importance as the key channel to the Taliban. China and Russia might think twice about cosying up to the Taliban if the rest of the international com-

munity sanction them. Iran has already called on the Taliban to hold elections. Qatar has invested years in bringing the Taliban to negotiate. They, too, are in a position to impose conditions, since they provide the first pillars of support for the Taliban. Regional powers, especially Afghanistan's neighbours, have leverage too. They closed their borders against the refugee influx, but without open borders Afghan trade cannot resume.

Moreover, a hold on financial aid and assets need not, indeed must not, prevent the humanitarian aid that Afghanistan so direly needs. Donors can insist that aid will be delivered by the UN and other accredited aid agencies, and not through the Taliban.

### Leaders can act

It is not only the international community that has failed Afghanistan, for the second time. It is also civil society. Apart from women's groups, few of us, whether in the U.S., Europe, West Asia/the Middle East or Asia, petitioned our governments to act with determination to protect our civil society kin in Afghanistan. It is still not too late to urge our political leaders to hold fast on an inclusive government. As then President Karzai found, regional political leaders are key to any government stability in the country.

If it was a costly mistake to exclude the Taliban at the 2001 Bonn conference, it will be an equally costly, if not costlier mistake, to exclude the non-Taliban groups that were powerful in Afghanistan until the Taliban walk-in of a few weeks ago.

After all, the Taliban did not achieve a military victory. They are in Afghanistan again because the U.S., NATO and the Ghani government left. Surrendering the conflict does not and should not mean surrendering the peace.

Radha Kumar is a writer and policy analyst

# The economic reforms — looking back to look ahead

The fundamentals need to be set right with a focus on human capital, technology readiness and productivity



D.N. GUPTA

The crisis caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic in the country and at global level has led to a debate about fresh thinking and new approaches to manage the economy and the future of humanity. Globally, it has underscored the need for policies to enable resilience in the economy and ensure a robust health system, together with research and development. In India, various efforts are under way to enhance economic growth.

### A critical reading of reforms

History matters in the complex economic system. So, it is important to briefly look at the economic reforms of the last 30 years. Evidence shows that the economic reforms which were launched in a major way in 1991 – and from time to time, subsequent interjections for liberalisation of economy and trade – have enabled some credible gains for the country. Over a period of 30 years, burgeoning foreign exchange reserves, sustained manufacturing contribution in GDP, increased share in global exports (from a mere 0.6% in the early 1990s to 1.8%), robust information and communication technology software exports, and sustained economic growth in the range of 6%-8% are clear hallmarks of success.

The economic reforms, so far, have been more focussed on the technical nature of the economy than the system, process and people. As a result, quite a few primary drivers of the economy – human capital, technology readiness, labour productivity, disposable income, capital expenditure, process innovation in set-

ting up businesses, and institutional capacity – have not got enough recognition. In the context of a global competitive environment, some basic issues deserve close examination.

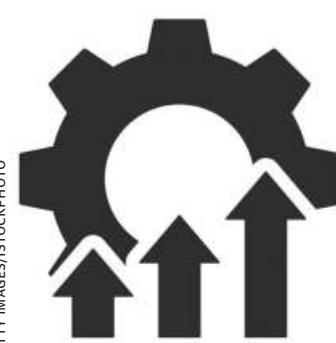
The human resource capital (HRC) formation, a good determinant of labour productivity, has been found wanting over the entire period of reforms. The lack of quality education, low skilled manpower and inadequacies in basic health care have resulted in low HRC. The HRC rank for India stands at 103; Sri Lanka is at 20, China at 34, and South Korea at 27, as brought out by the Global Human Capital Report, 2017.

As indicated in the World Bank database on GDP for 2019, the low per capita GDP in India, at \$2,104 (at \$6,997 in PPP terms, ranked 125th globally) against the world average of \$11,429 (at \$17,678 in PPP terms) has direct links to low per capita family income. Closely linked, the report by Deloitte (Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index in 2016) reflects that the hourly wages in India have been \$1.7; they are \$38, \$24, \$20.7 and \$3.3 for the United States, Japan, South Korea, and China, respectively. Low wages have a direct bearing on the disposable income of families and leave little room for the majority of households to have enough disposable income to purchase consumer durables or industrial products, affecting demand.

Low research and development expenditure at 0.8% of GDP, vis-à-vis higher value for other fast emerging economies such as South Korea (4.5%), China (2.1%) and Taiwan (3.3%), is resulting in lower capacity for innovation in technologies and reduced 'technology readiness', especially for manufacturing.

### Labour productivity

The lack of HRC and low technology readiness have impacted labour productivity adversely. In India,



labour productivity in manufacturing is less than 10% of the advanced economies including Germany and South Korea, and is about 40% of China, as reflected in a World Bank publication of 2018, *The Future of Manufacturing-Led Development*. Low productivity has unfavourable consequences for competitiveness, manufacturing growth, exports and economic growth.

In addition, due to a lack of capital expenditure and institutional capacity, and inefficiency in business service processes, there are difficulties in acquiring land for businesses, in efficient utilisation of economic infrastructure, and in providing business services, leading to a long time and more cost in setting up enterprises, resulting in a loss of creative energy of entrepreneurs.

The fundamental deficiencies, as highlighted above, are at the heart of the problem. For years, the economy has been hit internally due to low consumer demand as a result of low household incomes as well as externally on account of lesser competitiveness and inadequacies in integration with global supply chains for trade. A Business as Usual (BAU) approach is resulting in diminishing returns.

### Paradigm shift

In order to drive the economy, there needs to be fresh thinking to address the underlying issues comprehensively in an integrated

manner. The new reforms will require a distinct departure. The approach should be systemic and address structural issues – HRC, skills, research and development (R&D), land management and institutional capacity. The focus should be on quality of business services, technology readiness, labour productivity and per capita income.

First, to attract large investment in manufacturing and advanced services, at a basic level, investment in human capital and technology is a prerequisite. Raising HRC by way of enhanced public sector outlay to 8% of GDP, from current about 5%, for education, skill development (including for advanced technologies) and public health, is another first step. The reports by McKinsey and the World Economic Forum on advanced manufacturing suggest that Industry 4.0 will be defined by new technologies such as robotics, 3-D printing, artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of things (IoT), etc., which could usher in rapid changes of a higher order up to 10X or more in speed, scale and scope; technology obsolescence will be much faster than ever before. Consequently, efforts for technology readiness are very essential to stay competitive. It demands enhancing public research and development expenditure to 2% of GDP over the next three years.

There is a need to work on strategies to enhance per capita income by more wages for workers through higher skills and enhancing minimum wages, besides improving the social security net. This calls for a concerted calibrated approach through collaborative efforts of government, industry and workers' unions. On the issue of increased cost of labour, it can be compensated by higher productivity, some tax-benefits in the initial period of wage reforms especially for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, besides reducing

transaction costs in business and improving infrastructure utilisation efficiency.

### Systemic approach

Using insights from the work of Nobel laureate (1993) Douglass C. North on the role of institutions in advancing the economy in a country, it is necessary to build the capacity of public institutions to create a good environment for business and industry. The process of reforms is as important as the content. Policy reforms should lay an emphasis on process innovation and promote a business-centric approach to implementing pre-determined service quality levels (SQLs), to create a friendly ecosystem by having a state-of-the-art plug-and-play model for new enterprises, and for efficient internal supply chain management to integrate with the global supply chain.

Finally, largely absent in the 1990s, apart from rapid globalisation and rising aspirations, the future of the economy should be particularly viewed in the backdrop of a significant and irreversible shift in terms of a reliance on the global supply chain as a result of the knowledge-intensive nature of businesses and exponential effects caused by advanced technologies under Industry 4.0, since the 2010s. Therefore, the strategies adopted since the 1990s till now may not ensure adequate returns, and call for innovative approaches in public policymaking.

In sum, it necessitates a systemic approach – encompassing interconnected basic factors of the economic system – for policy reforms for setting the economic fundamentals right, in order to unlock creativity and innovation in the economic system, raise the total factor productivity (TFP), or a measure of productive efficiency, and to achieve higher growth.

D.N. Gupta is a former IAS officer. The views expressed are personal

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

### The 'right to sit'

At a time when labour laws are flouted by the so-called guardian of labour rights (the central government), in favour of employers and the corporate sector, the introduction of a Bill in the Tamil Nadu Assembly recognising the worker's

'right to sit', following the Kerala lead, is a step forward (Tamil Nadu, September 7). It was more than a decade ago that Vasanthalal made a film, *Angadi Theru*, to portray the sufferings of workers in textile showrooms. The labour force cannot and

should not be undermined.

G.B. SIVANANDAM,  
Coimbatore

### Media landscape

Social media has transformed the way consumers receive information. Over the years, it has increasingly

become the channel of choice for information, yet it fosters fake news (OpEd page, September 7). There is little doubt that those who need reliable information will still pay for quality journalism. Social media is definitely not journalism and can never

replace journalism.

R. SIVAKUMAR,  
Chennai

That a large section of Indians is hungry for authentic journalism is evident from the growth of online news portals. The distrust with the mainstream

media comes with 'moral preaching' that goes as reporting. Journalists should eschew any pretence of making unflinching decisions between right and wrong.

DEEPAK DENNY,  
Thiruvananthapuram



# Refining the reservation policy

Political parties should consider making substantive changes to the way reservation is implemented



T. RAMAKRISHNAN

In February, just before the Election Commission announced the schedule of the State election, the Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a Bill to provide 10.5% reservation for the Vanniyakula Kshatriyas within the quota of Most Backward Classes (MBCs) and Identified Communities (DNCs). In May, relying on the 102nd Constitution Amendment, the Supreme Court reiterated the constitutional position that States did not have the power to identify "socially and educationally backward" classes (SEBCs). This evoked a strong reaction from political parties, forcing the Centre to pass in August the 105th Amendment which again empowers States or Union Territories to prepare their own lists of SEBCs. From this year onwards, 27% of the all-India quota for admissions for medical and dental courses will be reserved for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and 10% for economically weaker sections (EWS). This was an outcome of the judicial intervention and legal battles of parties such as the AIADMK and the DMK.

## Breaching the cap

All these developments have given a fillip to the demand for a caste-based census and removal of the 50% cap on reservation. Those advocating for this argue that only a caste-based census can bring to the fore the composition and numerical strength of various castes. Using this as the basis, the 50% cap on reservation can be breached.

There have been a few attempts in the last 10 years at caste enumeration, but they did not yield the desired results. The 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census's report was made public five years ago but without the data on caste. In Karnataka, a similar exercise was launched in 2015. The report is still not out. In Tamil Nadu, a one-man commission was constituted in December 2020 to collect data on castes. But six months later, the commission was wound up.

It is natural that political parties will not agree with the findings of a



PRASHANT WANDANDE

caste-based census – however well it may have been conducted – if they think that their perceptions of the strength of certain castes do not tally with the findings of the census. Besides, any such data alone, particularly those concerning OBCs, cannot be used as the basis for breaching the 50% cap on reservation. This is because there is no provision in the Constitution to link the quantum of reservation to the population of the OBCs.

A reading of clauses (4) and (5) of Article 15 and clause (4) of Article 16 of the Constitution reveals that the scheme of reservation for the SEBCs is permissible but meant only for those OBCs which are "not adequately represented" in the services in the State. As laid down in the *Indra Sawhney* case (1992), there must be extraordinary circumstances to justify the quantum to exceed the cap. Tamil Nadu is a classic case where the 50% ceiling was breached early. The State provides 69% quota for Backward Classes, MBCs, Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). But the scheme of quota even in Tamil Nadu was not framed keeping in mind the population of the reserved communities. According to the Second Backward Classes Commission, the population of the Backward Classes, MBCs and the DNCs in the State was about 67%, a figure that the State government still uses. In addition, SCs and STs account for 21.1%, as per the 2011 Census. Several other States have breached the cap. They have adopted the 10% quota for EWS too. However, while highlighting the cause of the Backward Classes, political parties should keep in mind the rationale behind the cap. The Supreme Court, in the Maratha case of May 2021, said: "The 50 per

cent ceiling limit for reservation laid down by [the] *Indra Sawhney* case is on the basis of principle of equality as enshrined in Article 16 of the Constitution."

## Need for sub-classification

At the same time, it is well known that the scheme of reservation suffers from anomalies. It needs to be refined. Primarily, if the benefits of reservation are equitably distributed among the OBCs, sub-categorisation is a prerequisite. While suggesting the creation of three sub-categories – extremely backward classes, more backward classes and backward classes – the National Commission for Backward Classes emphasised in 2015 more on the need for "classification of OBCs" than on streamlining the provisions on creamy layer to ensure fair implementation of the reservation policy. It is hoped that the Rohini Commission, constituted by the Centre in October 2017 for the purpose of sub-categorisation of communities in the Central list of OBCs, completes its work in three or four months. Some States and Puducherry have already completed the task of sub-categorisation.

The parties should also take a dispassionate look at the concept of creamy layer. Fifty years ago, Tamil Nadu's First Backward Classes Commission recommended that the "affluent sections" in the backward classes should be "precluded from reservation" for the reason of equity. The annual income limit is one of the parameters that determine the creamy layer. Since September 1993, this was revised only five times against the norm of revision every three years. In addition to frequently revising the income limit, the Central government should consider, while re-

vising the limit, many factors such as the trend of rise in GDP, inflation, per capita income and rise in the cost of living. Even as there is a strong case for increasing the present limit of ₹8 lakh per annum for determining the creamy layer, the definition of income needs to change. At present, income from salary and agriculture are not considered but "income from other sources" is taken into account. This stipulation on the nature of source of income not only complicates the situation but is also unfair to candidates of those whose parents may earn marginally higher income "through other sources" than the ceiling. This has been amply illustrated in a communication sent in July by the Tamil Nadu government's BC, MBC and Minorities Welfare Department's Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Administration. According to the communication, for the purpose of issuing OBC certificates, District Collectors should take into account how the parents of candidates earn their annual income, apart from considering other parameters. If the parental income is ₹25 lakh through salary or ₹50 lakh through agriculture, such candidates will be given OBC certificates. But if the parents earn ₹8.1 lakh through "other sources," their son or daughter will not get the certificate.

Besides, the vacancies in the posts of OBCs have to be filled expeditiously. The parliamentary committee had said that as on January 1, 2016, OBC employees in 78 ministries and departments of the Central government constituted only 21.57% against the quota of 27%. In respect of Groups A and B services, the share of OBCs was much lower. This only underscores the need for the Centre to conduct special drives frequently to fill the vacancies. Such an approach will take care of concerns in certain sections that the enforcement of "stringent norms" of the creamy layer might not serve the objective of the 27% quota scheme.

Instead of fighting over abstract issues, political parties should channel their energies to make substantive and qualitative changes in the way the reservation is implemented, if they are really concerned about social justice, inclusion of all and the plight of the underprivileged among the OBCs.

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# Decoding asset monetisation

The NMP is a bold initiative but its success is not assured



RAJIV LALL

The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) is a bold initiative. But let us first understand what the NMP is and what it is not. The NMP is not about the sale of government-owned assets. It is not about privatisation or disinvestment. The proposal is to offer infrastructure assets that will continue to be owned by the government under a long-term concession agreement to interested private bidders.

## Comparison with PPP model

The NMP is also very different from the United Progressive Alliance (UPA)-I's ill-fated public-private partnership (PPP) infrastructure development of the mid-2000s. That programme was about attracting private parties to build, operate and then transfer 'greenfield' or new infrastructure projects under build-operate-transfer (BOT) concession agreements. These enjoined the winning private bidder to take not only the operating risk, but also the development and construction risk of the project, such as a toll road, from scratch. This was a complex and messy process. It involved the acquisition of land. This process became controversial and was subject to delay. It involved securing environmental and other regulatory approvals. These proved challenging to obtain. It involved meeting construction and design standards. Compliance with these became a source of friction between the concessioning authority and the concessionaire. All this undermined trust between the public and private parties and led to a huge volume of disputes for which there was no readily available resolution mechanism.

In contrast, the NMP is about leasing out 'brownfield' infrastructure assets (such as an already operating inter-State toll highway) under a toll-operate-transfer (TOT) concession agreement. In such an arrangement no acquisition of land is involved. Nor does the concessionaire need to take any of the construction risk. The process promises to be much simpler and cleaner than what was required in the PPP programme. It is also certain to attract a different class of private capital. To be successful in the BOT bids required a proven ability to navigate and manage the system. It thus attracted battle-hardened domestic entrepreneurs adept at finding creative ways of extracting value, including through 'gold plating' of project costs or through 'negotiated settlements' with demanding government inspectors or

friendly bankers. On the other hand, for success under the bidding process of the NMP, what will be required is operational experience in running a particular class of infrastructure assets and a strong understanding of the potential cash flows generated over the life of the concession. This is certain to attract the largest global pension funds.

## Contract design and implementation

That said, the success of the NMP is by no means assured. Bidding out and designing long-term concessions for assets that are already operating requires considerable skill. Given the long tenure of these concession agreements, they must be designed to allow for some flexibility so that each party has the opportunity to deal with unforeseen circumstances (such as climate-related disasters) and to prevent needless litigation. Contracts must also incorporate clear key performance indicators expected of the private party and clear benchmarks for assets as they are handed over by the government the start of the concession. This is key to avoiding disputes about potential additional capital expenditures that might be required to keep the asset operational. Two, no matter how well a contract is crafted, it still needs to be implemented effectively. Experience shows that there is a tendency for government departments to inject opacity into the implementation of concession agreements so that they have more power over the concessionaire. To avoid this, it would be useful if the responsibility for administering the concession agreements did not lie directly with the line ministries and/or their agencies. Three, it is vital to put in place a robust dispute resolution mechanism. For all these reasons there is a strong case to set up a centralised institution with the skills and responsibility to oversee contract design, bidding and implementation, separate from, but with appropriate assistance of, the concerned line ministries. An institution such as '3 PPP India', first mooted in the 2014 Budget, is needed. It would also be advisable to set up an Infrastructure PPP Adjudication Tribunal along the lines of what was recommended by the Kelkar Committee (2015) to create suitably specialised dispute resolution capacity.

Finally, it is always wise to under-promise and over-deliver. The government could start with sectors that offer greatest cash flow predictability and the least regulatory uncertainty before expanding the experiment. It could also ensure that resources raised from the NMP are used to fund new asset creation under the National Infrastructure Pipeline. This will ensure credibility.

Rajiv Lall is Professorial Research Fellow, Sim Kee Boon Institute of Financial Economics, Singapore Management University

# Needed: A tribunal for CAPF

It would ensure speedy delivery of justice and reduce the burden of the High Courts

M.P. NATHANAEL

Over the years, there have been numerous cases of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officers overstaying leave. This prompted the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to issue orders to the CRPF headquarters on August 23, 2021, to "include the provisions of Security Force Court (SFC) as available in the Acts and Rules of other CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces), for initiating disciplinary action against the delinquent officers, so that such cases are finalised within minimum time."

## Delays in enquiries

CRPF rules lay down the procedure for the conduct of departmental enquiries against non-gazetted ranks, and the officers are generally well versed with the procedure. As a result, most of the cases that are challenged in the High Courts are upheld. In normal circumstances, the departmental enquiries are completed within three to six months. But when gazetted officers are charge-sheeted, the time taken to order the enquiries is longer as other institutions like the Union Public Service Commission, the Central Vigilance Commission, the Department of Personnel and Training, and the MHA are also roped in for their views and legal opinion.

When personnel overstay their leave for long durations, the delinquent officers must be directed to appear before the inquiring authority along with the presenting officer and the defence assistant of the charged official. Even if one of them fails to appear for the hearing, the conduct of enquiry must be postponed. Often, the enquiry is conducted ex parte (without the presence of the charged official). In such cases, the recorded statements and other documents must be sent to the charged official. Postal delays further aggravate the matter. Since most officers are busy in operational matters, which gain priority over everything else, the enquiries take a backseat.

It is not just the inquiring authority who has to take time off his busy schedule to conduct the enquiry, but also the charged official and the presenting officer and defence assistant,

if any. Quite often, delays occur in providing certain prosecution documents to the charged official who may demand them for preparing his own defence. There can be no gain-saying that such delays occur in all ministries and departments. While in the case of non-gazetted ranks, the enquiries are completed within a matter of few months, there can be no reason for undue delay in the case of officers. The monitoring system must be very stringent. Since most serving officers who are appointed as inquiring authorities are tasked to conduct enquiries in addition to their usual responsibilities, the enquiries are not given due priority.

## The solution

The solution lies in appointing retired officers as inquiring authorities, who can afford to devote their time to the conduct of enquiries as is being done in most departments of the government. The difference between the SFC and the departmental enquiry is that while the former is a purely judicial process where the guilt must be proved beyond reasonable doubt and the charged official is at liberty to engage a legal practitioner to defend him, the latter is a quasi-judicial proceeding where the mere element of preponderance of probability is enough to determine guilt. Though the Central Reserve Police Force Act of 1949 provides for conducting judicial trial by a Commandant in his capacity as a Magistrate, seldom is it exercised as it gets into the realm of judicial process. Hence, the conduct of a departmental enquiry is the better option.

With increasing cases being filed in the High Courts across the country in service matters, it is high time the government considered the setting up of tribunals for the CAPFs on the lines of the Armed Forces Tribunal for defence services. Retired officers of the rank of Inspectors General and Additional Directors General from the CAPFs could be part of these tribunals along with retired judges of High Courts. This would ensure speedy delivery of justice.

M.P. Nathanael is Inspector General of Police (Retd), CRPF

## DATA POINT

### No learning online

Physical classes have been suspended in schools in India for over 1.5 years now. While some students were able to study online, learning was inaccessible for most. Two surveys – School Children's Online and Offline Learning (SCHOOL) and Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) – evaluated the impact of the pandemic on learning. In August 2021, only 8% of children in rural areas and 25% of children in urban areas studied online regularly. Among them, many found it difficult to follow the curriculum and had connectivity issues. As a result, the % of children who could read and perform calculations declined from pre-pandemic levels



Hunting for network: Students attending online class at a reserve forest in the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. \*SATHYAMOORTHY M

**1** In March 2021, ASER conducted a study in 24 rural districts of Karnataka to estimate the learning loss and understand the current status of learning. Nearly 18,000 children between the age group of 3 and 16 were assessed for their reading and arithmetic skills

**2** The SCHOOL survey covered 1,362 underprivileged children in August this year across 15 States. It focused on children in rural hamlets and urban 'bastis' who generally attend govt. schools. About 60% of them resided in rural areas and nearly 60% belonged to Dalit and Adivasi communities

**1. MANY NOT IN CLASS** | Only 28% of rural children studied regularly while 37% didn't study at all. Of those who were able to study, only 8% regularly attended online classes or learned through videos

#### % OF CHILDREN WHO WERE STUDYING IN DIFFERENT WAYS IN AUGUST

Type	URBAN		RURAL	
	Regularly	Sometimes	Regularly	Sometimes
Online classes/videos	25	16	8	8
Watched TV	3	5	0.1	1
Private tuitions	24	6	14	4
Studied at home (with family's help)	15	29	12	25
Studied at home (without help)	19	30	15	31
Studied with friends in each other's houses	2	13	3	11

% OF CHILDREN WHO	URBAN	RURAL
Studied regularly	47	28
Studied from time to time	34	35
Did not study at all	19	37

Educating children through television has not taken off despite regular educational broadcasts on Doordashan. Those who could afford private tuitions studied more regularly

**2. LEARNING ROADBLOCKS** | The major problems for children who didn't study online regularly were the lack of online material or the unavailability of a device. 43% of parents in rural areas said no online material was sent by the school, while 36% said their children did not have their own smartphone

Main reasons why children did not study online regularly in households that had a smartphone	URBAN	RURAL
Child did not have their own smartphone	30	36
Poor connectivity	9	9
No money for "data"	9	6
Online study was beyond child's understanding	12	10
No online material was being sent by the school	14	43
Other	15	10

#### EXPERIENCE AMONG CHILDREN WHO STUDIED ONLINE

% of children who studied online and...	URBAN	RURAL
Had their own smartphone	11	12
Watched live classes, not just videos	27	12
Had connectivity problems (often/sometimes)	57	65
Found online classes/videos difficult to follow	46	43

Among those children who studied online, the majority of them said that they faced connectivity issues and found online classes difficult to follow

**3. LEARNING LOSS** | According to ASER, in rural Karnataka, the % of Class 5 students in govt. schools who could read Class 2-level texts decreased from 47.6% in 2018 to 32.8% in 2020. The basic arithmetic ability of such students also reduced

#### READING ABILITY

Year	% children in Class 5 who can read Class-2 level text		% children in Class 8 who can read Class-2 level text	
	Govt.	Pvt.	Govt.	Pvt.
2014	45.7	53.5	70.1	72.2
2016	41.9	42.8	69.7	71.2
2018	47.6	41.8	70.1	71.5
2020	32.8	35.5	66.8	65.1



#### ARITHMETIC ABILITY

Year	% children in Class 5 who can do at least subtraction		% children in Class 8 who can do division	
	Govt.	Pvt.	Govt.	Pvt.
2014	49.4	70.2	34.9	43.3
2016	54.6	68.7	39.9	49.2
2018	52.5	60.8	36.1	47.4
2020	41.5	50.4	36.6	46.2

## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 8, 1971

#### Growth in allopathic drug companies

Commercial units manufacturing allopathic formulations and basic drugs have registered a 'phenomenal' growth during the 24 years after independence. Some 2,300 units are now making a turnover of Rs. 266 crores as against Rs. 10 to 15 crores in 1947. Disclosing this here to-day [Indore, September 6], the Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Chemicals, Mr. P.C. Sethi, said while the Government was largely satisfied by the progress in the field of manufacture, it was equally concerned to see that the formulations and drugs were sold to people at 'reasonable' price. Speaking at a reception arranged by a local drug manufacturing concern, Mr. Sethi said the Drug Control Act had proved to be an effective measure in checking the prices of drugs and other medicines. The Minister agreed that some of the drugs still continued to be sold at a higher price, but that was due to lack of adjustments at dealer level. Mr. Sethi had held talks on the matter yesterday with a number of manufacturers in Bombay and hoped to remove the disparity soon.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 8, 1921

#### Alleged cheating

The fifth Presidency Magistrate to-day [Calcutta, September 7] commenced hearing of the case in which a young European, J.S. Craddock, was prosecuted on three separate charges of cheating. The Public Prosecutor in opening the case said that the accused who posed as a nephew of Sir Reginald Craddock, Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, picked up the acquaintance of Mr. Mackenzie of the Imperial Bank at the Grand Hotel where both were residing. He informed Mr. Mackenzie that he had ten thousand shares in the Bandman Eastern Circuit Limited and asked him to arrange a loan of Rs. 6000. Mr. Mackenzie gave him a letter to the Agent of the Central Bank and the accused received Rs. 6000 with Mackenzie as guarantor on the mortgage of an allotment certificate for 10000 shares in the Bandman Eastern Circuit. It is subsequently ascertained that accused got an allotment letter for 10000 shares by issuing a cheque for a lakh on the Chartered Bank when he had only Rs 20 to his credit. The accused next borrowed Mr. Mackenzie's motor car for a day and pledged it with Mr. Karnani for Rs. 5,000. The hearing is proceeding.



FROM PAGE ONE

## SC agrees to govt. plea to adjourn Pegasus hearing

"The report of experts will be placed before the Supreme Court... I repeat, it is not my case that I will not divulge anything. All will be revealed before the committee... Let me do that before a committee... Permit us to form a committee... We will place its report before the Supreme Court itself," Mr. Mehta had said.

The court had, however, made it clear that there was no question of compromising on national security. "The question here is that there are some persons of eminence who have come here, saying there has been interception of their

phones... That can be done, but with the permission of the competent authority... What is the problem if that competent authority filed an affidavit before us? In the affidavit, we don't want a single word on any aspect that relates to the security of the nation," Justice Surya Kant had explained.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for petitioners and veteran journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar, had said, "The security of the State is as important to the citizen as it is to the State". He expressed his dissatisfaction with the government's two-page affidavit in August.

## Mullah Akhund to head interim Taliban govt.

Taliban co-founder Abdul Ghani Baradar would be the deputy leader. Previously, he had served as the head of the political office, overseeing the signing of the U.S. withdrawal agreement.

Mullah Yaqoob, the son of Taliban founder and late supreme leader Mullah Omar, was named Defence Minister. "The Cabinet is not complete, it is just acting," Mujahid said. "We will try to take people from other parts of the country."

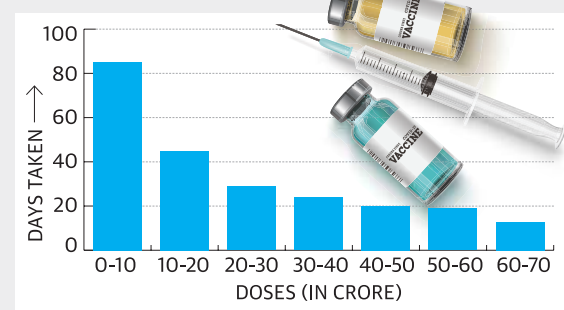
Shortly after the announcement of the new line-up, Hibatullah Akhundzada, the secretive supreme leader of

the Taliban, told the newly appointed government to uphold sharia law, in his first message since the hard-line movement swept to power. "I assure all the countrymen that the figures will work hard towards upholding Islamic rules and sharia law in the country," Akhundzada, who has never been seen in public, said in a statement released in English. He told Afghans that the new leadership would ensure "lasting peace, prosperity and development", adding that "people should not try to leave the country".

## COVID-19 vaccine doses cross 70 crore mark

### Pace picking up

In 13 days, the total COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed the 70 crore mark from 60 crores. This is the fastest the cumulative doses crossed two 10-crore landmarks



The nationwide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16. As on Tuesday, 56.6% of the Indian adult population has been vaccinated with at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Also, 17.4% of the adult population has been vaccinated with both doses.

In eight States/Union Territories (UTs), including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand, the share of adults with at least one dose administered re-

mains below the 50% mark. In nine States/UTs, including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim, the share has increased beyond the 80% mark.

In 17 States/UTs, including Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra, the share of adults who took both doses remains below the 20% mark. In seven States/UTs, the share has increased beyond the 30% mark

(With inputs from PTI)

## Cairn sees end to tax dispute with India

The government recently amended the income tax laws to scrap the retrospective tax provisions introduced in 2012-13, under which Cairn was taxed in 2014 for a corporate restructuring undertaken in 2006-07.

The tax department subsequently froze the firm's shares as part of the proceedings and sold them off to recover the claimed tax dues.

The company's disclosure on Tuesday indicates it is positively examining the provisions of the Centre's amendments to the problematic tax law.

The changes propose to refund the taxes levied retrospectively if the affected taxpayers drop all pending litigation and forego any interest and damages claims.

The government had issued draft rules to implement the amended law and the final rules are awaited soon, as the consultation

period on the draft rules ended last week.

The rules include a requirement by the affected party to "indemnify, defend and hold harmless" the government of all costs and expenses, if a separate interested party such as shareholders, beneficial owners, officers of the firm, brings, files or maintains any claim over the matter, after the dispute is resolved.

Cairn said it was "working with Government of India to expedite documentation and payment of refund".

If the refund came through, it proposed to give its shareholders \$500 million as a "special return" and deploy up to \$200 million for a share buyback programme.

The balance of around \$300 million, would bolster its net cash position to "pursue value accretive expansion and diversification", it said.

# RSS wing seeks guaranteed crop prices

Bhartiya Kisan Sangh to hold dharna at district headquarters today for new law on prices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI/GHAZIABAD

The current minimum support price (MSP) system is a sham which benefits farmers only in the two States of Punjab and Haryana, said Bhartiya Kisan Sangh general secretary Badrinarayan Chaudhary on Tuesday.

The RSS-affiliated farmers union announced that it will hold a symbolic dharna in 500 district headquarters towns on Wednesday, to demand that a law be enacted to guarantee remunerative prices to all farmers, with such prices set according to different agro-climatic zones.

The BKS, however, said it would not ally with the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), a platform for unions protesting against the three farm reform laws, which is also calling for a law to guarantee MSP for all farm produce. Although the BKS said the SKM was responsible for politicising the protest, it also blamed the BJP-led government for its role in prolonging the agitation.



Cost factor: The BKS says the MSP for a crop should take into account State-level variations. •PTI

"Though many of [the unions'] demands are unreasonable, the government must also take a sympathetic view of the farmers," Mr. Chaudhary said at a press conference. In a memorandum to the Prime Minister on August 11, the BKS said the main reason for the anger and unrest among the farmers across the country is that they are not getting the cost-based remunerative price for their produce.

"We have not received any response, so now we will hold a nationwide agitation to demand for a new law,"

said the BKS leader.

He pointed out that MSP rates were not keeping up with the surge in input costs, and were also only available to a small fraction of farmers mostly in Punjab and Haryana. Mr. Chaudhary added that it was ridiculous that the MSP for a crop was the same for farmers in Punjab who get free water and electricity and for those in Rajasthan where such inputs were expensive.

"The remunerative prices should be set keeping in mind the input costs in 15 different agro-climatic zones,

and no one, whether government or private trader, should be allowed to buy crops at a lower rate," he said.

### Nominal show

The BKS only expects a nominal show of 200 farmers at the protest site in Jantar Mantar, as well as small groups at various district headquarters. "Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to follow distancing norms, so we will not gather huge crowds. It will be a symbolic dharna," said Harpal Singh Dagar, Delhi state president of the BKS.

"We will submit a memorandum to District Magistrates across western U.P. and Uttarakhand demanding guaranteed remunerative prices for crops," said Sohanpal, organisation secretary of BKS, West U.P. and Uttarakhand.

"Irrespective of the government in power, we have been asking for guaranteed remunerative prices for more than four decades as this would safeguard the

farmers from inflation in diesel, electricity, and urea prices. We expect the government to pay 15% more than the input cost," he said. This, Mr Sohanpal said, could be done by either bringing a separate law or making necessary changes in the three farm laws passed last year which have sparked widespread protests.

"Why should the farmer get the minimum price for his effort," he said, adding at present farmers are making a loss as MSP doesn't always match the inflation.

SKM leaders however, have dismissed the BKS protest as an attempt to divert attention from their demands and undercut their larger agitation.

However, Mr. Chaudhary said a dharna of nine months could only be sustained because it represented the interests of rich farmers and had become politicised. "We represent the 85% of farmers who are small and marginal and cannot leave their fields to sit on dharna for days on end," he added.

## Farmers lay siege to govt. building

ASHOK KUMAR  
GURUGRAM

Tens of thousands of farmers, led by the central leadership of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, including Rakesh Tikait, Yogendra Yadav and Gurnam Singh Charuni, laid siege to the mini-Secretariat at Karnal on Tuesday evening. The sit-in followed after the talks between the farmer leaders and the district administration over the brutal police baton-charge of farmers a week ago broke down.

Mr. Yadav, talking to the media, said the talks failed after the administration refused to agree to the farmers' minimum demand for an inquiry against IAS officer Ayush Sinha for ordering the police to "crack the heads" of farmers.

The demands included compensation to the injured farmers and a government job to the next of kin of a farmer who died during the lathicharge, said Inderjit Singh, vice-president, AIKS, Haryana.

## Panel report on farm laws not yet out

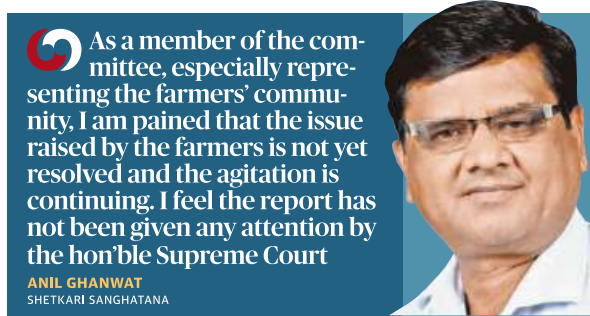
Its implementation will aid in peaceful resolution of the stalemate, says member

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
NEW DELHI

Almost six months after the Supreme Court-appointed committee on the farm reform laws submitted its report to the top court in a sealed cover, two of the panel's members are asking why it has not yet been made public.

"The report has addressed all apprehensions of the farmers. The committee was confident that the recommendations will pave the way for resolving the ongoing farmers' agitation," said one of the members, Anil Ghanwat, in a letter to the Chief Justice of India that was posted on September 1 and emailed on September 6. "As a member of the committee, especially representing the farmers' community, I am pained that the issue raised by the farmers is not yet resolved and the agitation is continuing. I feel the report has not been given any attention by the hon'ble Supreme Court," added Mr. Ghanwat, who heads the Shetkari Sanghatana farmers group.

He urged the SC to release the report in the public do-



As a member of the committee, especially representing the farmers' community, I am pained that the issue raised by the farmers is not yet resolved and the agitation is continuing. I feel the report has not been given any attention by the hon'ble Supreme Court

main and forward it to the Government of India for implementation to aid in a "peaceful resolution of the stalemate to the farmers' satisfaction at the earliest". He would not share any information about the recommendations made in the report.

The committee was set up by the Supreme Court on January 12 in response to a public interest litigation petition filed by some farm groups, at a time when the unions demanding the repeal of three agricultural reform laws were still holding a series of talks with government Ministers. By the time the committee finished its consultations and submitted its report on March 19, the talks had broken down into a

stalemate that continues to this day.

### Long meetings

"For two months, we worked in a hectic manner, holding meetings for 10-12 hours each day, meeting so many different stakeholders from farmers' groups, government and industry all across the country. But now the report is just sitting gathering dust in its sealed cover," said Pramod Kumar Joshi, the South Asia director of the International Food Policy Research Institute, who was also a member of the committee.

He told *The Hindu* that even if the committee's recommendations were not fully accepted, it would at least contribute to the de-

bate and help to bring the parties back to the negotiating table.

The third member of the panel, agricultural economist Ashok Gulati, said he respected Mr. Ghanwat's feelings, but he himself felt that it was up to the SC "to see how they want to make use of it, how and when they want to share it with the farmers and the government. Making it public is its prerogative."

The implementation of the three laws were suspended by the top court until the committee's recommendations could be perused, but the Central government, which refused to repeal the laws, has also taken no further action to ensure implementation. "The government is also a party in the case, so they could also appeal to the SC to expedite the hearing, but they have not done so," Mr. Ghanwat told *The Hindu*.

"I myself am a farmer leader, so I am hurt to see farmers sitting on the road for such a long time in sun and rain with no attempt being made to resolve their issues," he added.

## Warrants issued in Pehlu Khan case

Six were earlier acquitted of lynching

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan High Court has issued bailable warrants against six persons who were acquitted by a sessions court in Alwar in the 2017 Pehlu Khan lynching case. It admitted for hearing an appeal against the acquittal filed by Khan's son Irshad.

The Alwar court acquitted the six accused on August 14, 2019, giving them the benefit of the doubt on the basis of the police probe, which the court said had "serious shortcomings". Those let off by the court were Vipin Yadav, Kalu Ram, Dayanand, Ravindra Kumar, Yogesh Kumar and Bheem Rathi.

The government filed an appeal in the High Court against the trial court verdict after a special investigation team pointed out loopholes in the probe conducted earlier by four investigating officers. Irshad's plea has been clubbed with the government's appeal.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Goverdhan Bardhan and Justice Vijay Bishnoi issued the bailable warrants in the sum of ₹10,000 returnable within eight weeks, on Monday.

Khan, 55, a dairy farmer



Pehlu Khan

from Haryana, was waylaid by a mob of cow vigilantes on the Jaipur-Delhi National Highway on April 1, 2017, and killed on the suspicion that he was smuggling cows. The incident, which was caught on camera, had sparked nationwide outrage.

Two other accused, who were minors at the time of the incident, were convicted by Alwar's Juvenile Justice Board in March 2020 and sent to a special home for three years, while a third, also a minor, is absconding. The appeal submitted that there were injured eyewitnesses who had specifically taken the names of the accused, while the trial court discarded their "credible testimony". It said Khan sustained a number of injuries, of which he died.

## More delays on Data Protection Bill

Panel finalised draft report last year but it wasn't circulated to members

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
YUTHIKA BHARGAVA  
NEW DELHI

The Joint Parliamentary Committee on the contentious Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 has called a meeting on September 15 and 16 to finalise its long-pending report. The panel finalised the draft report last year but it was not circulated among the members. "The agenda papers circulated ahead of the latest meeting brings the panel back to square one: instead of the finalised report, it reopens the consultations.

Five members, including the Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Personal Data Protection Bill, Meenakshi Lekhi, were inducted into the Council of Ministers in July. Following this, P.P.



Meenakshi Lekhi

Chaudhary, who for over a year in 2016-17 served as the Minister of State for Electronics and Information & Technology, took over as the Chairperson.

He has proposed a few additional changes, including expanding the scope of the Data Protection Authority to cover personal as well as non-personal data that could lead the already contentious

law into more muddy waters. While the Bill seeks to set up a body for governance of personal data, the government, in September 2019, set up a new committee to recommend a framework to regulate non-personal data.

The Bill seeks to regulate the use of individual data by the government and private companies and a Data Protection Authority has been envisaged for ensuring the compliance of the law.

The proposed Act states that among other things, the authority will take "prompt and appropriate action in response to personal data breach in accordance with the provisions of this Act". The committee has recommended that the word "personal" be omitted "to enlarge the ambit of the

authority to look into data breach".

Similarly, Mr. Chaudhary has recommended the removal of "personal" from another clause, wherein the authority needs to specify codes of practice for appropriate action to be taken by the data processor in response to a data breach.

Key suggestions made by members in the past consultations too have been ignored. Ten of the 30 members of the panel had moved amendments against the provision in the legislation giving power to the Central government to exempt any government agency from application of the Act.

The panel, which has BJP members in majority, has, according to the sources, not included the suggestion.

## Rona Wilson gets bail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Tuesday granted 14 days bail to activist Rona Wilson to complete his father's last rites.

Mr. Wilson, accused in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case, was arrested on June 6, 2018, and is currently lodged at Talaja Cen-

tral Jail. He will be released on a personal bond of ₹50,000 with one or two sureties.

Special judge D.E. Kothalikar directed Mr. Wilson to be released from September 13 to 27 to go home in Kerala and attend a Mass for his father on September 16.

Mr. Wilson's father passed away on August 18.

**APPEAL**

I am **Mohammed Aathif**, 9 years old, suffering from Acute Myeloid Leukemia. My family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of Rs. 20,00,000/- to undergo Haematological Bone Marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. I need your blessings and support. Donations sent by CH.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through CH.D./NCF/Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakam Branch, A/C No: 60182010663310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

If Correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Fiat No. GF 1, Cordell Apartments, G.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/26255324/7338978027. Email ID: womenswelfare@womenswelfare.org**

**Mohammed Aathif**



We won't contest against Mamata: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Congress high command has decided not to field any candidate against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the upcoming byelection, party leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said on Tuesday.

Ms. Banerjee, who narrowly lost to BJP's Suwendu Adhikari from Nandigram in the election earlier this year, will contest from Bhanipur as the Trinamool Congress candidate to re-enter the Assembly.

Sharing agreement "Our high command doesn't want to field any candidate in Bhanipur from where the Chief Minister is contesting. As the president of the State unit, we have decided not to field anyone," Mr. Chowdhury told reporters in Kolkata.

As part of the seat sharing agreement between the Left parties and the Congress, the Bhanipur seat was under the Congress.

CIA chief, top Russian official in Delhi

High-level delegations in capital as Moscow, Washington reach out amid Afghan crisis

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

India is in "close contact" with both Moscow and Washington over developments in Afghanistan, official sources said, with two high-level intelligence delegations to Delhi this week.

The Hindu has learnt that an American delegation of intelligence and security officials, led by the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), William Burns, is visiting the region including India and Pakistan, and held consultations with National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval on Tuesday to discuss a number of issues arising from the Afghanistan evacuation effort and Taliban government formation.

On Wednesday, the Russian Secretary of the Security Council, General Nikolay Patrushev, will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, the Ministry of External Affairs announced.

The MEA and the U.S. Embassy declined to confirm or deny the visit of Mr. Burns,



Trudging along: People from Afghanistan crossing into Pakistan, in the border town of Chaman, on Tuesday. • REUTERS

when asked for a response by The Hindu.

The separate meetings with U.S. and Russian officials in South Block come as the Taliban announced an acting or interim government led by Mohammad Hasan Akhund, and Abdul Ghani Baradar as Deputy Prime Minister. They are also significant given upcoming summits that Mr. Modi will attend of the SCO and Quad formations, where Russia and the U.S. play leading roles respectively, and both are expected to focus on the

future course in Afghanistan.

The visit of General Patrushev, the highest-ranking Russian security official who has been Security Council Secretary since 2008, and headed the Russian intelligence agency FSB earlier, follows a call between Mr. Modi and President Putin on August 24 to discuss the developments in Afghanistan days after the Taliban claimed control of Kabul.

A diplomatic source said General Patrushev's meetings would give India and Russia a chance to "ex-

change perspectives" on the changing situation in Afghanistan.

Amid divisions

The visits are also significant as they come at a time of growing differences between the U.S. and Russian positions on Afghanistan despite more than two years of coordinating at the "Troika-plus" mechanism that included China and Pakistan. Last week, Russia accused U.S.-led western countries of rushing through UN Security Council resolution 2593 that India presided over, and of not paying due attention to its concerns on the Islamic State (IS based in Iraq and Syria) and the "Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement" (ETIM), which Russia and China said are threats to Central Asian security.

Russia is also one of six countries maintaining their embassies in Kabul, indicating they are more open to engaging formally with the Taliban government, whereas the U.S. and allies have moved their embassies to Doha.

Taking a different tack on evacuations, the U.S. has flown out more than 1,20,000 people, mainly Afghans, and is still attempting to help more to leave, and needs secure holding areas in other countries while they process their papers to the U.S. According to sources, Mr. Burns also discussed the possibility of bringing some evacuees to India.

India has been conservative in its evacuation efforts thus far, bringing out a total of 565 people, including 112 Afghan nationals on special military flights, and has not issued more than a few dozen special "e-visas" for thousands of Afghans who have applied.

Mr. Burns is one of a number of U.S. military and security officials who have visited New Delhi in the last few months. He had visited Kabul on August 23 and met with Taliban deputy leader Abdul Ghani Baradar, according to a report in the Washington Post, which was not denied.

(with inputs from Devesh K. Pandey)

Massarat to be Geelani's successor

Jailed leader will lead the Hurriyat

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Incarcerated chairman of the Muslim League, Massarat Alam Bhat, was on Tuesday named the successor to Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who died on September 1, as the new chairman of the separatist amalgam, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference or Tehreek-e-Hurriyat.

"After the demise of our lifetime chairman Geelani and our senior leader Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference has suffered an irreparable loss. Considering the challenges and the great role of the Hurriyat leadership, Massarat Alam Bhat has been elected as the next chairman of the Hurriyat," a spokesman said in a statement issued in Srinagar.

'Worst situation'

The spokesman said a consultative exercise was conducted by members of the Hurriyat's executive council "using different mediums to avoid arrests or any counter strategy by India".

He described the situation in Jammu & Kashmir as "the worst" and as "oppression in full swing".

"Especially," the spokesman added, "the oppression of those people who are demanding the right to self-determination. Senior leadership is either de-

Under house arrest, says Mehbooba

Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti claimed that she had been put under house arrest in Srinagar, a day after she alleged that the police had shown disrespect to the body of Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

"I've been placed under house arrest because according to administration the situation is far from normal in Kashmir," she said in a tweet.

tained or arrested."

Apart from Bhat's ascension, Shabir Ahmad Shah and Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar were elected as vice-chairmen, and Molvi Bashir Ahmed Irfani was elected general secretary of the Hurriyat Conference.

"This interim arrangement will continue till holding of elections as per the Hurriyat's constitution, as and when the situation improves," the spokesman said. Sources said the decisions were taken by Kashmir-based leaders in consultation with leaders based in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Panchjanya is heralding a crusade, says Vaidya

His comments come after the magazine's article on Infosys

NISTULA HEBBAR NEW DELHI

A day after Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) 'prachar pramukh' Sunil Ambekar distanced the organisation from an associated magazine Panchjanya and its September 5 edition cover story slamming IT company Infosys, joint general secretary of the RSS Manmohan Vaidya on Monday termed the magazine a herald of 'dharma Yuddh' (crusade for right principles).

Mr. Vaidya was speaking at the inauguration of the magazine's new office at Mayur Vihar here.

"Panchjanya dharma yuddh ka shankh naad hai. Aur dharma yuddh main do paksha honge, jo dharma ke paksha main nahin hain aise bhi Shrestha logon par baan chalaane padenge [Panchjanya heralds the dharma yuddh, which has two sides. You can have good people on the wrong side, and you will have to shoot your arrows aimed at them too]," he said.



Manmohan Vaidya

company, Infosys has made seminal contribution in progress of the country. There might be certain issues with a portal run by Infosys, but the article published by Panchjanya in this context only reflects individual opinion of the author."

He added, "Panchjanya is not the mouthpiece of the RSS and the said article should not be linked with the RSS."

At the inauguration ceremony, former BJP general secretary Ram Madhav, Chetan Arora ('sah vibhag karyawah' for Delhi), and Adesh Gupta (Delhi BJP chief), were also present.

Both Panchjanya and Organiser are published by Bharat Prakashan and are considered mouthpieces of the RSS, although it is denied by the organisation.

Both magazines reflect the ideological concerns of the 'sangh parivar'.

"There are nine publications started by 'swayamsewaks' but are not formally a part of the RSS," said a senior member of the RSS.

BJP MLAs protest against namaz room in Assembly

They disregard Jharkhand Speaker's repeated pleas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PATNA

Protesting over the allotment of a separate room to offer namaz (prayer) in the Jharkhand Assembly, the Opposition BJP legislators on Tuesday chanted 'Jai Sri Ram' slogans and recited the 'Hanuman Chalisa' inside and outside the House.

As soon as the Assembly proceedings began, the BJP legislators trooped into the

well of the House. Despite repeated requests by Speaker Rabintra Nath Mahato to allow proceedings to take place, the disruptions continued during Question Hour, which led to an adjournment till 12.30 p.m.

"No disrespect of the chair will be tolerated. This pains me. If you are angry, you may beat me up but please don't disrupt the House proceedings," Mr. Ma-

hato told the protesting MLAs. "The chair is not a subject of mockery. Even yesterday you behaved badly."

But the BJP MLAs said, "The Speaker is supreme in the Assembly but it hurts when we see his behaviour is not impartial in the House."

Mr. Mahato also asked the BJP MLAs to respect the 'Hanuman Chalisa' and not to use it for "political gains".

IN BRIEF



Bengal appeals against HC order on Suwendu

The West Bengal government filed an appeal before a Division Bench of Justice Subrata Talukdar of the Calcutta High Court against an order by a single judge Bench on Monday that granted relief to Suwendu Adhikari.

Baghel's father arrested for 'derogatory' remarks

The Raipur police have arrested Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's father - Nand Kumar Baghel - in Delhi in a case registered against him for allegedly making derogatory remarks against a community, an official said on Tuesday.

Jailed former MP from U.P. joins AIMIM

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday welcomed jailed former MP from Prayagraj, Atiq Ahmad, and his family into the party. He said his goal was to serve as an "independent Muslim voice" in Uttar Pradesh, where he is on a three-day tour. Mr. Ahmad is a former MP of the Samajwadi Party from Phulpur.

Mayawati promises to work for Brahmins

No more monuments, BSP chief says

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

Amid a display of Hindu symbolism, which included chanting of Vedic hymns by priests, blowing of conch shells, raising slogans in praise of Lord Ram and Lord Shiva, and an idol of Lord Ganesha and a trident placed on stage, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Tuesday promised the dominant Brahmin community that she would work to protect its interests and provide security, if she was voted to power for the fifth time in Uttar Pradesh.

If the BSP formed the government in 2022, the Brahmin community would have "no room for any disappointment", Ms. Mayawati said, reiterating that she would no longer build memorials, parks or statues dedicated to OBC (Other Backward Class) and Dalit icons but was willing to suitably honour the religious and social icons of other communities, if they desired so.

Addressing a meeting held here for the "prabudh varg" (intellectual class) but aimed at wooing the Brahmin community, Ms. Mayawati also promised them



Our party is not of any particular caste or religion but is a party of 'Sarv Samaj'

that her government would conduct a high-level probe into all cases where Brahmins were victims of "narrow-minded, casteist and politically vindictive" action. Strict action would be taken against the officials found guilty and the victims would be compensated for their financial loss. In return, Ms. Mayawati sought the community's "support for the BSP with honesty and loyalty".

Often accused by the BJP of catering to just Dalits and that too the Jatav sub-caste, Ms. Mayawati said, "Our party is not of any particular caste or religion but is a party of sarv samaj (entire society)."

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LTD. e-Procurement TENDER NOTICE

The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec No.E-proc-62/21-22. Erection of certain 132KV lines from LILLO point of existing 132KV Nidadavolu-Nallajerla line to 220 KV SS Pallantla and connected bays in West Godavari District. Date & Time of availability of tenders: 08.09.2021 at 04:00 PM, on e-procurement site. Further details can be seen at http://apeprocurement.gov.in, DIPR 369PP/CCL, Dt: 07-09-2021. Sd/- Chief Engineer, APTRANSCO, Visakhapatnam Zone

Advertisement for KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED. Notice Inviting Tender for Two Cover System - Only through e-procurement portal. Includes details about the project and contact information.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

Notice Inviting Tender (Two Cover System - Only through e-procurement portal) No. KPCL/2021-22/PS/Work\_Indent 11650 Date: 06-09-2021 Bids through e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in are invited from intending bidders possessing experience in similar works for the work of "Repair works of WEG No. 1, 3, 6 and 9 of RRB Vestas make V27/225KW capacity of Stage-I at Kappataguda Wind Energy Farm, Gadag District, Karnataka including testing and commissioning".

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU CHENNAI RIVERS RESTORATION TRUST (CRRT) INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS (IFP), NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

The Member Secretary, Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust, proposes to appoint a Project Management Consultancy (PMC) firm for monitoring of various sub-projects implemented under Phase III - Adyar River Restoration Project (ARRP) from Origin to Mouth.

Table with 3 columns: Description of Services, EMD, and Rs. Details include appointment of Project Management Consultancy (PMC) firm for monitoring of various sub-projects implemented under Phase III - Adyar River Restoration Project (ARRP) from Origin to Mouth.

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD NOTICE INVITING TENDER - NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Sealed bids are invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000. 1. CRRT - Adyar - Kundrathur Drain - Design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of modular STP in Karaima Nagar for 2x0.4 MLD capacities and Construction of lift station and supplying and laying of 150 mm dia CI pumping main from Lift Station to Karaima Nagar Modular STP including O&M period of 5 years - Tender No. CNT/SEW/NCB/CRRT/ADYAR/088A/2021-22 - Bid security - Rs.2.34 Lakhs.

E-Procurement Notice GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP) REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

Table with 9 columns: Package No, Name of Work, Reference No., Bid Security (Rs.), Cost of Document (Rs.) plus GST, Period of Completion, Estimated Cost (INR), Date of availability of Documents, Last date & Time for submission of Bids. Includes details for various road transformation projects.

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING (C-DAC) BENGALURU

C-DAC Knowledge Park, No. 1, Old Madras Road, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 038. Karnataka. Tel: +(91)-08-2509 3400, Advt. No.: CDAC (B)/01/2021 dated 08.09.2021. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is the premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for carrying out R & D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.





**IN BRIEF**

**Tej Pratap floats parallel students' organisation**

**PATNA**  
Sidelined in the Rashtriya Janata Dal founded and headed by Lalu Prasad, his elder son Tej Pratap Yadav has floated a students' body with the ostensible aim of strengthening the parent organisation. Mr. Yadav launched the Chhatra Janshakti Parishad two days ago and claimed that it was not meant to pose any challenge to the Chhatra RJD, the party's official student wing, but would work towards "mobilising youth at the village level". PTI

**Cong. panel on I-Day celebration meets**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Congress panel to plan 75 years of India's Independence on Tuesday discussed ways to highlight the history of the freedom movement that is tied to the legacy of the party. The 11-member panel, headed by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and tasked to plan year-long celebrations, held its first meeting in which it was decided to form two sub-committees that will plan and coordinate programmes at the district and State levels.

**Postpone NEET, urges Rahul Gandhi**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Congress on Tuesday argued for the postponement of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for aspiring medical students. "GOI is blind to students' distress. Postpone NEET exam. Let them have a fair chance," former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi tweeted, a day after the Supreme Court declined to intervene in a petition from a group of students against the move to hold the exam on September 12.

**Bailable warrant issued against Param Bir Singh**

**MUMBAI**  
A bailable warrant was on Tuesday issued against former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh by retired judge, Justice K.U. Chandiwala, who is probing a March 20 letter written by him, levelling corruption charges against Anil Deshmukh, former Maharashtra Home Minister, to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

**Railways to run 261 Ganapati special trains**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Indian Railways announced on Tuesday that it will run 261 Ganapati Special Trains till September 20. They will be fully reserved trains with special fare. The Railways stated that the trains were being run for the convenience of passengers during the Ganapati Festival and to clear the extra rush. Of these Central Railway will run 201 trains, Western Railway 42 trains and Konkan Railway 18 trains.

# PM urges private sector to help improve quality in govt. schools

Vidyanjali 2.0 portal to facilitate participation of donors and volunteers

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

The private sector must come forward and contribute to increasing the quality of education in government schools, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday, while launching a portal to coordinate private contributions for school development.

Addressing the inauguration of a 10-day Shikshak Parv, Mr. Modi praised teachers for using online teaching and assessment methods to promote learning during the COVID crisis, despite recent surveys showing that many students in rural India had no access to digital education during the pandemic.

**Talking books project**

He rolled out five initiatives on Tuesday as part of the implementation of the National Education Policy, including a 10,000-word dictionary for Indian Sign Language and a



**Teacher connect:** Narendra Modi announcing various initiatives at the Shikshak Parv on Tuesday. •PTI

talking books project for visually challenged students.

A teacher training programme for early childhood education, a standards setting authority for the Central Board of Secondary Education and the Vidyanjali 2.0 portal to facilitate private donors, corporate social responsibility contributions and volunteering activities are part of the initiatives.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the transformation of the education sector is "not just policy-based but also participation based", and noted that the NEP had involved consultations with academics, teachers and other stakeholders at every level.

"Now we have to take this participation to a new level, we also have to involve society in it," he said. "In this society, our private sector has to come forward and contribute to increasing the quality of education in government schools."

Mr. Modi praised teachers for their efforts during the

pandemic. "In this corona period, all of you have shown the power of our education system. The challenges were many but you all resolved them swiftly. Online classes, group video calls, online projects, online exams, many such words were not even heard before. But our teachers, parents and our youth have easily made them a part of daily life."

However, a recent report on the impact of school closures in 15 States by a team headed by economist Jean Dreze noted that only 8% of rural students and 24% of urban students had regular access to digital education during the pandemic. Among rural students, 37% had stopped studying altogether.

Another survey from the Annual Status of Education Report in rural Karnataka found that primary and elementary students have suffered a year of learning losses in foundational literacy and numeracy.

# Survey details 'catastrophic' impact of school closure

'37% of rural children have stopped studying altogether'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

The prolonged closure of primary and upper primary schools since the onset of the pandemic has led to "catastrophic consequences" for school students, particularly in rural India, says an emergency report.

Based on the School Children's Online and Offline Learning (SCHOOL) survey conducted by researchers, who worked in coordination with eminent economist Jean Dreze, the 'Emergency Report on School Education' says that only 8% of school students in rural India have been able to access online education, while at least 37% have stopped studying altogether.

"The SCHOOL survey makes it clear that the reach of online education is very limited: the proportion of schoolchildren who were studying online "regularly" was just 24% and 8% in urban and rural areas respectively. One reason for this is that many sample households (about half in rural areas) have no smartphone," found the survey that was conducted by around 100 volunteers across India.

The report covered 1,362 sample households spread across 15 States, including Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

The survey also found that the Dalit and Adivasi children were at a greater disadvantage as a mere 5% of the children from these groups had access to online classes.



**Baby steps:** After being closed for 17 months, schools in many States have opened for classes again. •G. RAMAKRISHNA

According to the findings, access to online education among students in those houses with smartphones is also handicapped by the fact that the smartphones are mainly used by the working adults who are not always able to share the gadgets with the children at home.

**No access to teachers**

Another casualty of the prolonged closure of schools has been the relation between the teachers and students in both urban and rural sectors, with 51% of the respondents in the urban areas and 58% in rural India saying that they had not met teachers during the month preceding the survey. Researchers also found that there have been many teachers who went out of their comfort zones to help students during the 17-month-long closure of schools.

In addition to education, the closure affected the level of nutrition among the children in rural schools where the midday meals have been stopped.

"Midday meals have been discontinued in all the sam-

ple States with the closure of schools. Among parents with a child enrolled in a government school, about 80% reported receiving some food (mainly rice or wheat) during the preceding 3 months as a substitute for their child's midday meals," stated the report.

Most parents surveyed have supported reopening of the schools at the earliest. Ten percent of the parents in urban areas had some hesitation in sending their children to school but, overall, 97% of parents supported reopening of schools.

The report said the prolonged school lockdown, one of the longest in the world, has led to a "colossal disaster".

"It will take years of patient work to repair this damage. Reopening schools is just the first step, still being debated. In fact, even preparations for that first step (such as repairing school buildings, issuing safety guidelines, training teachers, enrolment drives) are virtually invisible in many States," said the researchers.

# Varanasi mosque case: HC order expected tomorrow

**OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW**

The Allahabad High Court is expected to deliver its order on Thursday on a petition challenging the decision of a Varanasi court, which in April directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct a comprehensive physical survey of the Gyanvapi mosque compound adjacent to the Kashi Vishwa-

nath Temple in Uttar Pradesh.

The lower court had directed the ASI to find out whether the mosque was a "superimposition, alteration or addition or there is structural overlapping of any kind, with or over, any other religious structure".

Senior civil judge of a fast track court Ashutosh Tiwari had directed the Director

General of ASI to constitute a five-member committee of experts, two of whom should preferably belong to the minority community. The committee would "trace as to whether any Hindu temple ever existed before the mosque in question was built or superimposed or added upon at the disputed site," the judge had said in his order.

# Piyush Goyal is Sherpa for G20 summit

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

The government has appointed Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal as Sherpa for the G20 meet, replacing former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu. The development comes a little over a month before the next summit scheduled at the end of October in Rome.

# 21.02 lakh unorganised workers registered so far

**DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI**

Since its launch on August 26, the government's e-Shram portal registered 21 lakh unorganised sector workers as of Tuesday, according to data on the Labour and Employment Ministry's portal.

Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav told *The Hindu* that the progress had been satisfactory and the Ministry would boost the capacities of the portal. Mr. Yadav said he, along with the Minister of State, would visit the 20 deputy chief labour commissioner offices in the country to interact with the stakeholders.

Chandan Kumar of the Working Peoples Charter, a



The registry of unorganised workers would be used to carry out welfare schemes.

network of organisations working with unorganised workers, said the organisations helping the workers register on the portal had a mixed response.

The process was going well, but some people experienced technical issues, which need to be rectified by the National Informatics Centre, he added.

# Air quality improved in 2020: Minister

Bhupender Yadav attributes the change from 2018 to policies of government

**JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI**

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said on Tuesday the number of cities with "improved air quality" had increased to 104 in 2020 from 86 in 2018 and attributed this to policies of the government. He was speaking at a public function to mark the International Day of Clean Air For Blue Skies.

However, the Environment Ministry's own stand, on record in Parliament, has been that reduction in air pollution in 2020 was primarily due to the lockdown.

To a question in the Lok Sabha on February 12, it said the COVID-19 related lockdown had resulted in a "temporary improvement" of air quality in many cities due to closure of industries, fewer



**Fine filter:** The smog tower inaugurated at Anand Vihar in New Delhi. •R.V. MOORTHY

vehicles plying, drop in construction activities and absence of human activities.

"However, the improvement in air quality due to widespread restrictions on operation of major activities was an extraordinary situation and, once normality is attained, pollution levels trend is observed in busi-

ness-as-usual scenario," the response noted.

On trends in air pollution, the same response cited data from the Central Pollution Control Board that showed 23 cities marking a "decreasing trend", 239 cities a "fluctuating trend" and 38 cities an "increasing trend" in PM 10 levels. In the case of

PM2.5 levels, 11 cities showed decreasing trend, 79 cities a fluctuating trend and 9 cities an increasing trend when pollution levels from 2015-2019 were averaged. PM refers to particulate matter.

Mr. Yadav also "virtually inaugurated" a smog tower at Anand Vihar, Delhi, and said it would supplement the air quality improvement efforts.

A smog tower is designed as a large/medium scale air purifier to reduce pollution, usually by forcing the air through filters.

So far, ₹375.44 crore has been released to 114 cities during FY 2019-20 & 2020-21 under the city action plan. Further, ₹4,400 crore has been released to 42 cities with million-plus population, the Ministry said.

# Interim bail for nearly 100 convicts

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court has in a single stroke granted *ad interim* bail to nearly 100 convicts who have served more than 20 years in jail.

The convicts are all lodged in jails in Uttar Pradesh. Most of them are serving their sentences in the Agra Central Jail.

"Since the petitioners have been in jail for over 20 years, they shall be released on *ad interim* bail subject to the terms and conditions to be imposed by the trial court to its satisfaction," a Bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and J.K. Maheshwari ordered.

Advocate Rishi Malhotra, for the convicts, said they were entitled to premature release.

**THE CROSSWORD + 13347** Never go off the grid. We are digital now. Come solve online. @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjptn> SCAN TO PLAY

(Set by Vulcan)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8								
10								
12								
15								
17								
22								
26								
28								

- 16 Creature, dog, not black (5)
- 17 Resort in the country (5)
- 19 Tied up/ captured a fool and watched (9)
- 22 Give a new name to a type of wine, it's European and it's excellent (8)
- 24 Invited a big drinker, say (6)
- 26 Current offering (7)
- 27 Report is about republican framework (7)
- 28 Met at one's workshop fair (12)
- DOWN
- 2 Escape with a victory over Israel after end of game (7)
- 3 Stretching without strain (9)
- 4 Bend in car chassis (4)
- 5 Learn not to turn into it like a bigot (10)
- 6 She's in the French city we're told (5)
- 7 Speaking in a manner sister-in-law gets upset - with a sharp sound (7)
- 8 Conclude about a boy (6)
- 9 Unfaithful in Paris, a time to regret (6)
- 14 Stops insects swarming around new area (10)
- 16 Make use of a valuable discovery mostly indoors - a lively one (9)
- 17 Band's tour in Sweden (6)
- 18 Position in a day shift (7)
- 20 Smooth pull-back in the end (7)
- 21 Editor backed by paper getting hate (6)
- 23 Speedy warships (5)
- 25 Some Vietnamese mountain (4)

**SUDOKU**

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

**Solution to puzzle 13346**

C	A	R	A	F	E	M	O	U	S	S	E		
A	I	I	R	U	P	N							
U	S	E	S	A	D	U	L	T	E	R	A	N	T
S	H	I	N	B	A	I	E						
M	A	N	I	A	C	B	E	G	O	N	I	A	S
T													
C	A	R	O	U	S	E	R	S	M	I	N	S	K
V													
A	B	B	E	Y	S	T	R	I	N	G	E	N	T
E	R	S	A	N	I	A							
C	A	P	S	I	C	U	M	A	R	R	E	S	T
K	E	R	P	N	A	C							
S	E	N	E	P	A	L	E	S	E	I	D	E	A
R													
S	A	S	H	E	S	T	Y	R	A	N	T		

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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



# In Panjshir, the odds were against rebels

In their second coming, the Taliban cut off the region from borders and neutralised local powers

STANLEY JOHNY

At no point in Afghanistan's multi-directional civil war that started in the 1970s, was Panjshir taken over by forces that were hostile towards the local guerrillas. It is from the Valley, ringed by the Panjshir mountains in the north and the Kuhistan mountains in the south, Ahmad Shah Massoud, the renowned Tajik commander who was assassinated by al-Qaeda two days prior to the 9/11 attacks, resisted the Soviets and later the Taliban.

In the 1980s, the Soviets made several incursions to the Valley, but they couldn't hold it in the face of repeated attacks by Massoud's guerrillas. In the 1990s when the Taliban were in power, they were kept at the foothills of Panjshir by the Northern Alliance. But now, three weeks after the Taliban recaptured Kabul, the Islamists have claimed that they are in total control of Panjshir, for the first time.

When Kabul fell on August 15, the First Vice President, Amrullah Saleh, a Panjshiri himself, retreated to the Valley where he joined hands with Ahmad Massoud, the 32-year-old son of Ahmad Shah Massoud. Their National Resistance Front (NRF) of Afghanistan vowed to continue fighting against the Taliban, reliving the memories of the past. But this time, the odds were against the resistance from the very beginning.

**Resistance in the past**  
In the 1970s, when Afghanistan became a republic, Ahmad Shah Massoud, who was a member of the Muslim Youth, the student wing of



**Battle pause:** Anti-Taliban forces taking rest on a hilltop in the Panjshir province, in this September 1 photo. •AFP

the Jamiat-e Islami, started an uprising in Panjshir against President Daoud Khan with help from the Pakistani intelligence. When Khan put down the rebellion, Massoud fled to Pakistan. But he would return to Panjshir after the communists took over Kabul in 1978.

In the Panjshir Valley, literally the valley of five lions, Massoud built a guerrilla resistance against the communists, with help coming from the U.S., Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The aid, along with the rugged terrain and guerrilla warfare, allowed Massoud to hold out against the Red Army.

In 1996 when the Taliban took power in Kabul, Massoud, who was the Defence Minister of the post-communist Mujahideen government (1992-96), retreated to Panjshir along with President Burhanuddin Rabbani, who was his mentor from the anti-Soviet days. They formed the Northern Alliance, a broad coalition of anti-Taliban warlords, who established their control in northern Afghanistan, in-

cluding Panjshir Valley and Badakhshan and Takhar provinces.

Badakhshan shares a long border with neighbouring countries, including Tajikistan and China. The Northern Alliance had direct access to Tajikistan and thereby Central Asia through the border

## NEWS ANALYSIS

crossings, which allowed them to sustain the resistance against the Taliban. The Northern Alliance also got support from other regional players, mainly India, Russia and Iran. In 2001, when the U.S. invaded Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks, northern Afghanistan became the staging ground and the Northern Alliance fought with the Americans to topple the Taliban regime.

**Twin-pronged strategy**  
In their second coming, the Taliban seemed to be aware of the challenges that could emanate from the north. On May 1, the day the remaining U.S.-led international troops started withdrawing as part

of President Joe Biden's plan, the Taliban launched a new offensive targeting the northern provinces of Afghanistan. They took districts by districts, finally taking over Badakhshan province, including the crossings with Tajikistan. The Taliban did not attack Panjshir, but seized all provinces around Panjshir. So by the time provincial capitals started falling on August 6, Panjshir had already become an island surrounded by the Taliban with no direct access by land to Tajikistan.

Secondly, the Taliban had started a charm offensive to win over Afghanistan's neighbours, who had backed anti-Taliban forces in the past, long ago. The Taliban delegation had visited Moscow many times starting in 2018. Mullah Mansour, the former Taliban leader, was killed in a U.S. strike in 2015 when he was travelling from Iran to Pakistan, suggesting that Tehran had also established contacts with the Taliban leadership.

China was one of the first countries that declared a willingness to work with the Taliban after the fall of Kabul. What the Taliban did in all these cases was to turn their biggest weakness — ties with transnational terrorist organisations — into an opportunity. They promised Iran, Russia and China that they would not host or aid terrorist groups that are opposed to those countries' interests. In return, the Taliban wanted those countries not to help any resistance forces within Afghanistan.

**Fall of Panjshir**  
So when Mr. Saleh and Mr. Massoud Jr. started resis-

tance against the Taliban from an isolated Panjshir after the fall of Kabul, they were on their own. They neither had any direct access to a friendly border (say, Tajikistan) nor direct military assistance from regional players such as Russia, Iran or Tajikistan. They still called for resistance, perhaps to extract concessions from the Taliban before the new government was formed. The Taliban held talks with Panjshir representatives but did not make any concessions. The Taliban wanted a total surrender. Immediately after the U.S. troops were out of the country on August 31, the Taliban launched the Panjshir offensive aimed at taking over the Valley.

The Taliban now claim that they have the control of the entire Panjshir province. Their supporters have posted photos of the Taliban's white flag raised at the provincial headquarters at Bazarak, Panjshir's capital. But the NRF says their guerrillas are in the strategic locations and that the fight is not over, while the whereabouts of Mr. Saleh and Mr. Massoud Jr. are unknown.

It's likely that the NRF, under attack, has retreated to the mountains, allowing the Taliban to take over the provincial capital and the main artery to the Valley.

But any NRF plan to regroup and counter-attack the Taliban would depend on regional support, which would, in turn, depend on whether the Taliban could establish a stable government in Afghanistan and whether they could keep the promises they made to regional powers.



**Making themselves heard:** Women shouting slogans during an anti-Pakistan demonstration in Kabul. •AFP

# Taliban disperse Kabul rally, arrest journalists

Protesters condemn Pak. interference

ASSOCIATED PRESS KABUL

The Taliban fired into the air on Tuesday to disperse protesters and arrested several journalists, the second time in less than a week the group used heavy-handed tactics to break up a demonstration in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

The demonstrators had gathered outside the Pakistan Embassy to accuse Islamabad of aiding the Taliban's assault on the northern Panjshir province.

Afghanistan's previous government routinely accused Pakistan of aiding the Taliban, a charge Islamabad has denied. Former Vice-President Amrullah Saleh, one of the leaders of the anti-Taliban forces, has long been an outspoken critic of Pakistan.

Dozens of women were among the protesters on Tuesday. Some of them carried signs bemoaning the killing of their sons by Taliban fighters they say were aided by Pakistan. One sign read: "I am a mother when you kill my son you kill a part of me."

# Taliban will let Afghans freely depart: Blinken

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DOHA

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday that the Taliban had reiterated a pledge to allow Afghans to freely depart Afghanistan following his meeting with Qatari officials on accelerating evacuations.

U.S. President Joe Biden has faced mounting pressure amid reports that several hundred people, also including Americans, had been prevented for a week from flying out of an airport in northern Afghanistan.

The Taliban told the U.S. that "they will let people with travel documents freely depart", Mr. Blinken told a news conference in Doha where he and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin met their Qatari opposite numbers. "We will hold them to that," he added.

Qatar said that Kabul airport, largely closed since the conclusion of Washington's chaotic withdrawal from the country at the end of August, would hopefully reopen soon, potentially opening an important corridor for Afghans seeking to leave.

"The entire international community is looking to the Taliban to uphold that commitment," Mr. Blinken said, referring to a UN Security Council resolution that urged safe passage.

Mr. Biden's senior Cabinet members had dinner on arrival on Monday with Qatar's ruler Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani where they expressed Washington's thanks to Doha for its assistance with the Afghanistan airlift.

# Xi names new General to head Western Theater Command

Third change in 9 months comes amid stand-off along LAC

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China's President Xi Jinping on Monday promoted a new General to head the military's Western Theater Command, which borders India, state media reported, unusually marking a third change in the command's leadership in nine months amid the continuing stand-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India.

Mr. Xi, who is Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), on Monday "presented certificates of order at a ceremony to promote five senior military officers to the rank of General", the highest rank for officers in service.

"The promoted officers are Commander of the Western Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army Wang Haijiang, Commander of the PLA Central Theater Command Lin Xiangyang, Commander of the PLA Navy Dong Jun, Commander of the PLA Air Force Chang Dingqiu, and President of the PLA National Defence University Xu Xue-

qiang," state media said.

It remains unclear what is the current position of the incumbent, General Xu Qiling, who in July was similarly promoted as General and named Commander of the Western Theater Command. Last month, General Wang, then a Lieutenant General, was named Commander of the Xinjiang region, which is under the Western Command.

## Several changes

Monday's announcement named General Wang as "Commander of the Western Theater Command" and did not say where General Xu, who is 59 and well below the retirement age of 65, now serves. His biography on Baidu, China's Google equivalent search engine, was on Monday updated to describe him as former Western Theater Commander, leading one post on Baidu to ask why the Western Command's leadership was changed after two months and was being changed so frequently.

The Western Theater

Command leadership has undergone several changes in the past year in the wake of the retirement in December 2020 of the long-serving General Zhao Zongqi who headed the command since its inception. That month, General Zhang Xudong took over as Commander, while General Zhao was rewarded with a post-retirement appointment as the Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) or parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, a top advisory body. General Zhang was then replaced in July by General Xu.

General Wang may now be the fourth head of the command since the border tensions began. He has particular expertise in the Western Theater, having earlier served as Commander of the Tibet military region, which also borders India, and previously deputy commander of the southern Xinjiang military region, which is the military region that has been directly engaged with India during the LAC crisis that began in the summer of 2020.

# Merkel backs Laschet as her successor

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BERLIN

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Tuesday endorsed Armin Laschet as the best choice to succeed her, ahead of the September 26 elections that polls show her CDU party losing under its gaffe-prone new leader.

"It is a special election, not only because for the first time since 1949 no incumbent Chancellor is running for re-election," Mr. Merkel said in what was likely her last speech in Parliament ahead of the vote. "It is also a special election because it is a decision on the direction of our country in difficult times — and it is not irrelevant who governs this country," she said.

"The best way for our country is a CDU/CSU-led federal government with Armin Laschet as Chancellor, because his government stands for stability, reliability, moderation and centrality." Mr. Laschet, for long the favourite candidate for CDU and its Bavarian CSU ally, has seen his ratings plummet following a series of gaffes.

# Myanmar Opposition calls for national uprising

ASSOCIATED PRESS BANGKOK

The main underground group coordinating resistance to Myanmar's military government issued a sweeping call for a nationwide uprising on Tuesday, raising the prospect of spiralling unrest.

The National Unity Government, which views itself as a shadow government, was established by elected legislators who were barred from taking their seats when the military seized power in February.

The group's acting President Duwa Lashi La declared what he called a "state of emergency" and

called for revolt "in every village, town and city in the entire country at the same time". A video of his speech was posted on Facebook.

Some 1,000 civilians have been killed in the seven months of clashes that followed the army takeover.

A spokesman for the ruling military downplayed the call for renewed protests.

The shadow government's Prime Minister, Mahn Winn Khaing Thann, said in a separate statement posted online that the new move was taken due to "changing circumstances" that required the complete abolition of the ruling military government.

# Venezuela political rivals narrow differences at talks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MEXICO CITY

Venezuela's government and opposition on Monday found common ground on two fronts, including the country's pandemic response, in a tentative step towards ending a long-standing political crisis.

The signing of two "partial agreements" came after representatives of President Nicolas Maduro and Opposition leader Juan Guaido held four days of talks in Mexico City mediated by Norway.

They agreed to meet again on September 24 to 27, with the key issues of elections and sanctions still

to be resolved. The accords involve social protection — including dealing with the coronavirus — and Venezuela's stance on a disputed border area controlled by Guyana.

## Fighting the pandemic

"The parties agreed to establish mechanisms for restoring and obtaining resources to meet the needs of the COVID-19 pandemic, including those from multilateral organisations," a joint statement said.

That includes drawing on funds from the International Monetary Fund, head government negotiator Jorge Rodriguez said.

## APPOINTMENT

**Vacancy Advertisement Reference No: 2021/01**

**APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of following positions (contractual):**

- Deputy Manager (Client Acquisition)
- Assistant Manager (Commercial & Regulatory Affairs)
- Assistant Manager (Customer Relations)

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## HITES

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**NOTICE INVITING BID**

Bids are invited from eligible architects for Providing Design/ Architectural Consultancy Services for Construction of PGIMER Satellite Centre, Ferozepur, Punjab, a 100 Bedded Hospital with allied services and facilities to be executed on EPC basis:

Estimated Cost	Cost of RFP/ Bid Document	Last Date to submit Bids
Rs. 220 Cr.	Rs. 5,900.00 inclusive of GST	29.09.2021 up to 15:00 Hrs

For details, please visit CPP portal [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in). Vice President (ID), HITES

### KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Deputy Engineer, Electrical Circle, VB, Thrissur.  
**E-Tender ID\_2021\_KSEB\_437911\_1.**  
**PAC - Rs.4,31,28,000/-, Last date -24.09.2021 - 4 pm.**  
 Office of the Chief Engineer, Civil (I&CC) Pattom, Tvm  
**E-Tender ID\_2021\_KSEB\_437268\_1.**  
**PAC - Rs.117.33 crores, Last date -20.10.2021 - 5 pm.**  
 Visit [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) and [www.kseb.in](http://www.kseb.in)  
 Ref: PR/MC1/E306/E-Tender/2021

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 Phone: 0265-2334751 [www.guvnl.com](http://www.guvnl.com)

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

GUVNL invites e-tender for purchase of 500 MW RTC power for the period 01-10-2021 to 31-12-2021 at GETCO periphery (interconnection point of Gujarat STU with CTU) as per Ministry of Power (MoP), Govt. of India Guidelines dated 30th March-2016. RFP will be available at [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com) from 08-09-2021. Bid has to be submitted online through DEEP portal of MoP. All terms and conditions shall be as per RFP.

**Date:08-09-2021 General Manager (Commerce)**

### CSIR-CENTRAL BUILDING RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ROORKEE-247667

**Advertisement No. Estt./2021/03**  
**Closing date : 24.09.2021**

CSIR-CBRI intends to appoint 2 Consultants (Retired/Serving) Civil Engineers having expertise in the area of preparation of bid document, tendering process, construction, supervision of buildings, reporting, monitoring progress, preparation of project completion report proficiency in Govt. of India projects on contract basis for a period of One Year which may be extended till the duration of the project at Kathmandu, Nepal on fixed remuneration of Rs. 75,000/- P.M. (Emoluments will be paid in Indian Currency in India). For details regarding eligibility criteria mode of interview and terms and Conditions etc may please visit CBRI website <http://cbri.res.in>

**Sr. Controller of Administration**

### Development (Renovation / Improvement and O&M) of Hotel at Vadnagar

**Components :** Hotel with facilities equivalent to 3 (three) star or above category, Restaurants, Garden / Party Lawn and support infrastructure

**Key Features:**

- Proximity to places of Tourist Interest, Railway Station and Bus Depot.
- Various projects under Central Government and State Government. Schemes are completed / being implemented
- Recently upgraded Hotel and Long-Term Concession Period

RFP Document can be downloaded from <https://www.nprocure.com> & <https://www.gujaratourism.com>, 08/09/2021 onwards. The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on 22/09/2021. For any further details, interested Bidders may contact Mr. M. S. Joshi at [msjoshi@gujaratourism.com](mailto:msjoshi@gujaratourism.com).

### AMARAVATI METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Lenin Centre, Governorpet, Vijayawada - 520 002 (A.P.)

#### E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE (Second Call)

**Tender cum Reverse Auctioning or Reverse Tendering**

NT: 10/2021 MAUG-1/USHB/BG/19/2021-HB/2nd call dated: 07.09.2021  
 Name of Work: Construction of 3-3 Floors building for accommodating 14 court halls; chambers with approximate BUA of 76,000 Sqft with foundation of G+5 Stories with RC column frame structure, Architectural Finishes, MEP services, Lifts and other ancillary works including Two Years Defect Liability Period at AP High Court premises, Nalapatu, Andhra Pradesh. \* Tender cum reverse Auction/Reverse Tendering. ECV- Rs.29.40 Crores.

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 13.09.2021 to 29.09.2021 up to 14:00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid 29.09.2021 up to 15:00 Hrs. Pre-Qualification stage opening 29.09.2021 at 16:00 Hrs. For further details please refer to [www.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.approcurement.gov.in) and <https://crda.ap.gov.in/>

Sd/- Metropolitan Commissioner, AMRDA, Vijayawada

### BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division, J.C. Nagara Main Road, Bengaluru

**No: EE/HBLTEND/PR/03/2020-21 Date: 06.09.2021**

### INVITATION FOR SHORT TENDERS (IFT)

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

Tender for the following works on Item rate basis are invited as **Standard Bid Document KW-4** by the Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division, BBMP, from the registered Contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD /KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Improvements to Culverts Rain Water Harvesting drain Improvement Works in HMT Layout Papanna Layout 5th Main Road and Surrounding Areas in Ward No-20 Ganganagara.	95.00
2.	Beautification to various places in Ward No-33.	100.00

**EMD (in ₹.)** **EMD Declaration Form**

**Calendar of Events:** (1) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **16.09.2021 at 3:00 pm** in the office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division, 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, J.C. Nagara Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru-32. (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of GOK from **15.09.2021**. (3) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **23.09.2021 upto 4:00 pm**. (4) Technical Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division on **24.09.2021 at 4:30 pm** if Possible. (5) Date of Opening of Financial Bid is on **27.09.2021 at 11:00 am** if possible. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division

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



## MARKET WATCH

	07-09-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,279	-0.03
US Dollar	73.42	-0.44
Gold	46,417	-0.18
Brent oil	71.79	-0.73

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	745.50	-5.70
Asian Paints	336.25	-0.70
Axis Bank	787.85	-12.95
Bajaj Auto	3770.70	-10.40
Bajaj Finserv	16781.20	-34.20
Bajaj Finance	7457.30	-49.05
Bharti Airtel	670.55	15.95
BPCL	481.95	-8.85
Britannia Ind	4095.45	16.40
Cipla	950.50	0.30
Coal India	147.20	0.85
Divis Lab	5210.10	5.00
Dr Reddys Lab	4897.45	-18.50
Eicher Motors	2823.15	-21.75
Grasim Ind	1554.45	23.45
HCL Tech	1182.20	-17.95
HDFC	2837.00	71.70
HDFC Bank	1569.25	3.55
HDFC Life	734.25	-1.80
Hero MotoCorp	2797.75	-19.45
Hindalco	462.30	-6.95
Hind Unilever	2777.70	-2.90
ICICI Bank	716.90	-4.25
Infosys	1706.65	-23.75
Indian Oil Corp	111.85	0.25
ITC	211.75	2.45
JSW Steel	683.80	-2.85
Kotak Bank	1764.85	-9.70
L&T	1681.70	-12.50
M&M	753.10	-1.65
Maruti Suzuki	6877.15	30.25
Nestle India Ltd.	20368.45	145.25
NTPC	115.85	-0.60
ONGC	119.95	-1.70
PowerGrid Corp	173.00	-1.10
Reliance Ind	2440.90	15.30
SBI Life	1238.75	-5.90
State Bank	429.10	-1.95
Shree Cement	30653.60	118.05
Sun Pharma	769.90	-14.35
Tata Consumer	868.30	-1.75
Tata Motors	294.60	-2.85
Tata Steel	1428.70	-8.30
TCS	3815.90	-36.10
Tech Mahindra	1435.20	-25.95
Titan	2033.90	13.25
UltraTech Cement	8026.25	73.65
UPL	752.05	-3.70
Wipro	674.25	-12.20

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.22	73.54
Euro	86.90	87.31
British Pound	100.97	101.42
Japanese Yen (100)	66.59	66.88
Chinese Yuan	11.33	11.38
Swiss Franc	80.11	80.46
Singapore Dollar	54.44	54.69
Canadian Dollar	58.16	58.44
Malaysian Ringgit	17.62	17.70

## IN BRIEF



## Dr. Reddy's drug to treat female pattern hair loss

**HYDERABAD**  
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has introduced Minoxidil topical solution USP 2% and 5%, a prescription drug for the treatment of female pattern hair loss, following approval of an additional indication by CDSCO. It is approved for treatment of male pattern baldness, the firm said.

## Zoho to invest ₹35 cr. in MRI technology start-up

**CHENNAI**  
Zoho Corp will be investing ₹35 crore in MRI technology start-up VoxelGrids in two tranches in 18 months and pick up 25% stake over two years. "Our mission is to invest in critical technology know-how in the country," said Sridhar Vembu, CEO and co-founder, Zoho Corp. "This (investment) fits very well with the mission."

## 'Govt. mulls allowing local sales by SEZ units sans import tag'

'Centre also reviewing exclusion of EOUs, SEZs from RoDTEP tax refund scheme'

VIKAS DHOOT  
NEW DELHI

The government is considering a proposal to allow producers in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to sell their output to the domestic market without treating them as imports. It is also reviewing the exclusion of export-oriented units (EOUs) and SEZs from the recently notified tax refund scheme for exports.

Commerce Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam has also assured the Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs (EPCES) of a resolution of the massive container shortages afflicting exports at a meeting on Monday, EPCES chairman Bhuvnesh Seth told *The Hindu*.

## Centre assures 'balanced' step on e-com rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The government will take a "balanced" approach while finalising the amendments proposed to the Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Rules as "wide and varied" comments have been received from stakeholders, a top official said on Tuesday.

"We have received a lot of suggestions," Consumer Affairs Secretary Leena Nandan said.

"It would be difficult to give a timeline as many suggestions have come and all of them require deliberations and discussions. But it is certainly work in progress," the Secretary told mediapersons.



Seeking parity: EPCES wants similar treatment for units making the same item for the same customer. \* KOMMURI SRINIVAS

du. He said freight rates and input costs had risen, but SEZ and EOU units had not been given benefits under the Remission of Taxes and Duties on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme. Stressing

that SEZs are governed by an Act of Parliament, not a scheme, and most benefits that were offered to units in these zones had expired, including the erstwhile export incentive schemes for mer-

## 'Crypto is not currency, must regulate it as asset'

'It lacks the basic element of legal tender'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Former RBI deputy governor R. Gandhi on Tuesday made a case for treating and regulating crypto as a separate asset class with a view to enabling governments around the world to effectively deal with illegal activities associated with virtual currencies.

After quite a lot of debate over the years, people have fully understood that crypto cannot be a currency because the fundamental element of a currency — that it should be a legal tender — is missing in this case, Mr. Gandhi said.

The former deputy governor said that in this case,



R. Gandhi

one cannot compel a cryptocurrency to be accepted by another person as it is not a legal tender. The general consensus among many policymakers is that it should be deemed as an asset, not as a currency, not as a payment instrument and not as a financial instrument as there is no clear identified issuer, Mr. Gandhi said.

chandise and services (MEIS and SEIS), the EPCES has urged the Centre to bring them under the RoDTEP.

"It will be absolutely harsh on industry when you start distinguishing the units producing the same thing approaching the same overseas customer, just because they're located in an SEZ or outside. For an export market, a 4%-5% difference in price matters," Mr. Seth said. "With the MEIS gone, it is a double whammy for SEZs ... if SEZs are not given the scheme, it will be against the AatmaNirbhar Bharat programme, because then, SEZ units are incentivised to import rather than procure domestically," he added.

## El Salvador adopts bitcoin as legal tender

REUTERS  
SAN SALVADOR

El Salvador on Tuesday became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender, a real-world experiment proponents say will lower commission costs for billions of dollars sent home from abroad but which critics warned may fuel money laundering.

The plan spearheaded by President Nayib Bukele is aimed at allowing Salvadorans to save on \$400 million spent annually in commissions for remittances, mostly sent from the U.S. Last year alone, remittances to El Salvador amounted to almost \$6 billion, or 23% of its GDP, one of the highest ratios in the world.

## Auto sales may be lacklustre this festival season: FADA

'PVs face supply issues, two-wheelers may see low demand'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Even as total retail sales of vehicles grew 14.5% to more than 13.48 lakh units in August, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) has warned of a 'lacklustre festive season' with passenger vehicles witnessing demand-supply mismatch and two-wheelers facing a demand crunch.

As per data from FADA, retail sales of passenger vehicles (PV) grew close to 39% to 2.53 lakh units, while two-wheeler sales rose 7% to 9.76 lakh. Commercial vehicles almost doubled to 53,150 units from 26,851. Sales of three-wheelers and tractors rose 80% to 30,410 units and



5.5% to 71,737, respectively.

"With OEMs cutting down production due to unavailability of semiconductors and ABS chips... shortage of containers and high metal prices, customers for the first time may not get a vehicle of their choice and lucrative schemes during this festive season," FADA said.

It added that the "ultra-frequent" price increases

was also keeping entry-level buyers at bay. "Customers, especially at the bottom of the pyramid, are shifting their priority... saving instead of spending," it added. This, it said, may impact two-wheeler demand.

"Every dealer by now starts planning for a bigger offtake in anticipation of a bumper festive season, but due to supply issues, inventory levels are at their lowest" this year, said FADA president Vinayak Gulati. "The two-wheeler market is highly price sensitive. With multiple price hikes, increased fuel cost, coupled with educational institutions remaining closed, the impact could be" on the segment, he said.

## Outlook remains 'stable' for banking, says Ind-Ra

Warns of more stress in retail, MSME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Domestic ratings agency India Ratings on Tuesday maintained a 'stable' outlook on the banking sector for FY22. It also said it expected an increase in stressed assets in the retail and MSME segments by end-March.

Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of the banking sector are estimated at 8.6% and stressed assets at 10.3% for FY22, the agency said in its mid-year outlook for banks, released on Tuesday.

Banks will continue to strengthen their financials by raising capital and adding to provision buffers which have already seen a

sharp increase in the last three to four years, it added.

It estimated that the asset quality impact in the retail segment had been higher for private banks with a median rise of more than 100% in gross NPAs over Q1 FY21 to Q1 FY22, and about 45% for public sector banks.

Ind-Ra said the MSME sector had been under pressure with demonetisation, introduction of GST and RERA, the slowing down of business at large corporates and now COVID-19.

Gross NPAs for MSMEs are expected to increase to 13.1% by end-FY22, from 9.9% in FY21. Stressed assets would likely increase to 15.6%, from 11.7%.

## EID Parry to set up ₹92.5 cr. distillery in AP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

EID Parry India Ltd. has announced the setting up of a 120 kilo litre per day capacity distillery at its Sankili unit in Andhra Pradesh.

On Tuesday, the board approved the ₹92.5 crore project. The investment cost would be met through borrowings, the company said in a regulatory filing.

The distillery would utilise sugarcane juice or syrup as principal feedstock during the crushing season. Grains like broken rice or maize would be used during off season to manufacture ethanol, which would have assured offtake from oil marketing firms, the company said.

## TVS Motor, ETGL ally for distribution in S. Africa

Partner to operate 30 dealerships

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

TVS Motor Company Ltd. has appointed ETG Logistics (ETGL) as its distribution partner in South Africa, strengthening its presence in the country.

ETGL is a division of ETG (Export Trading Group) — a global conglomerate present in 48 countries with expertise across industries.

The company will operate 30 dealerships for TVSM in South Africa as part of this partnership, TVS Motor said in a statement.

ETGL will also support TVS Motor with dedicated sales, service, spares and customer relationship management, including the as-

sembly setup and training centre in Johannesburg.

"We are delighted to partner with the reputed global conglomerate, ETGL, to expand our presence in South Africa," said R. Dilip, president, International Business, TVS Motor.

## 'Key market'

"South Africa is an important market for us, and ETGL's extensive distribution network, along with our shared ethos and values, makes them the ideal strategic partner," he added. TVS Motor is planning to unveil the TVS Apache series, TVS HLX series, TVS NTORQ 125 and TVS Dura-max Cargo in South Africa.

## 'Indian firms to give 9.4% pay raise in '22'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Notwithstanding the second wave of COVID-19 hitting the nation hard, Indian organisations have displayed resilience, and the salary increment is being projected to grow from an average of 8.8% this year to an estimated average of 9.4% in 2022, according to a survey by Aon.

According to the Aon's 26th Annual Salary Increase Survey which was released on Tuesday, most businesses have an optimistic view going into 2022, with 98.9% of the companies intending to give salary increases in 2022, as compared with 97.5% companies in 2021.

## Screening tech firm Smiths Detection mulls unit in India

To unveil device to detect airborne aerosols of SARS-CoV-2

LALATENDU MISHRA  
MUMBAI

Smiths Detection, a global leader in detection and screening technologies for protection of people and assets, is exploring the possibility of establishing a manufacturing base in India to support global operations, a top company executive said.

"All our group divisions are identifying synergies with the Indian government's initiative," said Vikrant Trilokekar, managing director, Smiths Detection India Pvt. Ltd.

"Various possibilities are being evaluated, but Smiths understands that long-term



success hinges on manufacturing facilities in this country," he added.

The company said it was also gearing up to introduce BioFlash, a device it had developed to deal with biological threats such as COVID-19, in India.

BioFlash is a bio-aerosol

collection system that uses Canary technology along with aerosol collection techniques to provide a low-risk, cost-effective biological sampling and identification solution for environmental monitoring.

"The product has been tested and used in the U.S.," Mr. Trilokekar said.

"In India, it is available for demonstration purposes and can be used at a variety of places like government buildings, hotels and other important locations. It does not require a laboratory interpretation," he added.

The company, however, is yet to reveal the price.

## IndiaRF to invest ₹615 cr. in Setco Group

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

India Resurgence Fund (IndiaRF), promoted by Piramal Enterprises Ltd. and Bain Capital Credit, along with affiliates, has announced an investment of up to ₹615 crore in Gujarat-based Setco Group, a maker of auto components.

As part of the transaction, Setco Automotive will transfer its clutch business into a subsidiary, Setco Auto Systems Private Ltd. (SASPL), in which IndiaRF will invest through a senior debt facility and pick up 35% equity stake.

"The proceeds will be used for growth capital and working capital," IndiaRF said in a statement.

## SPORT

## Kohli's team might be India's best ever; has the results to show for it

That 36 in Adelaide and 78 in Leeds highlight the temperament of players who can let bygones be bygones and remember only the good times



## BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

India's current team might be their greatest ever. They won the last two series in Australia and could win their first in England since 2007. In the 'golden age' — the Sachin Tendulkar era — India won two Tests in Australia and two in England. They have now matched that record in less than a year.

Great teams must have the record to show for it. Other factors often enter the calculation too — impressive individual performances, manner of wins, consistency, ability to defend, even aesthetic elements. But in the end, the numbers matter, and this team has done enough in recent years to qualify as India's best in nearly nine decades of Test cricket.

There was a phase, 2002-2004, when India won Tests at Port of Spain, Leeds, Adelaide, Multan and Rawalpindi. But only in Pakistan did they win the series. That team had everything — the world's best batsman in Tendulkar, opener Virender Sehwag, a middle order comprising Rahul Dravid, V.V.S. Laxman, Sourav Ganguly — veteran writer David Frith thought this might be the finest line-up in the history of the game — and Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Javagal Srinath.

There was both heft and elegance, a rare combination. Variety too. And yet, the combinations lacked the series wins abroad to show for all their power and range. The odd wins were celebrated, of course, as were the stunning individual performances.

But in retrospect, that team did not live up to potential. This is one of the ironies of Indian cricket — that their most celebrated team did not dominate as they should have.

With the exception of Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah, the current team lacks the authority of the earlier one. It

doesn't matter. There is no Laxman who made on-lookers weep for the beauty of his batsmanship or a Tendulkar who made the opposition weep. No left-armers with the cunning of Zaheer. None of this matters, for it has steel. Again, Kohli apart, there is no player yet who is an automatic selection in an all-time squad, a fantasy team studded with players from the Tendulkar generation.

## Team with a heart

What this team has is heart. Put into bat and down 127 for seven on the opening day at the Oval, they are pushed to the wall. But with amazing insouciance they wipe the writing off it. In the four victories in Australia and England, only one bowler, Mohammed Siraj, had a five-wicket haul. The wickets have been well shared. There have been only three centuries, and twice India have bounced back after being dismissed for under 100.

That 36 in Adelaide and 78 in Leeds serve to highlight the temperament of players who can let bygones be bygones and remember only the good times. It is

a rare quality in an individual, even rarer in a team. In the past, Indian teams always had a couple of outstanding individuals on whom everything rested. When Sunil Gavaskar was dismissed, that was half the team gone. If the great spinners were collared, there was no one to turn to till Kapil Dev came along, and if he had a bad day, that was that.

For the first time, Indians can rejig an old ditty and say, 'If Bumrah doesn't get you, Shami must'. Or sit back assured that someone will make a significant score. And their most successful bowler hasn't played yet!

In the 1960s, India won only one series abroad, in New Zealand. That helped consolidate India's biggest strength: spin bowling. That most romanticised generation led by a Nawab, with its essentially amateur spirit was necessary. Just as necessary was the one represented by Tendulkar, when India performed with greater consistency.

All this before this Kohli-led bunch of professionals could emerge. When India first became No. 1 in 2009, they had not won a series in Australia, South Africa or

Sri Lanka. Now only South Africa remain; India play three Tests there come December.

We often bestow greatness only in retrospect; yesterday's players become larger, their reputations grow as they get further embedded into history. It is one of cricket's conceits that numbers do not matter, that a well-made 37 is greater than a scratchy century, whatever its impact on the game.

But even fathers who tell their sons the players of their generation were great, were unwilling to admit this when they were actually playing.

## True greatness a fantasy

Perhaps this is because true greatness is a fantasy in the mind, not a reality on television. With time you 'remember' things that never happened; the stories gain by repetition and myth-making takes over. False memory makes more sporting heroes than we care to admit.

In the future, we might be talking of this team led by Kohli as India's greatest. We are merely saving time here by saying this in advance.

## Ramkumar in second round

SPORTS BUREAU  
CASSIS (FRANCE)

Qualifier Ramkumar Ramanathan beat Ernests Gulbis of Latvia 6-3, 0-6, 6-2 to reach the second round of the €44,820 Challenger tennis on Tuesday. In another Challenger, sixth seed Sumit Nagal beat Nicolas Alvarez of Peru 6-1, 6-2 to reach the second round.

The results: **€44,820 Challenger, Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina:** Sumit Nagal bt Nicolas Alvarez (Per) 6-1, 6-2.

**€15,000 ITF men, Cairo, Egypt:** Louis Tessa (Fra) & Rishab Agarwal bt Kritinn Koaykul (Tha) & Atharva Sharma 6-3, 6-3; Marlon Vankan (Ger) & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Vladislav Ivanov (Rus) & Maxime Uzhylkovskyi (Ukr) 5-7, 6-4, [12-10].



# 'Lord Shardul' — India's game-changing disruptor

I thought his was a match-winning effort and he deserved the Player-of-the-match award, says Rohit

**INDIA IN ENG**  
REUTERS LONDON  
Rohit Sharma took the 'Man-of-the-Match' award and Jasprit Bumrah produced what pundits called the "spell of the summer", but Shardul Thakur's role was no less important in fashioning India's victory in the fourth Test against England on Monday.

The team, led by Virat Kohli, produced a bowling masterclass on a flat deck at The Oval to prevail by 157 runs and go 2-1 up in the five-Test series.

'Man-of-the-Match' as well for the performance he put," Rohit said after collecting his award.  
Put in to bat, India was 127 for seven when No. 8 batsman Shardul launched a spectacular counter-attack to top-score for his side with 57.  
The 36-ball blitz not only lent respectability to the Indian total but also lifted the morale of a team which had been let down by its frontline batsmen.  
With the ball in hand, the seamer dismissed Ollie Pope, whose 81 was the highest in England's first innings.  
Shardul made a breezy 60 in the second innings and claimed two vital wickets to clear the path for India's victory.  
Chasing 368, England was cruising at 100 for no loss when Shardul dismissed Rory Burns to break the stand.  
The 29-year-old, dubbed "Lord Shardul" by fans on so-

cial media, effectively sealed the match when he dismissed England's in-form captain Joe Root for 36.

**Impact performance**  
"If you look at the impact performance we were looking for from the lower middle-order, I think what Shardul has done in this game will be remembered for a long time," Kohli said.

■ Shardul made a half-century in both innings and also took the wicket of Root in England's second innings

**Shardul's Test numbers**

**Batting**  
190 runs, six innings, HS 67, three fifties

**Bowling**  
14 wickets, seven innings, BBI 4/61, BBM 7/155



Calling the shots: Shardul Thakur's assurance at the crease and vital strikes with the ball played a big part in India's win in the fourth Test. • AP

## Buttler and Leach in team for fifth Test

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON  
England on Tuesday recalled left-arm spinner Jack Leach and wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler to the squad for the final Test against India as the home team seeks to level the five-match series.  
The hosts trail 2-1 after their 157-run defeat at the Oval ahead of Friday's decider at Old Trafford but head coach Chris Silverwood has made only minor alterations to his squad.



Jack Leach. • FILE PHOTO

**Second spin option**  
Leach, who gives England a second spin option alongside off-spinning all-rounder Moeen Ali, has not played a Test since March despite taking 28 Test wickets in six matches on tours of Sri Lanka and India.  
Buttler missed the fourth Test to attend the arrival of his second child but is ready to return and, if he reclaims

his place as vice-captain, there may only be room for one of Jonny Bairstow or Ollie Pope.  
**The squad:** Joe Root (Capt.), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow (wk), Rory Burns, Jos Buttler (wk), Sam Curran, Haseeb Hameed, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, David Malan, Craig Overton, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood.

## Shardul set to make T20 WC squad

Shreyas in line for recall after injury; selectors likely to meet today

AMOL KARHADKAR MUMBAI  
Thanks to his recent exploits in England, Shardul Thakur is virtually assured of a place in India's squad for the T20 World Cup, to be played in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from October 17 to November 14.  
The national selection panel, headed by former India pacer Chetan Sharma, is likely to pick the squad for the marquee event on Wednesday. Shardul's consistent performances in the Test series in England — both with ball and willow — have given the selectors a ready-made option in the pace-bowling all-rounders' department.  
The department is an area of concern, with Hardik Pandya's back injury restricting his ability to bowl regularly. Shardul, who has proven himself as a handy bowler in the middle overs in T20s, will provide much-needed back-

up. It will be interesting to see how many stand-bys the selectors decide to pick.  
The International Cricket Council, because of the pandemic, has put a cap of 30 individuals on the travelling contingent, which includes the 15-member squad.  
With India's support staff extending to 16 or 17 members in the recent past, the selectors and the team management will have to decide whether the team requires more than three stand-bys.  
While Shreyas Iyer is set to be included in the squad after having recovered from the shoulder injury he suffered during the home series against England in March, it will be interesting whether the selectors consider Washington Sundar.  
Washington is understood to have recovered from the finger fracture he suffered in England but will not feature in the IPL.



In the fray: Shreyas is expected to don the India colours again.

## Root wary of Anderson's workload

It's a delicate balancing act, says England skipper

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON  
Joe Root said England must carefully manage James Anderson's workload as it tries to avoid a series defeat by India in the fifth Test at Old Trafford starting on Friday.  
England great Anderson bowled 47 overs for just two wickets during a 157-run loss in the fourth Test at the Oval and sent down 33 overs during India's second innings alone, which lasted more than 11 hours.  
The 39-year-old pacer's heavy workload after playing in four back-to-back Tests has prompted concern about his fitness and ability to lead England's attack at his Manchester home ground, with the hosts 2-1 down in a five-match series.  
And with a tour of Australia on the horizon, England will want the experience of Test cricket's most successful fast bowler when trying



Straining every sinew: Anderson bowled 47 overs in the fourth Test at The Oval. • AFP

to regain the Ashes 'Down Under'.  
"You have to weigh everything up and take everything into account to make sure physically he (Anderson) is in the right place and feels he can get through it," said England captain Root

after Monday's emphatic reverse. If he goes down injured, it leaves us in a difficult place for the rest of the game and for the winter," he added.  
"Ultimately, we've got to find a way of winning — it's a delicate balancing act."

## Shafali retains top spot in T20I rankings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI  
Indian teen star Shafali Verma maintained her number one position among women's T20 batters while New Zealand's Sophie Devine is the new joint top-ranked all-rounder in the latest ICC rankings issued on Tuesday.  
Shafali held on to her top rank with 759 ranking points, ahead of Australian Beth Mooney (744) and India T20 vice-captain Smriti Mandhana (716).  
Other gainers in the all-rounders rankings include India's Deepti Sharma, Australia's Ellyse Perry and West Indies' Hayley Matthews, who all jumped a spot to reach No. 4, 5 and 6 respectively.  
Deepti Sharma also moved up to No. 6 among the bowlers while Poonam Yadav remained at eighth.

## Compensation package on apex council agenda

Sept. 20 meeting to discuss working group's proposals for COVID-hit domestic season

AMOL KARHADKAR MUMBAI  
The much-delayed compensation package for the domestic cricket season curtailed by the pandemic is set to be discussed during the BCCI's apex council meeting on September 20.  
The issue is listed third on the meeting's agenda. "Discussion on compensation to be given to First Class cricketers (men and women) for the 2020-21 season," states

the agenda, accessed by *The Hindu*. The agenda also lists an "update" on the upcoming domestic season, which is to be discussed.  
**Working group meeting**  
*The Hindu* understands that BCCI secretary Jay Shah convened a meeting of the seven-member working group that had been formed to discuss domestic cricket last week. It is learnt that all seven members expressed

their views and asked the office-bearers to devise the best possible mechanism for compensation.  
Since the COVID-19 outbreak resulted in the suspension of the Ranji Trophy, one of the options suggested was to compensate cricketers half of the average Ranji Trophy fees. A similar mechanism was also discussed for age-group and women cricketers. However, finalising the list of cricketers to be

benefit is the biggest challenge, which could be put forward to the apex council.  
The apex council is also set to discuss the international home season for 2021-22. New Zealand is scheduled to tour India for two Tests and three T20Is, with the Tests being a part of the World Test Championship, in November-December. The detailed itinerary, including venues, could be finalised by the apex council.

■ The council is also set to discuss the international home season for 2021-22



Theekshana... what a debut! • GETTY IMAGES

## Theekshana spins it Lanka's way in final ODI

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE COLOMBO  
Debutant off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana spun a web around the South Africa batsmen as Sri Lanka won the third ODI by 78 runs to clinch the three-match series 2-1 on Tuesday.  
The Proteas lost four wickets within the first 10 overs while chasing a modest target of 204 and were bowled out for 125 in 30 overs.  
The early damage was

done by seamer Dushmantha Chameera, who accounted for Reeza Hendricks (1) and Rassie van der Dussen (5) before spinners Theekshana (four for 37) and Wanindu Hasaranga (two for 32) brought a swift end to the South African reply.  
**The scores:** Sri Lanka 203/9 in 50 overs (Charith Asalanka 47, Dhananjaya de Silva 31, Keshav Maharaj 3/38) bt South Africa 125 in 30 overs (Maheesh Theekshana 4/37).

## Raducanu's dream run continues, Sakkari stops Andreescu

British teenager thrashes Rogers; Djokovic made to sweat by Brooksby

**US OPEN**  
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE NEW YORK  
British teen Emma Raducanu matched the deepest run by any qualifier in US Open history on Monday, rolling into the quarterfinals and mastering the nervy atmosphere of Arthur Ashe Stadium at the US Open.  
The 18-year-old defeated American Shelby Rogers 6-2, 6-1 and had US Open fans cheering her over a home-nation heroine as she booked a last-eight date with Swiss 11th seed Belinda Bencic.  
Raducanu, the Canada-born daughter of a Chinese mother and Romanian father, made her WTA debut in June and her Grand Slam debut with a fourth-round run at Wimbledon after a long lay-off in the COVID-19 pandemic.  
"I'm super appreciative of the moment," Raducanu said. "To be here in the US Open quarterfinals after not playing for 18 months is absolutely just incredible."

Virginia Wade, the 1968 US Open champion and most recent British woman to capture the New York title, was cheering on Raducanu from the stands.  
**Marathon**  
Maria Sakkari, the No. 17 seed, made it to her first US Open quarterfinal after halting Bianca Andreescu's 10-match winning streak in New York with a thrilling 6-7(2), 7-6(6), 6-3 result.  
The match lasted three hours and 30 minutes, setting a new US Open record for the latest finish of a women's singles match.  
Sakkari, 26, now has nine top 20 wins this season, including a straight-sets win over 10th seed Petra Kvitova in the third round.  
In men's action, Russian second seed Daniil Medvedev advanced to the semifinals on Tuesday, defeating 117th-ranked Dutch qualifier Botić Van de Zandschulp 6-3, 6-0, 4-6, 7-5.  
On Monday, Novak Djokovic struggled but advanced within three matches

of completing the first men's singles calendar-year Grand Slam in 52 years by outlasting American Jenson Brooksby.  
Djokovic rallied past 99th-ranked Brooksby 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.  
**The quarterfinal match-ups:**  
**Men:** Djokovic vs Berrettini, Zverev vs Harris, Auger-Aliassime vs Alcaraz.  
**Women:** Sabalenka vs Krejčíková, Svitolina vs Fernandez, Belinda vs Raducanu, Pliskova vs Sakkari.  
**THE RESULTS**  
**Men: Quarterfinal:** 2-Medvedev (Rus) bt van de Zandschulp (Ned) 6-3, 6-0, 4-6, 7-5. **Fourth round:** Lloyd Harris (RSA) bt 22-Reilly Opelka (USA) 6-7(6), 6-4, 6-1, 6-3; 6-Matteo Berrettini (Ita) bt Oscar Otte (Ger) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Jenson Brooksby (USA) 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.  
**Women: Fourth round:** Emma Raducanu (GBR) bt Shelby Rogers (USA) 6-2, 6-1; 4-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) bt 14-Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Rus) 7-5, 6-4; 17-Maria Sakkari (Gre) bt 6-Bianca Andreescu (Can) 6-7(2), 7-6(6), 6-3.

**Who is Emma Raducanu?**

- Country: Great Britain
- Age: 18
- Born in Canada to a Romanian father and a Chinese mother. Her family moved to London when she was two
- Coach: Andrew Richardson

**WIMBLEDON**

- Reached the fourth round, becoming the youngest British woman to enter the last 16 at SW19 in the Open Era

**U.S. OPEN**

- Only the third qualifier in the Open Era after Barbara Gerken (1981) and Kaia Kanepi (2017) to reach the quarterfinals
- Youngest British player in 62 years to make the last eight
- Fewest games lost (15) by a woman en route the quarterfinals since Serena (13) in 2013

**Turned Pro:** 2018  
**Grand Slam debut:** 2021 Wimbledon

**Current ranking: 150**

Personally I am surprised that I'm here. I knew I was doing a lot of great work and it would pay off some day  
RADUCANU

COMPILED BY P. SATISH KUMAR

## Pele says apparent colon tumour removed

ASSOCIATED PRESS SAO PAULO  
Pele has had an apparent tumour on the right side of his colon removed in an operation.  
Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo said on Monday the 80-year-old football great is in an intensive care unit and will be transferred to a regular ward on Tuesday.  
The operation was a "great victory," Pele said on his social media channels on Monday.  
He went to the hospital for routine exams last week when the tumour was found.  
The hospital said in a statement the tumour was identified during routine cardiovascular and laboratory exams.  
It added it collected samples to be analysed for pathogens.  
"I thank God for feeling very well and for allowing Dr. Fábio and Dr. Miguel to take care of my health,"



Pele. • FILE PHOTO

Pele said.  
"Last Saturday I underwent surgery to remove a suspicious lesion in the right colon. The tumour was identified during the tests I mentioned last week.  
"Fortunately, I'm used to celebrating great victories alongside you.  
"I will face this match with a smile on my face, a lot of optimism and joy for living surrounded by the love of my family and friends."



TV PICKS

**US OPEN 2021:** SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)  
**WC 2022 Qualifiers:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Thursday)

IN BRIEF



**Ribery joins Salernitana**  
ROME  
Former France attacker Franck Ribery has joined Salernitana on a one-year deal, the promoted Serie A club said on Monday. Ribery, 38, had been a free agent since leaving Fiorentina at the end of last season and was welcomed at their Estadi Archi home in southern Italy by around a hundred supporters. AFP

COVID-19 concerns cancel Rally of Japan

PARIS  
The World Rally championship event in Japan, which was due to take place in mid-November, has been cancelled because of continuing problems with the coronavirus pandemic, the organisers announced on Tuesday. It is the second successive year that organisers have had to cancel the Rally Japan which was due to appear last year for the first time since 2010. The WRC said it would announce a replacement event shortly to conclude the season. AFP

Brazil-Argentina match: FIFA opens investigation

SAO PAULO  
World football's governing body FIFA has opened disciplinary proceedings into Sunday's World Cup qualifier between Brazil and Argentina, which was abandoned after five minutes amid farcical scenes. REUTERS

DELHI CRICKET

Verma stars for Rohtak Road Gymkhana

NEW DELHI  
Lakshya Verma's 104 stood out in Rohtak Road Gymkhana's seven-run triumph over Arbin Academy in the Push Academy (u-13) league.  
**The scores:** Rohtak Road Gymkhana: 208 in 38 overs (Lakshya Verma 104, Lavya Sekari 45, Virendra 4/39) bt Arbin Academy 201/3 in 40 overs (Sachin Maurya 74 n.o., Abeer Nagpal 47 n.o.).  
**Khursija, Shashank shine**  
Vansh Khursija and Shashank Gupta took Mishra Sports to a 10-wicket victory over Visvakarma Academy in the 15th Hari Chand memorial (u-17) tournament.  
**The scores:** Visvakarma Academy 91 in 27 overs (Gaurav Choudhary 3/19) lost to Mishra Sports 92 for no loss in nine overs (Vansh Khursija 51 n.o., Shashank Gupta 30 n.o.).

# Velavan and Tanvi triumph again

The champions earned their titles with similar scorelines

SQUASH

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
GREATER NOIDA

Velavan Senthilkumar and Tanvi Khanna won once again, asserting their supremacy in undisputed terms, in the HCL PSA Challenger squash tournament at the Shiv Nadar University on Tuesday.

Second seed Tanvi Khanna limped towards the end but executed an 11-7, 11-6, 11-9 victory over the top seed Sunayna Kuruvilla in the women's final.

Interestingly, Tanvi had beaten Sunayna 15-13 in the fifth game in the last final in Chennai. Tanvi capitalised on the two events at home after the pandemic to accumulate useful world ranking

points. "It has been absolutely amazing playing two challenger events. This was yet another crucial match against Sunayna and I thoroughly enjoyed playing against her at this stage," said Tanvi.

In the men's final, third seed Velavan was equally assertive in taming the fourth seed Abhishek Pradhan, who had ousted the top seed in the semifinals.

Velavan had a similar scoreline, winning 11-7, 11-6, 11-9, for his second triumph in the current series. He did not drop a game in the tournament and was a notch above the rest.

"These tournaments have helped me earn crucial PSA ranking points and improve my world rankings. Not just

the rankings, these tournaments have given me the confidence and the match play that I needed," said Velavan.

At the presentation, Rajat Chandolia, Marketing Head of HCL, said that the organisation was committed "to improving the squash ecosystem in the country and will continue work with SRFI to design and implement efforts in that direction."

The secretary general of the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) praised the Shiv Nadar University for being a "great host and providing an amazing squash venue."

**The results (finals): Men:** Velavan Senthilkumar bt Abhishek Pradhan 11-7, 11-6, 11-9.

**Women:** Tanvi Khanna bt Sunayna Kuruvilla 11-7, 11-6, 11-9.



**Total supremacy:** Velavan Senthilkumar and Tanvi Khanna beat Abhishek Pradhan and Sunayna Kuruvilla in the finals. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Tokyo Olympians set to skip Nationals

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The upcoming men's National boxing championship is unlikely to feature any of the five pugilists who competed at the Tokyo Olympics, ruling them out of contention for next month's Worlds in Serbia as well.

Amit Panghal (52kg), Manish Kaushik (63kg), Vikas Krishan (69kg), Ashish Chaudhary (75kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg) had competed at the Tokyo Games. All of them lost in the preliminary rounds barring Satish, who went down in the quarters.

Of these, Vikas, Satish and Ashish are nursing injuries and have withdrawn. There is no word yet on what Amit and Manish would do but a source said they might also

skip the tournament due to "lack of practice".

"They have opted out of the Nationals because they haven't been able to train well since coming back from Tokyo. One or two might still consider it closer to the tournament but in all likelihood, they wouldn't compete," a source close to the boxers said. The Nationals are due to be held from September 15.

The Boxing Federation of India has stated that only the gold-winners from the Nationals will make the squad for the world event scheduled to start on Oct. 26 in Belgrade.

# TTFI requests SAI to get Madhurika for the National camp

TABLE TENNIS

K. KEERTHIVASAN  
CHENNAI

India's top three women paddlers - Manika Batra, Suthirtha Mukherjee and Madhurika Patkar - are absent from the ongoing National table tennis camp at the Delhi Public School (Sonepat) for the Asian championships to be held in Doha from September 28 to October 5.

Ayhika Mukherjee, Archana Kamath and Sreeja Akula are the only high-profile names at the camp now.

With Manika refusing to take part and Suthirtha, India's second best, opting out due to 'personal' reasons, the TTFI has requested the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to get Madhurika for the camp along with Krittwi-



**Honing skills:** Ayhika, ranked fourth among the Indians, is the highest-profile women's player at the camp. \*FILE PHOTO

ka Sinha Roy and Takema Sarkar.

On the other hand, the Indian men's team will be in full strength in a few days' time. While Sharath Kamal, A. Amalraj, Sanil Shetty, and Manav Thakkar have been

training at Sonepat for the last few days, G. Sathiyam and Harmeet Desai are expected to join on September 9.

"We are training hard for the Asian event," Sharath told *The Hindu*.

# India favourite to finish on top of Group B

Begins its campaign against Egypt; each match to have six games

CHESS OLYMPIAD

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

India begins as the favourite to top the 10-team Group B when the league phase in the top division of the FIDE Online Chess Olympiad begins on Wednesday.

Seeded third

Having shared the title with Russia last year, India is one of the favourites. Led by Viswanathan Anand, India is seeded third behind China and Russia.

In the first phase of the league, 40 teams (25 seeds and 15 qualifiers) are placed in four groups of 10 teams. After the league, two teams from each group will qualify for the quarterfinals.

India and Azerbaijan are the rating favourites to occur-



**Strong presence:** Sarin and Pragganandhaa. \*FILE PHOTOS

py the two qualifying spots from the group. Hungary has reasons to fancy its chances. France, Sweden, Slovenia, Shenzhen China, Belarus, Egypt and Moldova are the other teams.

Each match will have six games featuring two men, two women, a junior boy and a junior girl. The time control is 15 minutes plus 5-second in-



crement per move. With Anand, P. Harikrishna, Vidit Gujrathi and B. Adhiban around, the top two boards appear well served. The presence of spearhead K. Humpy, D. Harika, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni offers good options on the two women boards. In Nihal Sarin and R. Pragganandhaa, India has a very

strong presence in junior boys. R. Vaishali, a reserve among women, will be India's first choice in junior girls, with debutant Savitha Shri as an option. IT major Microsense has come onboard to ensure there is no glitch in internet connectivity during matches. Moreover, the members of the Indian team have moved to a five-star hotel in Chennai. Harikrishna has chosen to travel from his residence in Prague. Similarly, Humpy and Harika too have opted to play from home.

On Wednesday, India begins its campaign against Egypt before taking on France and Sweden. **Top eight teams (as per average ratings):** 1. Russia (2596), 2. China (2592), 3. India (2491), 4. Poland (2455), 5. Kazakhstan (2446), 6. Netherlands (2434), 7. Azerbaijan (2431), 8. Germany (2427).

# Noguera and Devendra star for FC Goa

DURAND CUP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

FC Goa defeated Army Green 2-0 in a Group B match of the Durand Cup here on Tuesday.

Persistent rain made it difficult for the players and the ISL side took time to find its rhythm. Head coach Juan Ferrando fielded a side of young Indians and a single foreigner in an effort to assess the strength of the squad ahead of a gruelling season.

The Army side exploited Goa's early hesitancy to

create a few scoring opportunities in the first quarter. It, however, failed to convert any of them.

Goa started making meaningful forays late in the second quarter. It went ahead in the 35th minute when Makan Winkle Chothe's through pass saw Spain's Alberto Noguera find the target.

Devendra Murgaokar sealed the issue in the 59th minute, cashing in on substitute Romario Jesuraj's assist.

**The result:** FC Goa 2 (Alberto Noguera 35, Devendra Murgaokar 59) bt Army Green 0.

# Russell confirmed as Hamilton's new teammate

FORMULA ONE

AGENCIES  
LONDON

George Russell will race for Mercedes next season in an all-British line-up with seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton, the Formula One team said in a widely-expected announcement on Tuesday.

Russell, who is in his third season at Williams, will replace Finland's Valtteri Bottas whose move to Alfa Romeo was made official on Monday.

The 23-year-old will be Hamilton's first new teammate since Bottas, now 32, also joined from Williams to take



George Russell. \*FILE PHOTO

the place of retired 2016 world champion Nico Rosberg in 2017.

Mercedes has won the last seven drivers' and constructors' championships and is leading the current standings after 13 races, although Hamilton is three points behind Red Bull's Max Verstap-

pen. Hamilton, 36, has a contract for 2022 and 2023.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't absolutely buzzing. It's a huge opportunity and one I want to grab with both hands," said Russell.

"I've looked up to Lewis since I was in go-karts and the opportunity to learn from someone who has become a role model can only benefit me as a driver, a professional, and a human being."

Alpha Tauri retains Tsunoda, Gasly

Japanese youngster Yuki Tsunoda and Frenchman Pierre Gasly will stay at Alpha Tauri for the 2022 season, the

team announced on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old Tsunoda has impressed in his rookie season, winning 18 points with a best finish of sixth at the Hungarian GP.

Gasly has been with Alpha Tauri since joining in 2017, except for a short stint with sister team Red Bull in 2019.

Good relationship

"I have a very good relationship with Pierre. I have learnt a lot from him already this year and his experience has helped me to keep developing my own skills, so it's great to be continuing my F1 journey with him," said Tsunoda.

# UEFA lifts ban on fan travel

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NYON

Ahead of the Champions League group stage starting next week, UEFA cleared the way for away team fans to travel and attend games internationally.

UEFA cited vaccine programs across Europe for relaxing its rules.

The opening Champions League games on Sept. 14 include Bayern Munich playing at Barcelona and Manchester United visiting Young Boys. UEFA said teams still must verify the rules in place at national borders before travelling for an away game.

# Gained a lot of confidence from Tokyo show: Salima

Midfielder feels it will help the team produce better results in the future



**Making a mark:** The 19-year-old Salima says she is blessed to have received a chance to play in the Olympics. \*GETTY IMAGES

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Indian women's hockey team has gained a lot of confidence after the stellar display at the Tokyo Olympics, according to midfielder Salima Tete, who feels the side showed signs of a bright future despite not finishing on the podium.

The Rani Rampal-led team made history when it defeated three-time Olympic gold medalist Australia 1-0 in the last eight and played in its first-ever Olympics semifinal against Argentina.

"Our Tokyo performance is slowly starting to sink in now. We were really dejected when we lost to Great Britain in the bronze medal match, but now we are seeing the positives from the Games," Tete was quoted in a Hockey India release.

"We may not have won a medal, but we certainly gained a lot of confidence from the way we played in Tokyo and it's definitely going to help us to grow as a

team and produce much better results in the future," she added.

Attack

About the most important things that helped India perform exceedingly well at the Olympics, Tete said: "We always found a way to push the ball forward and attack our opponents. We created many goal-scoring opportunities and ensured that we utilised our penalty corners well. Also, we never gave up, no matter what the situation was."

The 19-year-old, who played an important role in India's brilliant performance at the Games, added that she felt blessed to have received an opportunity to play in the Olympics at a very young age.

"I have learned a lot by playing in high-pressure situations and I am certainly going to use it in upcoming competitions. One learns a lot when playing against the best and we are very happy with the way we gave a tough fight to each of our opponents."

# Gold for Payas, silver for Suhana


SPORTS BUREAU  
CHENNAI

India's Payas Jain and Suhana Saini bagged the gold and silver medal in the World Table Tennis (WTT) Youth Series tournaments held recently.

While Payas defeated Tom Fabian Schweig of Germany 5-11, 5-11, 11-7, 11-8 in the u-17 boys' final of the Youth Contender Otocec (Slovenia), Suhana lost to Bianca Mei Rosu of Romania 13-15, 6-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-3 in the u-15 girls' final of the WTT Youth Contender Varazdin (Croatia).



Payas Jain. \*FILE PHOTO





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