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parts of India and the rural

areas? There is a lack of un-

derstanding about the diver-

sity of the country, about the complexity of governance.

You cannot ask the same

thing, in one stroke of the

brush, for the entire coun-

try... Over 60% of the popu-

lation has taken one dose of

the vaccine, it is not for us

now to turn around and say

scrap that and go for door-

to-door vaccination." Justice

Chandrachud addressed the

counsel on the petitioner's



Centre informs SC NEW DELH

The Union government on Wednesday gave the Supreme Court the "good news" that it had taken a decision to allow women entry into the National Defence Academy. If this decision comes through formally on paper, women can prepare for a career in the armed forces after Class XII. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 8

Talks fail, farmers to intensify Karnal sit-in

GURUGRAM Leaders of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha on Wednesday announced their intention to strengthen the sit-in agitation outside the mini-secretariat in Karnal after another round of talks between the farmer leaders and the district administration failed. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 3



Amid protests, Centre hikes MSP for rabi crops

It will ensure maximum remunerative price for farmers: Modi

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

The government on Wednesday increased the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat for the upcoming rabi season to ₹2,015 per quintal, a 2% hike from the ₹1,975 per quintal rate of last year.

Oilseeds and pulses such as mustard, safflower and masoor dal saw higher MSP hikes of up to 8% in a bid to encourage crop diversification, a statement on the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs said.

The MSP is the rate at which the government purchases crops from farmers. Currently, rates are fixed for 23 crops, including six crops during the upcoming rabi or winter season for which sowing will begin in October.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the government had taken another big decision in the interest of farmers by increasing the MSPs of rabi crops. He said it would ensure maximum remunerative price for farmers and also encourage them for sowing operations.



Grain supply: A worker sorting wheat at a farm in Patiala.

Cabinet approves incentive scheme for textile sector

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday cleared an outlay of ₹10,683 crore on a production linked incentive scheme aimed at attracting fresh investments in the man-made fibre apparel, fabrics, and technical textiles sectors. The

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the decision was proof that the government was committed to the MSP sys-

The protesting farm unions under the Samyukt Ki-

scheme, which the government expects will help draw new investment of more than ₹19,000 crore, aiding in the creation of 7.5 lakh direct jobs, targets improving India's ability to compete in the global textiles market. ▶ PAGE 14

san Morcha pointed out that the rate of inflation was higher than the MSP hike for most crops, arguing that in real terms, the MSP for wheat has dropped 4%.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC rejects door-to-door vaccination plea

Can't ask govt. to scrap current drive, it says

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court shot down a petition to direct the government to immediately embark on a door-to-door COVID-19 vaccination policy, saying such pleas were a product of ignorance about the diversity of the country and complexity of governance.

A Bench, led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, asked Youth Bar Association of In-

At this stage, it's difficult to give a general direction considering the diversity of this country... We should not impinge upon the administrative power of the state to give vaccine. including door-to-door

dia, the petitioner, whether it wanted the court to direct the government to scrap its current vaccination drive when more than 60% of the population had already received at least one dose of

the path of door-to-door vaccination.

'Lack of understanding' "Do the same conditions prevail in Ladakh and Kera-

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

side.

la, or Uttar Pradesh? Are the challenges same in urban the vaccine and start down 1 dead, at least 35 missing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

One person died and at least 35 are missing after two ferries collided on the flooded Brahmaputra river off Neamatighat in Jorhat district of Assam on Wednesday.

The dead and the missing were on the smaller ferry, Maa Kamala, that capsized after the collision with the bigger vessel, Tipkai, around

Officials said 42 others on-



after ferries collide in Assam

NDRF personnel carrying out

board Maa Kamala, which had set sail from Neamatighat for Kamalabari ferry point in Majuli "island", either swam to safety or were rescued.

All passengers on Tipkai, which was en route to Neamatighat from Kamalabari, were rescued by the personnel of the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force .

Jorhat SP Ankur Jain said the rescued included seven children. A few were admitted to local hospitals, but a 28-year-old woman among them died.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8 **DETAILS** ▶ PAGE 5

T.N. Assembly urges Centre to repeal CAA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution urging the Centre to repeal the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. While the BJP walked out, its ally, the PMK, welcomed the resolution. AIADMK members were not present when the resolution was adopted as they had walked out over another issue.

⁺ Chirag Paswan calls on Tejashwi Yadav

Meeting stokes speculation over LJP and RJD forging an alliance in Bihar

AMARNATH TEWARY

Lok Janshakti Party leader and MP Chirag Paswan on Wednesday met Rashtriya Ja nata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav in Patna to invite him to the first death anniversary of his father and founder of the LJP, Ram Vilas Paswan.

The meeting triggered speculation over the forging of a new alliance in Bihar politics but Mr. Chirag said this was not "a moment to talk about politics".

When asked about RJD chief Lalu Prasad's earlier

Jharkhand



Chirag Paswan, right, with Tejashwi Yadav in Patna. •PTI

suggestion that both the young leaders should come together, Mr. Yadav told mediapersons: "We can't say

anything after what Lalu ji

'Close family ties' He added, "Late Ram Vilas Paswan ji had close family ties with Lalu ji."

Mr. Yadav also said, "I remember learning some of my early lessons in politics while campaigning with Paswan ji in the 2010 Assembly polls, which he had fought along with my father."

Mr. Chirag said he will go to Delhi on Thursday to meet Mr. Prasad. "Today, I have come to invite Tejashwi bhai

on the first death anniversary of my father, which is going to be held on September 12. Had my father been alive, he would have liked Lalu *ii* and his family to be part of any function taking place in my family... I'm just carrying forward the tradition."

Mr. Chirag has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to the event. He has also extended the invitation to his estranged uncle and Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras.

















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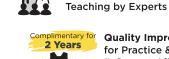
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Wednesday passed a Bill, which provides 75% reservation for locals in private sector jobs with a monthly salary of up to ₹40,000. Once notified, Jharkhand will become the third State, after Andhra Pradesh and Haryana, to pass such a law.

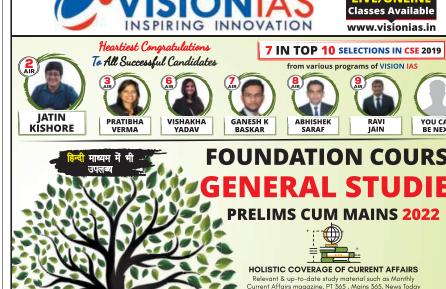
'The Jharkhand State Emwas later referred to a sixmember select committee.

was named 'The Jharkhand State Employment of Local Candidates in Private Sector Bill, 2021' and the monthly salary cap was increased from ₹30,000 to ₹40,000. "Every employer shall register such employees receiving gross monthly salary as wages not more than ₹40,000 as the limit notified by the government from

House clears Bill for 75% quota for locals SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT The Jharkhand Assembly on

ployment of Local Candidates Bill, 2021' was tabled in the House in March but

The committee, chaired by Labour Minister Satyanand Bhokta, amended the Bill with a few changes. It time to time on the designated portal," states the Bill.



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'Probe into media leak should be done by independent dept."

NEW DELHI

A Delhi riots accused on Wednesday alleged before the Delhi High Court that an internal enquiry conducted by the police into the leakage of sensitive information to media about the probe "yielded no results" and was an "eyewash" and the probe into it should be conducted independent an department.

Asif Iqbal Tanha, a student

chargesheeted in the Delhi riots conspiracy case told the court that sensitive information was leaked during the course of the investigation to people who were not supposed to have it.

Arguing before Justice Mukta Gupta, his counsel said it was necessary to "insulate the investigation" from the persons who are to be subjected to the scrutiny. "If an enquiry is not yielding the

of Jamia Millia Islamia, who is result, it is only important to go to the next step, which is investigation," said senior counsel Siddharth Aggarwal, appearing for Mr. Tanha.

"When enquiry yields no result, where people to be investigated are the same as those conducting it, where enquiry was within closed doors with no oversight, there is a mandate of entrusting that investigation to an independent department," the senior advocate contended.

Capital likely to receive rain for next three days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The national capital is likely to receive rain for the next three days, according to the India Meteorological Department. While rain was forecast for Wednesday, the city received only scattered showers. In the past 24 hours, ending at 8.30 a.m, it received 5.3 mm of rainfall.

The weatherman has forecast generally cloudy sky with light rain/thundershowers on Thursday. Maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover between 33 and 25 degrees Celsius, respectively.

"Scattered to widespread rainfall likely over most parts of north-west India till September 12. Isolated heavy rain likely over J-K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Harvana from September 8-11: U.P. and western Rajasthan from September 9-11; Uttarakhand and eastern Rajasthan from September 8-12," the Met department said.

Environment protection to become robust: Rai

Central government reconstitutes State-level authorities

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday said the State-level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State-level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) have been notified by the Centre, "following a proposal by the Delhi government". Mr. Rai said that now it will be easier to handle applications and the environment impact assessment will become more robust and transparent in the State.

"Category 'B' projects requiring environmental clearance will not have to wait for the Central government's approval and approval will now be given in a fasttracked manner by the Delhi government itself. As much as fast tracking will be a sought after solution, we will also make the system more robust and transparent. Environment protection is one



Gopal Rai inspecting the newly inaugurated smog tower in Connaught Place.

of the prime responsibilities of the Delhi government and we will not compromise on it," Mr. Rai said.

Delhi government had sent its proposal for reconstitution of SEIAA/SEAC, along with names of experts, to the Central government in 2020 and after multiple correspondence and meetings, the notification was finally issued, as per authorities.

"It is to be noted that as per the Environment Protection Rules, all category 'A' projects [mega projects] are approved by an Expert Appraisal Committee of the MoEFCC while all category 'B' projects [large projects] are approved by the State Level Authority (SEIAA)," an official statement said.

Lower pendency

The authority will meet monthly, leading to faster decision making and lower pendency of cases and it can also mandate regular inspection of project sites which have been granted environment clearance (EC) to ensure that they are complying with norms, the Delhi government said.

As per the gazette notification, Sarvagya Kumar Srivastava will be Chairman of the SEIAA, Reena Gupta, Special Secretary of Environment Department of Govt. of Delhi, will be the member Secretary.

HC transfers probe into custodial death to CBI

Gangster died inside Tihar last month

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday transferred the probe into the death of gangster Ankit Gujjar, inside the Tihar jail last month, to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) noting he "lost his life to custodial violence".

The 29-year-old gangster was found dead in Tihar jail on August 4. Justice Mukta Gupta directed the CBI to submit a status report, after carrying out investigation, on October 28.

"A perusal of the postmortem report of Ankit belies the version of the Deputy Superintendent, Narender Meena and other staffers that a scuffle took place in which both Narender Meena and Ankit received injuries," the High Court said.

"From injuries sustained by Ankit, it is evident that deceased was brutally beaten and left unattended by the jail doctor and nursing staff," the court remarked adding: "It is unfathomable that when the jail doctor on duty visited at midnight, he did not see the multiple injuries on Ankit."

"Not only did Narender Meena and others assaulted the deceased mercilessly, the jail doctor on duty also

when he examined Ankit at 1 a.m. and administered the injection, as he neither informed the senior officers of the condition of Ankit nor referred him to the hospital," Justice Gupta remarked.

failed to perform his duty

Role of jail doctors

"In case proper medical treatment was provided to him, his life could have been saved. Thus an investigation not only as to who all committed the offence of brutally beating the deceased to death, but the role of iail doctors in not providing proper treatment at the right time is also required to be ascertained by a proper inquiry," the court ordered.

"Walls of prison, howsoever high they may be, the foundation of a prison is laid on the rule of law ensuring the rights to its inmates enshrined in the Constitution of India," Justice Gupta remarked.

She said that this case calls for immediate remedial actions by the State and Director General, Prisons so that unscrupulous officers at the jail do not take advantage of knowledge of the non-working of the CCTVs to get away with any illegal act/offences.

'Elevated cross taxiway to be ready by Dec. next year'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India's first elevated cross taxiway, which is being constructed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, is scheduled to be ready by December 2022 with 60% of the work already complete, Delhi International Airport Limited

(DIAL) said on Wednesday. Once completed, it will cut 55,000 tonnes of CO2 emission annually and minimise aircraft delay.

Passengers will be able to reach the terminal faster after landing, as the elevated eastern cross taxiway is set to reduce the distance that an aircraft has to taxi from 9 km to 2 km, it said in a statement.

"Environment emerged as a major focus area in the aviation sector We have implemented Airport-Collaborative Decision Making for airport operations and all runway operations to minimise aircraft delay and associated emissions. We have ensured that all airside vehicles run on CNG to reduce carbon emission," said I. Prabhakar Rao, Deputy Managing Director, GMR Group, that operates the Delhi airport.

(DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT)

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

4th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006 Visit us at: http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in

PUBLIC NOTICE - BATTERIES MANAGEMENT

Batteries (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001 came into force w.e.f 16th May, 2001. These rules mandate various responsibilities on manufacturers, importers, assemblers, reconditioners, dealers, recyclers, consumers, bulk consumers and auctioneers. Major responsibilities of each of these stakeholders are listed as under.

Manufacturers/Importers

Shall ensure that the new batteries be sold only to the registered dealers and the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold excluding those sold to original equipment manufacturer and bulk consumer(s). ☑ Shall file a half-yearly return of their sales and buy-back to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) in Form- I latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) of every year.

✓ Set up collection centres either individually or jointly at various places for collection of used batteries from consumers or dealers and shall ensure that the collected batteries are sent only to the registered recyclers.

Shall ensure that necessary arrangements are made with dealers for safe transportation from collection centres to the premises of registered recyclers and shall ensure that no damage to the environment occurs during the transportation. ☑ Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other means with regards to (a) hazard of lead (b) responsibility of consumers to return their used batteries only to the dealer or deliver at designated collection centre and (c) address of the dealer and designated collection

☑ Buy recycled lead only from registered

☑ Bring to the notice of the DPCC or the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,

dealers. ✓ Importers shall apply for registration as per Form II and Form III on the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) online portal for a period of five years (link: http://cpcbbrms.nic.in/).

Assemblers/Re-conditioners

✓ Shall ensure that the used batteries collected back are of similar type and specifications as that of the new batteries sold and shall ensure that used batteries collected are sent only to registered recyclers.

advertisement, publications, posters or by other means with regard to hazards of lead.

Dealers

✓ Apply for registration by submitting online application in Form- IV available on DPCC website by creating user ID and password for the period of five years.

☑ Shall ensure that the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold. ✓ Shall ensure safe transportation of collected

batteries to the designated collection centres or to registered recyclers. ☑ Shall file a half-yearly return of their sales

Consumers/Bulk Consumers ☑ Shall ensure that used batteries are not disposed off in any manner other than by

depositing with the dealer/ manufacturer/ registered recycler/ importer/ re-conditioner or at the designated collection centres. ☑ Bulk consumers shall file half-yearly return latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) in Form- I to DPCC. ☑ Bulk consumers to their user units may auction used batteries to registered recyclers only.

means with regards to (a) hazard of lead, and

(b) obligation of consumers to return used

batteries only to the registered dealers or deliver at the designated collection centres.



and buy-back of old batteries to the DPCC and manufacturer in Form-V latest by 31st May (for Oct-Mar) and 30th November (for Apr-Sept) of

☑ Shall apply for registration to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change or an agency designated by it (if not applied already), by submitting information in Form VI.

☑ Shall submit half-yearly returns as per Form-VII to the DPCC latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) of every year. ☑ Shall make available all records relating to receipt of used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield to be submitted to the DPCC. advertisement, publications, posters or by other

☑ Shall ensure that used batteries are auctioned to the registered recyclers only.

☑ Shall maintain records relating to receipt of used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield

☑ Shall file half-yearly returns of their auctions latest by 30th June and 31st December to DPCC in **Form-IX.**

Note:- As per Batteries (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2010, every dealer of Lead Acid Battery shall obtain registration from DPCC, within 30 days of this Notice and in case of failure legal action including prosecution shall be initiated.

Member Secretary

पढ़ाई न छूटे एक भी सपना न टूटे **Delhi Govt will support uninterrupted education** of children who lost their parent during COVID-19

- Children who have become orphaned or have lost a parent after March 2020, will be able to continue their studies.
- All such children studying in private schools will now have free education in their own school till class 8.
- After class 8, students may be admitted to any Govt school.

IIT to launch lectures for school students

The aim is to kindle interest in science

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

IIT-Delhi is launching weekend lectures and laboratory demos titled 'Sci-Tech Spins' for high school students where professors will engage with students sharing their research in science, technology and allied fields.

The institute said the lectures will take students on "short, but riveting spins" into the fascinating world that surrounds us. The lectures will be informal and in a dialogical settings, with the hope to kin-

dle interest in students. The first lecture, titled 'Design Thinking - A Powerful Tool for Problem Solving', accompanied by a lab demo, will be deli-

vered by P.V. Madhusudan Rao, Head, Department of Design, IIT-Delhi on September 11.

Proactive stance

The institute said it regularly receives multiple requests from schools for campus tours, workshops and mentorship programmes for their students and this was a proactive stance on academic outreach for schools.

V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT-Delhi said: "We want to connect with thousands of other students who are outside the IIT system and inspire and help them in all possible ways. The goal of Sci-Tech Spins is to connect with every school in the country."

JNU convocation on Sept. 30

chief guest.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Wednesday announced that it will hold its fifth convocation on September 30, for which Education Minister Dharmen-

JNU restarted holding an annual convocation after several decades in 2018. It will be held online and graduates will have to

register to participate.

dra Pradhan will be the

Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi

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RISE	06:03	SET 18:34
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RISE	06:04	SET 18:32
DICE	00.13	SET 20.53

SATURDAY, SEP. 11 RISE 06:04 SET 18:31 RISE 10:18 SET 21:33

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City Safdarjand

Delhi Palam Today 33°C Light rain and thunderstorm would occur at some areas. Warm and humid day likely with light winds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 32°C Few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur at some areas. A humid day with mainly overcast sky © Copyright Skymet Weather 2019 All rights reserved.

Ashoka varsity to double seats, faculty by 2027

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ NEW DELHI

Ashoka University laid the foundation stone for its new campus on Wednesday, with plans to double its students, faculty and built-up spaces over the next six years with an overall investment of about ₹1,500 crore. It will also move from a focus on the humanities to a greater emphasis on sciences as well, according to Ashish Dhawan, chairman of the board of trustees.

The Sonipat-based university is currently sited on a 25-acre campus and had purchased a contiguous plot of another 27 acres three years ago. "It took us nine years to build the current campus, and we are now bursting at the seams in terms of capacity for students," Mr. Dhawan

told The Hindu. By 2027, he expects to add 1.8 million square feet of built-up space to the current 1.5 million square feet, and increase the student population to up to 6,000 from the current strength of 2,500. The 180-strong faculty team is also expected

to double. More than the numbers though, the expansion is about a shift in focus. "We want to start more graduate courses, postdoctoral research programmes," said Mr. Dhawan.

In the first phase starting this week, Ashoka will construct a major research facility for the biosciences, and an innovation hub to encourage entrepreneurial

Talks fail, farmers to intensify Karnal sit-in

More protesters from Punjab, U.P. to join soon, says Tikait

ASHOK KUMAR

Leaders of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, a conglomerate of hundreds of farmer unleading protests against the three farm laws, on Wednesday announced their intention to strengthen the sit-in agitation outside the mini-secretariat in Karnal after another round of talks between the farmer leaders and the district administration failed to break the deadlock.

Bharatiya Kisan Union national spokesperson Rakesh Tikait, at a press conference, said the protest outside the mini-secretariat would continue till their demands were met and more farmers from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh would join soon. He said that along with the ongoing sit-in agitations around Delhi, the protest at Karnal would be another front against the government. He, however, added that the farmers were willing to talk to the administration for a peaceful resolution and would ensure that the visitors to the secretariat were not inconvenienced.

Iai Kisan Andolan leader Yogendra Yadav said there was not the slightest change



BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait with farmers during their sit-in protest outside the mini-secretariat in Karnal. • PTI

in the "obstinate attitude" and "insensitivity" of the Haryana government, causing the talks to fail for the second day.

Conduct of IAS officer

He said farmers had been demanding registration of a case against IAS officer Ayush Sinhna on charges of murder and attempt to murder, but the government was unwilling. "Suspension of government employees pending inquiry is a routine in Haryana, but the government is not willing to even suspend this official. It shows that he was acting at the behest of the Chief Minister," said Mr. Yadav.

Inderjit Singh, vice-presi-

dent, All-India Kisan Sabha, Haryana, said the conduct of the IAS officer Ayush Sinha

was "unpardonable" and "unacceptable", according to service rules and the criminal law, and the unions were firm on seeking action against him. "It is an important and a crucial matter for us," said Mr. Singh.

Karnal Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar said the agitating farmers were adamant on action against the officials for the baton charge, but no action could be taken without a probe. He said the administration was exhibiting patience, restraint and prudence and wanted solution.

Govt. bans Ganesh Chaturthi events

Observe festival at home: DDMA order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Wednesday said Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations were prohibited in the Capital, advising citizens to observe the festival at home.

This, even as the Delhi government was scheduled to organise an event to mark the occasion on Friday with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his Cabinet colleagues and their respective family members supposed to be part of a traditional pooja on the day.

Build oxygen plants

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri accused the

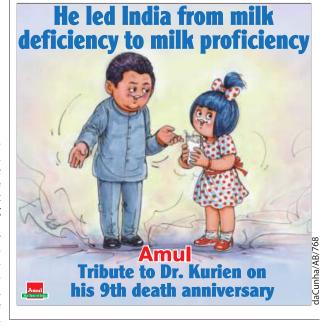
Delhi government of wasting taxpayers' money on "propaganda" through the event and arguing that the money being spent on it could be utilised on building oxygen plants in Delhi.

The DDMA, in an order on August 30, had announced that all social, political, religious, sports, entertainment, cultural, and religious gatherings were prohibited in the city given the COVID pandemic.

The DDMA order said it had been decided that Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations may not be allowed in public places. It directed all district officials to ensure that no pandal or tent was erected or any congregation was allowed.



An artist works on an idol of Lord Ganesha ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi in Delhi, on Wednesday. • R.V. мооктну



Afghan panel chief booked for violating COVID norms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

A case has been registered against Afghan Solidarity Committee chief Ahmad Zia Ghani for allegedly violating COVID-19 guidelines while protesting outside the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) office here, the Delhi Police said on Wednesday.

Amid the crisis in Afghanistan after the Taliban took over the war-torn nation, a large number of Afghan refugees in India held protests in front of the UNHCR office at Vasant Vihar in South Delhi demanding the release of "support letters" from the UN agency to migrate to other countries for better opportunities.

An FIR was registered against Mr. Ghani at Vasant Vihar police station on August 31. "We registered a case under Indian Penal Code Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) last week for violating COVID guidelines. No one has been arrested yet," Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-West) Ingit Pratap Singh said.

Oxygen plant set up at Batra Hospital

City reports zero COVID-19 deaths

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

An on-site oxygen generation plant has been set up at Batra Hospital, a private hospital here, where people had died due to oxygen shortage during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On May 1, the hospital did not have oxygen for more than an hour and 12 people, including a senior doctor from the hospital, who was undergoing COVID-19 treatment, died because of it, as per hospital authorities.

Similar plant

The plant is expected to serve around 150 hospital beds and the hospital is planning for another similar plant, according to the company which installed the oxygen plant.

Meanwhile, the city reported zero COVID-19 death in 24 hours and the total number of deaths stood at 25,083, as per a bulletin re-



The plant is expected to serve around 150 hospital

leased by the Delhi government on Wednesday.

Also, 41 new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14.38.082.

A total of 75,079 tests were done in a day and that test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.05%. Of the total cases, 14,12,585 people have recovered and there are only 414 active cases.

The COVID-19 vaccine stock on Wednesday morning would last for six days, another another bulletin stated.

Good Intention Always Brings Victory

My Esteemed Investors & Kartavyayogi Worker Friends,

For past some days, some unscrupulous elements have been propagating that our organization is not making repayments to our esteemed investors. In this regard, it is to be informed that repayments are being made to the esteemed investors but certainly there has been a situation of delayed repayments. However, in case of delay the esteemed investors are being paid interest for the delayed period.

Why Delay In Payment

Due to the embargo imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court that if Sahara Group sells or mortgages any of its property, then the money generated through this goes to Sahara-SEBI account and not even one rupee can be used for public repayment.

This way our amount with interest deposited in Sahara-SEBI account has been more than ₹24,000 crore while SEBI after advertising in around 150 newspapers throughout the country for 4 times could pay only around ₹150 crore in over the last 8 years.

It is a typical case of double payment of single liability.

Our Intention

Sahara India Pariwar is one such organization whose management has openly been putting its inconveniences and problems before its esteemed investors and workers from time to time. We deem it our responsibility to keep you apprised of the prevailing situations. Our intention has never ever been wrong. In 44 years of its existence, barring the last eight years when there has been a situation of delayed payments because of the embargo by Hon'ble Supreme Court in Sahara-SEBI case, no one's payment was delayed before nor will it be delayed in future. If our intentions had been wrong, we would have adopted an escapist attitude in the year 2014 when the organization was suddenly struck by enormous problems. We could have hastily sold our assets at throw away prices and got ourselves free from all our problems by depositing money with SEBI. But we didn't do so considering the best interests of our organization, our esteemed investors and our workers. In the past, assets of many companies were taken over by the Government, yet even after that the esteemed investors couldn't get even a single rupee back in more than two decades. It means all your payments have to be made by Sahara India Pariwar

Overseas-Air Services

In my last address I told you in detail how our business activities had been affected due to Corona pandemic in last one and half year, and how we couldn't complete



our those projects through which we expected to get money from, to repay our esteemed investors. I had also said that if the situation got normal and business operations around the world were back on track after recovering from the Corona pandemic, we would be in a position to repay in the months of July, August and September, 2021. At that time we had hoped that overseas travel will restart, but it didn't happen and even today, international air travel has not resumed. Now the Government of India has extended the curtailment of international flying till 30th September.

I had told you that most of our business transactions had happened overseas from which we would have received sufficient funds. But due to Corona, our representatives and those of other countries are not able to visit each other and the agreements are not getting finalized. Hence, we are not able to get adequate funds.

₹24,000 Crore

I had also told you the places, including the Sahara-SEBI account (more than ₹24,000 crores), where our funds were stuck. We assumed there would be progress in this direction and we would get our money that we were to use to make payments to our esteemed investors, but the adverse circumstances kept coming in our way. Due to Corona we didn't get a date of hearing from the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the last 14 months. Despite all these things our efforts are

We are hopeful that the situation will normalize soon and our business activities will speed up again, which will take our deals to finalization and we will get enough money that will enable us to provide relief to all.

Because of the prevailing circumstances, at present we are not in a position to tell you how long it will take to

However, we assure you that your payment is our responsibility which we will fulfill at all cost and by all means and very soon we will be before you with good news.

My regards to all the elders and loving blessings to the younger ones!

Always Yours,

faharassi Subrata Roy Sahara



BJP resolution calls AAP govt. 'anti-women'

Party's Mahila Morcha meet under way

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The BJP, following inauguration of its State Mahila Morcha executive meeting here on Wednesday passed a resolution against the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government.

In addition to flagging several alleged issues related to its functioning, the unit also questioned the absence of women from the Delhi Cabinet.

The meeting was addressed by senior BJP leaders, including Union minister Smriti Irani, national general secretary of the party Dushyant Gautam and Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta. National Mahila Morcha vice-president Rekha Gupta and Delhi BJP Mahila Morcha president Yogita Singh were also present.

The executive sought to take the opportunity to castigate the Delhi government for allegedly hoodwinking the people of the city in the name of free water and power though they were al-



Union Minister Smriti Irani at the meeting in Delhi on Wednesday. ■PTI

legedly being made to pay for these. There was no pure drinking water while consumers were allegedly being looted in the name of fixed charges when it came

The resolution alleged that the Kejriwal government was "anti-women", arguing that though it talks of women's welfare there was not even single woman Minister in the Cabinet. The Morcha alleged that for past years over 20,000 teachers' posts were lying vacant in city schools but the State government is deliberately not filling them up.

BJP leader meets DERC chief over bills

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A day after he was appointed vice-chairman of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti by its chairperson, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Union Minister Vijay Goel met Shabihul Hussain, the new chairman of DERC, regarding the rising electricity bills in the city.

Mr. Goel alleged that since the last many years, fixed charges have been increased six times without any reason; notice is given to increase the fixed load, but no notice is given to the consumer when the fixed load is reduced, so that he can save money.

During the lockdown, when most of the commercial establishments, shops, factories remained closed, in the name of fixed charges, "huge recovery" was made from the public, in which relief should be given, Mr. Goel demanded.

He said that apart from the per unit price of electricity, power firms were charging many "wrong charges" about which companies were "not able to give any account".

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THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL, NEYYATTINKARA, THIRUVA NANTHAPURAM DISTRICT, KERALA O.P.(M.V) No.1074 of 2013 PETITIONER: (Additional 4th Respondent The Oriental Insurance Company Limited Motor Third Party claims Hub, St.Marry Villa, Ulloon

Assistant Manager
Counter Petitioners: (Respondents 1,2 and Additional 5th Respondent) 1) Ramesh Kumar S/o, Karan Singh, Ambedkar Colony, Sector 3, Punchkula P.O, Panchkula Bistrict, Haryana State 2) Santhosh Kumar, S/c Vijaya Vora Saksena, Devar Kancha, Jaint Nagar, Badau District, Utter Pradesh State. 3)Mr. Ashok Kumar Garg, 104, GHS-13, SEC 20, Panchkula District, Haryana State Miller of Counter Petitioner/S Respondences tice to counter petitioner/s Responts 1,2 and Additional 5th Responden dents 1,2 and Additional 5th Respondent Take notice that the petitioner/additional 4th respondent has filed a petition as I.A No.5 of 2020 in O.P (MV) No.1074 of 2013 before the Tribunal for production of RC Book, Permit and Fitness Certificate of the HTV TATA Truck bearing Reg, No.HR-68-A-5172 and the valid effective Driving Licence and Badge of the 2th respondent Mr. Santhosh Kumar, valid 2th respondent Mr. Santhosh Kumar, valid 2th respondent Mr. Santhosh Tribunal. The said petition stands posted to 27-09-2021. Hence you are hereby call upon to appear before this Court in person or by pleader and to produce those documents at 11 AM on 27.09.2021. If you fail appear on the date aforesaid, the matter will be determined in your absence.

(By Order)(Sdf-) Advocate for additional

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MARRIAGE NOTICE

Mr. Ajitesh Kochar holder o India Passport No. V9117269 and Mrs Adriana Angelica Huerta Gonzalez holder of Mexico Passport No. G37512194 intend registering marriage at the Embassy of India, Mexico City, 325 Alfred de Musset, Polanco Sec-V, Mexico- 11550 under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 of ndia. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the Embassy of India, Mexico City within 30 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before The District Consumer Redressel Forum, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu

C.O.P.NO: 33/2019

K.Jagaveerapandian, residing at No.12/31,Balaji Nagar, Unnamalai Chetti Chavadi, Cuddalore

> ...Petitioner -Versus -

The Manager, Videocon, Plot No. 296, Udyogvihar, Phase-2 Gurgaon. Pin:122015,

Haryana.Ph:0123-327309 ...Respondent The above named peti-

tioner filed a petition against the Respondent in this Court. Hence you are advised to appear on 27.09.2021 at 10.00 A.M. in the forenoon in person or pleader duly instructed and able to answer all questions relating the above said proceedings

If you failed appear before forum, this forum pass order against you.

S.RAMSINGH B.A.B.L.. **ADVOCATE M.S 114/1991**

Office of the Superintending Engineer, 9th Circle PWD, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Ph: / Fax : 0135- 2531152 Vebsite: http://pwd.uk.gov.in E-mail: sepwdddun@rediffmail.con शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum)

इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 7194/1सी0-9/21, दिनांक 07.09.2021 द्वारा जनपद देहरादून के 02 कार्यों हेतु राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा (ई–निविदा) आमन्त्रित की गयी है, जो **दिनांक 13.09.2021** से https://www.uktenders.gov.in पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध होनी थी, किन्तु उक्त निविदा अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त की जाती है।

से निरस्त की जाती है। (इं. पी.एस.बृजवाल) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, नवम् वृत्त, लो.नि.वि., देहरादून।

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of female found in two khaki colour cartons in jungle near Railway yard, Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi, in which imputed body parts of an unknown female and headless body was found. In this regard FIR No. 328/21 U/S 302/201 IPC Dated 05.09.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: Not Known, Height: Approx 5', Built: Strong, Face: Missing, Identification: Flower like tattoo on left hand wrist and an unspecified tattoo on right hand, Wearing: Yellow colour torn salwar on the lower body part and trunk portion is nude.

If anyone has any information or clue about this female deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

Police Station, Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi Ph.: 011-22146491, 8750870626 DP/695/ED/2021

Truce in Rajasthan BJP, MLA drops motion to censure LoP

Kailash Meghwal talked out of moving resolution at party meet

MOHAMMED IQBAL JAIPUR

A truce was reached in the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Rajasthan on Wednesday, a day ahead of the State Assembly's monsoon session, over former Assembly Speaker and sitting MLA Kailash Meghwal's announcement for moving a resolution against Leader of Opposition (LoP) Gulab Chand Kataria. Mr. Meghwal had claimed that some of Mr. Kataria's recent remarks had damaged the party's image.

BJP national general secretary and in-charge for Rajasthan Arun Singh, who rushed to Jaipur, convinced Mr. Meghwal to withdraw his move and work in the interest of the party. Mr. Meghwal, 87, who was also a Union Minister of State, wrote a 10-page letter to party president J.P. Nadda with his grievances and charges against Mr. Kataria.

A known supporter of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, Mr. Meghwal said the main reasons for his decision to bring the resolution against Mr. Kataria at the BJP's Legislature Party meeting before the Assembly session were his statements on Rajput warrior



Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria. • FILE РНОТО

Maharana Pratap and Lord Ram. The LoP's remarks had adversely affected the BJP's fortunes in the three Assembly by-elections earlier this year, he said.

Mr. Singh summoned the octogenarian leader to the party headquarters here and had a detailed discussion with him. Mr. Meghwal agreed to drop his plan to move the censure motion and said he would join the fight against the ruling Congress as a "disciplined BJP worker".

"The BJP has promoted me throughout my political career. It is my duty to work in the interest of the party," Mr. Meghwal told reporters while coming out of the meeting. Mr. Singh earlier said after his arrival here that the BJP was not going to keep such statements in cold storage, whenever they appeared.

Mr. Meghwal had alleged in his letter that misappropriations to the tune of crores of rupees had taken place under Mr. Kataria's protection during the distribution of party posts and tickets. "There is a common refrain in the public on how the Opposition is being unsuccessful in effectively raising the issues of people's problems and public welfare in the Assembly," he said.

Long-time rivals

Mr. Meghwal and Mr. Kataria, who are in the rival camps in the BJP's Rajasthan unit, have had differences over several issues since long. Mr. Meghwal had asked BIP State president Satish Poonia, who is also an MLA, to preside over the Legislature Party's meeting, as the resolution was going to be moved against the LoP.

While campaigning for the Assembly bypolls in April this year, Mr. Kataria had triggered a row by making some derogatory remarks about Maharana Pratap, which angered the Rajput community. Around the same time, he also said that Lord Ram would have been "in the sea" if the BJP had not been there.

35 arrested for clearing forest in Odisha

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Forest and Environment Department has arrested 35 people for illegally clearing a reserve forest area to set up a hamlet.

"These people mostly tribals from Deogarh and Rairakhol of Odisha and from bordering Jharkhand were trying to clear one hectare of land inside the Tal reserve forest to construct permanent dwelling units," said Ramakant Nayak, Divisional Forest Officer of Rairakhol in Sambalpur district, Wednesday.

This group had made a similar attempt earlier and it was thwarted by forest employees, he stated.

Replying to a query in the Assembly on Tuesday on the steps being taken to prevent felling of trees and poaching of wild animals, Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha said, "during five years [2016-17 to 2020-21], a total of 55,412 forest offences had been registered and the involvement of 50,740 criminals found in these cases. The enforcement agencies have seized 6,185 cubic metres of timber and 558 vehicles".

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is here by informed that one girl Namely: Banti, D/o Shri Rajender, R/o H. No. 6, Gali No. 6, Jeewan Park, Delhi. Age: 19 years, Height: 4'8", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Yellow colour Suit-Salwar and Slipper in feet has been missing since

12.08.2021 from the area of PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi. In this regard a DD No.120A, dated 12.08.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

Maharaja Agrasen Hospital, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi on 26.02.2021

where during treatment doctor declared him dead on 24.03.2021

In this regard a case vide FIR No. 164/21 dated 26.02.2021 has been

Any person having any information or clue about this dead

registered at P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi.

DP/538/WD/2021

person may kindly inform to the following:-

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi Ph, 011-21710062, 21710052 DP/1226/ON/2020

General public is hereby informed

that an unidentified person Namely:

Unknown S/o Unknown R/o

Unknown Age: about 35-40 years,

Height: 5'7", Complexion:

Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long,

Identification: A Tattoo mark

(P. HEMA) on right hand, Wearing:

White and Blue colour check shirt and

Black colour pant & Chappal in feet

was admitted in injured condition at

P.S. Puniabi Bagh, Delhi

Ph. No. 8287641531 & 8750871124

West Distt., Delhi

hundreds of young girls from West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on

Literacy Day celebrated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

On the occasion of the International Literacy Day,

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION (E/M)
U.P. JAL NIGAM, GHAZIABAD

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE tter No. 2957/Vividh-7/98 Date: 06.09.2021 E-Tender for Restoration & Renovation of Motor-Actuator operating valves operated through PLC SCADA situated at ilter beds at 100 Cusec Ganga Jal WTP Siddharth Vihar Ghaziabad invited by U.P. Jal Nigam that shall be downloaded and uploaded at e-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in rom 13.09.2021 at 15:00 hrs. to 20.09.2021 at 17:00 hrs. E-tender shall be opened on 21.09.2021, at 15:00 hrs. onwards at office of Executive Engineer, Construction Division (E/M) U.P. Jal Nigam, Ghaziabad. The cost of tender document is 1,000+18% GST RTGS only. All other conditions shall be as per NIT and tender

Wednesday participated in a virtual storytelling session and were presented with books.

The event was organised jointly by Emirates Airlines Foundation and NGO IIM-PACT which is working for empowering girls through education and dedicated to transforming the lives of women in India.

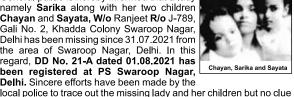
An Emirates cabin crew member treated the girls to a virtual storytelling session and they were also given a glimpse into the exciting life of an Emirates cabin crew.

THEMAHINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested verify and make appropriate enquiries satisfy themselves about the veracity rector/s, Employees of this new company be held responsible/liabi manner whatsoever for any claims damages for advertisements newspaper.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely Sarika along with her two children Chayan and Sayata, W/o Ranjeet R/o J-789, Gali No. 2, Khadda Colony Swaroop Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 31.07.2021 from the area of Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. In this regard, **DD No. 21-A dated 01.08.2021 has** been registered at PS Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the



has come to light so far. The description of the missing lady and her children are as under: Name: Sarika, Gender: Female, Age: 23 years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Identification

Mark: A tattoo mark of BN on the right hand, Wearing: Sky blue colour salwar-suit and sleeper. Name: Chayan, Gender: Male, Age: 1.5 years, Name: Sayata,

Gender: Female, Age: 3 years If anyone has any information regarding this the missing lady and her children, kindly inform SHO/ Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/1213/ON/2021

SHO P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-27811415

महिला, बाल विकास एवं सामाजिक सुरक्षा विभाग

स0स0-03 / स0क0-रा0बा0आ0-48 / 2006 (खण्ड-III)-विषय:– झारखण्ड राज्य बाल अधिकार सरक्षण आयोग, राँची में अध्यक्ष एवं सदस्यों के रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु आवेदन समर्पित करने के संबंध में।

-दिनांक— 17.07.2021 को सर्वसाधारण की सूचना हेतु समाचार पत्रों में विज्ञापन प्रकाशित कर विषयांकित पदों पर योग्य एवं इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों से JAP-IT के Recruitment Portal-recruitment.jharkhand.gov.in पर दिनांक-21.07.2021 से 16.08.2021 तक ऑनलाईन आवेदन आमंत्रित किये गये थे । ऑनलाईन आवेदन समर्पित करने में कतिपय अभ्यर्थियों के समक्ष उत्पन्न तकनीकी किठनाईयों को ध्यान में रखते हुए ऑफलाईन आवेदन भी

अतः इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों द्वारा ऑनलाईन अथवा ऑफलाईन माध्यम से आवेदन समर्पित किया जा सकता है। ऑनलाईन आवेदन JAP-IT के Recruitment Portal-recruitment.jharkhand. gov.in पर एवं ऑफलाईन आवेदन पत्र विभाग के बेवसाईट http://socialwelfare.jhar.gov.in के Recruitment खण्ड से आवेदन पत्र डाउनलोड कर प्रधान सचिव, महिला, बाल विकास एवं सामाजिक सुरक्षा विभाग, झारखण्ड, प्रोजेक्ट भवन, धुर्वा, राँची-834004 को संबोधित करते हुए अपना आवेदन सिर्फ निबंधित डाक से भेज सकते हैं।

लिफाफे के उपर बड़े अक्षरों में "आवेदित पद का नाम" एवं "झारखण्ड राज्य बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग के पद पर नियुक्ति के लिए आवेदन'' अंकित करेंगें। जिन आवेदकों द्वारा JAP–IT के Recruitment Portal–recruitment.jharkhand.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन

आवेदन समर्पित किया जा चुका है, उन्हें फिर से आवेदन करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। आवेदक किसी एक ही

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GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK

E-Tender Notice No.28 for 2021-22 (Online)

Online E-Tenders in "B-1" Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and On behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State From Capable of P.W.Deptt. Registered / Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company / branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in

Tender document download on our website https://mahatenders.gov.in. Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W. Division, Nashik.

Note:-Above mentioned E-Tender Notice including Total 17 (Seventeen) (Costing from Rs. 150.00 Lacks) Work And details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below website.

- 1. www.mahapwd.com
- 2. https://mahatenders.gov.in

Tender Document Sale	09.09.	2021		23.09.2	2021
Start and End Date Time	From	11.05	То	Upto	17:00

- Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only.
- Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document
- All eligible/interested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal https://mahatenders.gov.in before downloading tender documents and participate in e-tendering
- The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website https://mahatenders.gov.in

Sd/-Please Note this to all Registered / Unregistered Contractors. **Executive Engineer,** DGIPR/2021/2022/1864

Public Works Division, Nashik

झारखण्ड सरकार

झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, प्रोजेक्ट भवन, धुर्वा, राँची - 834 004 नोटिस

प्राप्त करने का निर्णय लिया गया है। इस हेत् आवेदन समर्पित करने की अंतिम तिथि को 16.08.2021 से बढ़ाकर 29.09.2021 को अपराहन 05.30 बजे

तक किया जाता है।

ऑफलाईन आवेदकों द्वारा अध्यक्ष एवं सदस्य के लिए अलग-अलग आवेदन पत्र समर्पित किया जायेगा। आवेदक

PR 252929 Women, Child Development & Social Security(21-22)#D सुरक्षा विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची

IN BRIEF



'Take up ring road under Bharatmala project'

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavarai Rommai on Wednesday called on Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and urged him to instruct the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to take up the development of the remaining part of the Satellite Town Ring Road around Bengaluru under the Bharatmala Pariyojana.

Kerala to offer incentives to vaccine units

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM The Kerala government will offer attractive incentives, including long-term loans and fast track approval within 30 days, to industrial units willing to launch vaccinemanufacturing enterprises inside the Life Sciences Park at Thonnackal here.

Boys outshine girls in engineering test in A.P.

Boys stole the thunder by elbowing out the girls from the top 10 ranks in the engineering stream of the Engineering Agriculture and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (EAPCET-21). Education Minister A. Suresh released the results on Wednesday and said Koyi Sree Nikhil from Parigi mandal in Anantapur district bagged the first rank in the engineering stream.

Man kills parents under influence of alcohol

In a gruesome incident under the influence of alcohol, a man bludgeoned his parents to death at Avinissery in Thrissur, Kerala, The deceased have been identified as Karuthedath Ramakrishanan and wife Thankamani. The police arrested their son, Pradeep, in connection with the incident that happened on Tuesday.

T.N. Assembly calls for repeal of CAA

BJP walks out, PMK hails resolution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution urging the Union government to repeal the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. While the BJP walked out, its ally, the Paattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), welcomed the resolution.

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) members were not present when the resolution was adopted as they had walked out earlier over another issue.

The resolution said: "This august House considers that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is not in tune with the secular principles laid down in our Constitution, and also not conducive to the communal harmony that

According to the established democratic principles, a country should be governed on the basis of the aspirations and concerns of all sections. "But it is clear the Act was passed in such a way that it does not accord a warm support to the refugees, considering their plight, but discriminates against them on the basis of their religion and country of origin," said the resolution, moved by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

Therefore, to protect India's unity and communal harmony and uphold the secular principles enshrined in the Constitution, "this august House resolves to urge

Taking a stand: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin

addressing the Assembly on Wednesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the Union government to repeal the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019", it said. After a voice vote, Speaker M. Appavu said the resolution was being adopted "unanimously".

Before staging the walkout prior to the adoption of the resolution, BJP floor leader Nainar Nagenthran (Tirunelveli) contended that the CAA was not against the Muslims living in India. While India was protecting the rights of minorities living in the country in line with the Liaquat-Nehru Pact of 1950, the status of minorities in Pakistan was not the same. While 20% of the population in Pakistan was Hindus during Partition, it stood at a mere 3% now.

The Chair intervened and pointed out that even people from the same community could not coexist in Afghanistan. PMK floor leader G.K. Mani (Pennagaram) urged that the Act favour the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in India too.

Since Leader of the Opposition and AIADMK floor leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami had earlier led his party members out over another issue, AIADMK MLAs were not present when the resolution was moved and adopted.

While moving the resolution, Mr. Stalin said, "We feel that the Union government must stop the preparation of the National Population Register and the Register of Ci-

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Haryana, Delhi, Jharkhand and Kerala

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

Agartala	32.826.0	Kozhikode	42	30.3	23.5
Ahmedabad	734.927.2	Kurnool	0.7	32.6	22.7
Aizawl	2128.821.4	Lucknow	3	33.0	26.9
Allahabad	31.426.6	Madurai		37.6	23.5
Bengaluru	0.427.620.5	Mangaluru	41	29.0	23.0
Bhopal	30.024.6	Mumbai	79	30.1	23.8
Bhubaneswar	31.524.6	Mysuru	4	28.4	21.0
Chandigarh	34.428.1	New Delhi	5	33.7	26.0
Chennai	35.527.1	Patna	17	34.0	25.5
Coimbatore	31.322.7	Port Blair		30.5	26.6
Dehradun	1832.922.9	Puducherry		35.2	24.0
Gangtok	0.421.716.4	Pune	2.2	29.7	22.5
Goa	3928.923.2	Raipur	0.2	32.2	23.6
Guwahati	635.024.5	Ranchi	6	29.6	23.0
Hubballi	25.021.0	Shillong	5	24.6	16.4
Hyderabad	0.529.221.4	Shimla	3	26.4	19.0
Imphal	– 30.2 21.6	Srinagar		33.3	18.4
Jaipur	– 31.0 26.0	Thiruvananthapuram		31.4	25.1
Kochi	30.425.4	Tiruchi		35.3	24.2
Kohima	326.016.4	Vijayawada		34.6	26.2
Kolkata	2232.725.5	Visakhapatnam	47	31.2	24.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

.7462 .125 .1811 ...11

4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) 502: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

Actor Rana Daggubati appears before ED in drug racket case

He was summoned as part of an ongoing probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Telugu actor Rana Daggubati appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Hyderabad, Telangana, on Wednesday after being summoned as part of an ongoing money laundering investigation in connection with a high-end drug racket busted in 2017.

The actor is among the over 10 Telugu film industry personalities, including actors and directors, to be summoned by the ED.

Since August 31, noted film-maker Puri Jagannadh, and actors Charmee Kaur, Rakul Preet Singh and Nandu have appeared before the Central agency.

On July 2, 2017, the Prohi-



Rana Daggubati

bition and Excise Department in Telangana had busted the drug racket by arresting a three-member gang, including musician Calvin Mascrenhas, for allegedly peddling narcotic drugs. Subsequently, several cases related to the drug trafficking were registered and over 20 persons were ar-

rested. According to officials, the gang catered to around 1,000 customers, including school and college students, persons associated with the Telugu film industry, senior officials of multicorporations (MNCs) and employees of Information Technology companies in Cyberabad.

The names of personalities from the Telugu film industry surfaced during the interrogation of the persons arrested in connection with the drug bust.

A Special Investigation Team of the Prohibition and Excise Department had also probed the alleged druglinks with the Telugu film industry, and had then questioned 11 persons.

Nipah scare eases as 46 test negative in Kerala

They include 17 symptomatic persons

STAFF REPORTER

Concern over the Nipah infection seems to be fading away in Kerala as 46 persons on the contact list of Mohammed Hashim, the 12year-old from Chathamangalam in Kozhikode district who had succumbed to it earlier this week, have tested negative for the virus.

They include 17 persons symptomatic of the infection, such as Hashim's parents, relatives and healthcare workers who attended to him at various levels. This was declared by Health Minister Veena George on Wednesday. While the results of 20 samples were declared on Wednesday morning, those of 16 others were announced in the evening. The other results were made public on Tuesday. Ms. George said though

there was no need to get scared, the public should remain alert. The samples were tested at the National Institute of Virology lab in Pune and a special facility set up at the Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode. The results of 15 more samples would be made available by Thursday.

Meanwhile, the number of persons on the contact list had risen to 265. This follows the publication of an institutional route map of Hashim, who had visited five healthcare institutions between August 29 and September 1.

Right now, only 12 persons were symptomatic of the infection, but their condition was stable.

BMC issues fresh curbs for Ganeshotsav

Maharashtra reports 4,174 new COVID-19 cases, 4,154 recoveries, 65 deaths

STAFF REPORTER

Amid fears of a third wave of the pandemic, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued fresh curbs for Ganesh Chaturthi. The civic body has

banned physical darshan for devotees at public Ganpati mandals and has appealed to citizens to celebrate the festival without ceremony.

As per the norms, restrictions have been imposed on the number of participants in processions for bringing the idols and during their immersion. Not more than 10 people will be allowed in the processions of public pandals and not more than five for household Ganpatis. All participants should have taken both doses of the CO-VID-19 vaccine and completed 15 days after taking the second dose, the rules said.

In a previous notification, the BMC had restricted the height of household Ganpati idols to two feet, and four feet for the public mandals.

Meanwhile, the State reported 4,174 new COVID-19 cases against 4,154 recoveries during the day. The active tally stands at 47,880, while



Festive mood: An artist gives finishing touches to a Ganapati idol at a workshop in Lalbaug on Wednesday. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

to 1,37,962. The case fatality rate remains at 2.12%. The total case tally has reached 64,97,872, while recoveries have risen to 63,08,491, with the recovery rate at 97.09%.

"Of 5,53,38,772 laboratory samples tested thus far, 64,93,698 (with the average case positivity falling incrementally to 11.77%) have returned positive, with more than 1.79 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," said State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate.

Pune reported nearly 1,000 new cases, taking its over 18,760. As per district authorities, the active case tally has exceeded 8,600.

532 cases in Mumbai

Mumbai reported a surge of 532 cases to take its total case tally to 7,47,605, while the active case tally rose to 4,435. Four deaths took the city's death toll to 16,004.

Ahmednagar reported over 800 new cases and 12 deaths, taking its total cases to 3,15,193, of whom 5,263 are active. The district's death toll rose to 6,629.

Satara reported 436 new

Traffic restrictions on NH-66

RAINA ASSAINAR NAVI MUMBAI

Ahead of Ganeshotsav, the State government has decided to regulate traffic on National Highway 66.

Vehicles with gross weight of over 16 tonnes will be barred from using the highway from midnight September 7 till 8 p.m. on September 10; from 8 a.m. on September 14 till 8 p.m. on September 15; and from 8 a.m. on September 19 till 8 p.m. on September 20.

Vehicles transporting sand will not be allowed to ply from midnight on September 7 till 8 p.m. on September 20.

The ban will not apply to vehicles transporting milk, petrol, diesel, cylinders, liquid medical oxygen, foodgrains, and

tally to 11,26,345, while four cases and six deaths. Sangli vegetables. 65 deaths took the total toll deaths pushed the total toll saw 236 cases and no deaths. People have fundamental right to drinking water: HC

Court criticises service provider for failing residents of village in Thane district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday severely criticised a drinking water service provider for failing to provide for the residents of a village in Thane district.

"It is unfortunate that even after 75 years of Independence people have to knock on the doors of the court to get regular drinking water, which is their fundamental right," the court said.

A Division Bench of Justices S.J. Kathawalla and Milind Jadhav was hearing a petition filed by some residents of Kambe village in Bhiwandi. They complained that they got drinking water only twice a month and that too for two hours. The service provider is STEM Water Distribution and Infrastructure, a joint venture of the Thane Zilla Parishad and the Bhiwandi Nizampur Municipal Corporation. The villagers said the service provider illegally supplied water to politicians and tanker lobbies.

Dangde, Bhausaheb STEM's MD, told the court that water was being supplied daily, but only up to a particular location. He claimed that the distribution of water from that point to the petitioners' homes was not the responsibility of the company but that of the village's gram panchayat.

The court interrupted him and said, "Water has to be supplied daily for at least a few hours. This is their fundamental right. People cannot suffer like this."

The court directed Mr. Dangde to file an affidavit.



Information Technology Services (IT) Cyber Security 25 Geographical Information System (GIS) 10 Data Mining 22 **OSINT** Analysis 25 15 Network Management 85 Data Analytics 30 505 Wireless & 05 150 Website Administration 10 02 Computer / Digital 12 12 System Administration 15 120 Programming / Coding 100 Database Administration 15 100 IT Support 05 118 05 100 Cyber Crime

Domain & Specialization/	Number of Candidates to be selected						
Function	Sub Inspector	Constable					
Community & Victim Support	and Counsellin	g Services					
Community & Victim Support	27	382					
Community Counselling	12	38					
Forensic Sciences (FS)							
Forensic Analysis	27	81					
Computer / Digital Forensic Analysis	12*	12*					
Human Resource Manageme	nt						
Human Resource Management	40	60					
Legal Services							
Legal Support	***	382					
Road Safety and Regulation							
Road Safety and Regulation	***	15					
Sub Total	118	958					
Total Vacancies ("The number of candidates at" are counted only once in total)	267 Sls	2340 Constables					

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Opening Date and Time: 9:00:00 on 9th September: 2021, Closing Date and Time: 23:59:59 on 29th September, 2021

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Back at school

The nascent reopening of schools can be sustained with a commitment to safety

Tate governments have taken the difficult decision to reopen schools for some classes, encouraged by a consensus among public health experts that the benefits to students and society at large outweigh the risks of a COVID-19 surge. A week after many of them reopened, mainly at the secondary and higher secondary level, infections among teachers and students have not triggered an alarm, although general social attitudes towards the pandemic have turned negligent. Data from Tamil Nadu show that post-reopening, about 30 students and teachers have tested positive, to which the State has responded by tracing contacts and testing, while keeping the institutions open. Kerala, which has struggled to contain the infection rate and continues to report about 25,000 cases a day, is venturing only to reopen residential higher education institutions and finalyear college classes within a bio-bubble of at least single-dose vaccination; resumption of schooling continues to pose a dilemma. The crippling absence of education for millions in the country has raised the question of whether governments have shown alacrity to limit the harm from prolonged closures. A study by economists in August showed that a mere 8% of students in rural areas had regular access to online learning and 37% were not studying at all. It also found that only a minority of students with smartphones, i.e., 31% in urban areas and 15% in rural settings, received regular instruction. This crisis has remained neglected for over a year, and the findings underscore the need for inperson teaching to resume.

Among the major concerns surrounding reopening of schools is possible transmission of the virus on campuses, with implications for vulnerable individuals in the students' home. Here, the advocacy of the European Technical Advisory Group on schooling during COVID-19 – smaller class sizes, wider spaces between desks and staggered breaks at school - is worth considering. The panel underscores the importance of evolving a follow-up protocol, when a cluster of cases leads to school-wide testing. Many public health experts argue that younger children, typically in the 6 to 14 age group, have the lowest risk of moderate or severe CO-VID-19 infection, while this is also the cohort that needs good foundational teaching. Most of these students are not eligible for vaccination. WHO recommends that for these pupils, the approach towards reopening should be caveated: risk based, and taking note of community transmission, ability to maintain physical distancing and good ventilation. Vaccination of teachers and school staff and eligible students, and free testing for all are other major factors. Hesitancy or refusal should be firmly countered. Governments should end their populist indulgence of unsafe behaviour in public spaces to prevent community-level spikes that can jeopardise the nascent return of schooling.

The lag between jabs

Kerala HC order on allowing earlier second dose flags need to review 84-day gap

The Kerala High Court's intervention regarding the time lag between the two doses of Covishield vaccine is both interesting and unusual. It has asked the Government to allow the scheduling of the second dose four weeks after the first for those who want it. A single judge has held that the relaxation in the 84-day norm for some categories of people, when it is normally not open to the public to get their second jabs earlier, amounts to discrimination. The direction that CoWIN, the national vaccination portal, should allow scheduling of the second dose after 28 days – the period initially fixed – for those who want early protection is likely to be questioned on appeal, even though it has its own logic. The petitioners are two companies that have purchased vaccines for their employees and their family members and did not want to wait for the current mandatory 12-16 week period to administer their second doses. Pointing out the relaxation from the minimum 12-week rule for some categories among those travelling abroad, the petitioners wanted the same relaxation for employees availing of paid vaccination. The court has countenanced this argument favourably and termed as discriminatory the denial of "early protection" to those who wanted the second dose after 28 days.

The court framed it as an issue over "better protection" offered by the scientifically validated 12-week gap between two doses, and "early protection" favoured by individuals. The Union government argued that the relaxation was to meet unavoidable contingencies, and an earlier second dose could not be claimed as a matter of right. The court based its order on what it believed to be "discrimination" in favour of some sections but refrained from deciding the question "whether a person is entitled to make a choice between early protection and better protection" while accepting the Government's free vaccine. It is fairly obvious that a delayed second dose enables reaching more people for their first dose. This means the order to allow earlier administration of the second dose could impinge on the public health objective of giving some protection to more people rather than full protection to fewer people. To that extent, the court's intervention in a policy matter may invite an appeal. However, it also raises the issue whether the policy of an 84-day gap between doses should continue, given the increased pace of vaccination. Despite being approved by experts, the change from the four-to-six weeks norm to the current 12-16 weeks may have been dictated as much by higher efficacy as by the extent of vaccine availability then. The time may have come for the Government to review the norm and allow a shorter gap based on the availability of vaccines and COVID-19 prevalence in a given geography.

Farmers' stir, the new dimension in U.P.'s politics

Its retrieval of the old secular political language openly counters the BJP's divisive and communal politics



SATENDRA KUMAR

n September 5, 2021, in Uttar Pradesh, lakhs of farmers gathered at Muzaffarnagovernment inter-college ground for the kisan mahapanchayat organised by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM). At the mahapanchayat, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait reiterated the farmers' demands to repeal the three farm laws and for the "legal guarantee of MSP [Minimum Support Price]." Mr. Tikait and other farmer leaders present declared their determination to oust the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Uttar Pradesh in the upcoming 2022 State legislative elections. The farmer leaders unanimously appealed for communal harmony while chanting 'Allah Hu Akbar['] and 'Har Har Mahadev' together with an estimated three to four lakh farmers.

Secular vs the divisive

This retrieval of the old secular political language openly counters the BJP's divisive and communal politics that has gripped the local and the national scene after the 2014 general election. Women and young farmers across religious and caste lines, from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand and other States attended the mahapanchayat in Muzaffarnagar. It is a surprise that the ongoing farmers' movement has been openly engaging with gender and environmental issues and has provided them their right-

By enabling the convergence of

space for the voices of marginalised groups, the Muzaffarnagar Kisan Mahapanchayat has not only reclaimed the language of secularism and communal harmony but also shows cautious potential to challenge the BJP's politics and hegemony in the legislative assembly elections due in five States next year (Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Goa and Manipur).

Message of harmony

Muzaffarnagar had communal riots in 2013 which polarised the western Uttar Pradesh region along religious lines. The BJP local leadership converted a caste dispute into brutal communal riots which ended up benefiting the BJP in the 2014 and 2019 general elections, across Uttar Pradesh, as this was the local script used at the State and the national levels. The communal polarisation not only caused fissures in the social fabric but also impeded the farmers' identity and unity that was traditionally the support base of the BKU under the leadership of the late Mahendra Singh Tikait in the

Realising this social and political loss, his son, Rakesh Tikait, and his supporters, over the last couple of years, began to revive the BKU's old legacy of secularism. However, these attempts have only gathered momentum since January 2021 when the BJP government forcefully attempted to remove the protesting farmers including Mr. Tikait from the Ghazipur border of Delhi. An emotional appeal by an overwhelmed Mr. Tikait mobilised both Hindu and Muslim Jat farmers, changing the epicentre of the farmers' protest from Punjab to rural western Uttar Pradesh and Harvana.

The SKM has spectacularly reasserted the secular language particularly in the post-2014 socio-political environment. Its act of courage in the Muzaffarnagar Kisan Maha-



panchayat is a reminder to the 'timid' political Opposition and other political parties to do their constitutional duty in maintaining India's political legacy. In their appeal for communal harmony, Mr. Tikait and other farmer leaders have categorically said no to communal violence in the region. Mr. Tikait and other farmer leaders accepted being swayed by communal divisiveness and have vowed to counter the hatred and violence. "They talk of dividing, we speak of uniting. The hallmark of the BJP is the hate politics", Mr. Tikait declared loud and clear.

More importantly, Mr. Tikait and the BKU's activists have been visiting village after village and organising collective meetings with Hindu and Muslim farmers. In numerous street corner meetings. BKU activists have been attempting to recreate a common platform for farmers across religious and caste divisions by reclaiming and reasserting religious and caste unity among the farmers to heal and repair the damage caused by the Muzaffarnagar riots.

Mission 2022 and hope

The Muzaffarnagar Kisan Mahapanchavat has transformed the ongoing farmers' protests into a national movement. With the BJP government's lack of acknowledgement and response to the movement, farmer leaders under the SKM have decided to connect the sufferings of farmers with electoral politics directly with the announcement of 'faslo ke dam nahi,

guarantee of MSP') and pronouncing their method as 'vote ki chot (hit by vote'). The SKM and its leadership will campaign against the BJP in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections due next year. In addition to spreading the message of peace and communal harmony, farmer leaders including Mr. Tikait have announced that they will go to every home in the villages to educate farmers about the three farm laws and the ways in which these laws will destroy farmers and farming. Using the idioms of kheti, kisani and bhaichara, the BKU and its leadership will also inform them about the BJP's betrayal of farmers through its pro-corpo-

rate policies. Besides the farm laws, several other proximate factors have set the stage for broad electoral mobilisation that may convert angry farmers and labourers into politically conscious voters when they face continued agrarian distress, the doubling of electricity charges, and the rising cost of diesel and fertilizers. More importantly, the unpaid dues of sugarcane mills to farmers have severely affected farmers and labourers across generation, caste and religious lines.

Furthermore, in Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government's stringent anti-cattle slaughter measures have devastated already broken farmers as stray cattle continue to plunder fields and ruin crops. The COVID-19 epidemic has not only struck another major blow against the rural economy but has also highlighted the fragility of urban jobs. The participation of young farmers in large numbers explains in one go the ongoing agrarian crises and jobless growth that has created a big class of rural-urban precariat.

While the emerging broad alliance and solidarity generate hope and a new grammar of politics, competitive party politics and existing socio-economic divisions continue to pose several challenges to Mission 2022. The ongoing farmers' movement does not show any sign of converting itself into a political party. In this case farmer voters depend on the existing political parties that have already lost steam and failed in the face of the BJP's propaganda, organisational skills and politics. In fact, some of them have started imitating the BJP's style by adopting a softer version of the Hindutva.

U.P. politics today

In Uttar Pradesh in particular, Opposition political parties such as the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal are competing for the same pie. Hence, it is too early to know how these competing parties will compromise their interests and put up a united opposition. Besides, the Jats are no longer a politically united group as they were in the 1970s and 1980s. The emerging political competition led by the aspiring middle class within the Jats has produced new leaders such as Sanjeev Baliyan that has opened a chasm to be exploited by the BIP's style of politics. Moreover, farmers from the most 'backward' castes such as Morya, Nishad and Gaderiyas have hardly been an ally of the BKU and a part of the 'kisan' identity popularised by Charan Singh.

By projecting these farmers as the victims of the dominant landowning farmers the BIP has weaponised them as new warriors of Hindutva. Despite these limitations, the Muzaffarnagar Kisan Mahapanchayat has shown the way to reclaim the Indian Constitution and the legacy of secularism by simultaneously linking socio-economic injustices to environmental and gender issues.

Satendra Kumar teaches Sociology at the G.B. Pant Social Science Institute,

Green hydrogen, a new ally for a zero carbon future

It holds promise as an alternative, truly clean fuel and in aiding the world's decarbonisation goals



PRITAM SINGH

cientists and technocrats have for years been engaged in the quest of discovering alternative fuels to fossil fuels which are responsible for the production of over 830 million tons per annum of carbon dioxide, in turn catalysing human-induced global heating. The latest studies by a battery of scientists representing about 195 countries have signalled the crucial issue of climate vulnerability, especially for the Asian countries. The forthcoming 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow from November 1-12, 2021 is to reexamine the coordinated action plans to mitigate greenhouse gases and climate adaptation measures.

In order to achieve the goal of an alternative source of energy, governments are placing large bets in the hope of adopting a multi-faceted practical approach to utilise 'Green hydrogen' as a driving source to power our industries and light our homes with the 'zero emission' of carbon dioxide.

Energy-rich source

Hydrogen is the most abundant element on the planet, but rarely in its pure form which is how we need it. It has an energy density almost three times that of diesel. This phenomenon makes it a rich source of energy, but the challenge is to compress or liquify the LH₂ (liquia nyarogen); it needs to be kept at a stable minus 253° C (far below the temperature of minus 163° C at which Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) is stored; entailing its 'prior to use exorbitant cost'.

The production techniques of this 'Energy-Carrier' vary depending upon its applications - designated with different colours such as black hydrogen, brown hydrogen, blue hydrogen, green hydrogen, etc. Black hydrogen is produced by use of fossil fuel, whereas pink hydrogen is produced through electrolysis, but using energy from nuclear power

'Green hydrogen', the emerging novel concept, is a zero-carbon fuel made by electrolysis using renewable power from wind and solar to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. This 'Green hydro-



tion of power from natural sources wing or solar systems – and will be a major step forward in achieving the target of 'net zero' emission. Presently, less than 0.1% or say ~75 million tons/year of hydrogen capable of generating ~284GW of power, is produced.

The obstacle of cost

The 'production cost' of 'Green hydrogen' has been considered to be a prime obstacle. According to studies by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IREA), the production cost of this 'green source of energy' is expected to be around \$1.5 per kilogram (for nations having perpetual sunshine and vast unused land), by the year 2030; by adopting various conservative measures.

The global population is growing at a rate of 1.1%, adding about 83 million human heads every

year on the planet. As a result, the International Energy Agency (IEA) forecasts the additional power demand to be to the tune of 25%-30% by the year 2040. Thus, power generation by 'net-zero' emission will be the best solution to achieve the target of expert guidelines on global warming to remain under 1.5° C. This will also be a leap forward in minimising our dependence on conventional fossil fuel; in 2018, 8.7 million people died prematurely as result of air pollution from fossil fuels

A power hungry India

India is the world's fourth largest energy consuming country (behind China, the United States and the European Union), according to the IEA's forecast, and will overtake the European Union to become the world's third energy consumer by the year 2030. Realising the impending threats to economies, the Summit will see several innovative proposals from all over the world in order to reduce dependence on use of fossil fuels.

The scale of interest for 'plucking the low hanging fruit' can be gauged by the fact that even oilproducing nations such as Saudi Arabia where the day temperature soars to over 50° C in summer, is

■ One of the aspects of the

prioritising plans to manufacture this source of energy by utilising 'idle-land-banks' for solar and wind energy generation. It is working to establish a mega \$5 billion 'Green hydrogen' manufacturing unit covering a land-size as large as that of Belgium, in the northernwestern part of the country.

India is also gradually unveiling its plans. The Indian Railways have announced the country's first experiment of a hydrogen-fuel cell technology-based train by retrofitting an existing diesel engine; this will run under Northern Railway on the 89 km stretch between Sonepat and Jind. The project will not only ensure diesel savings to the tune of several lakhs annually but will also prevent the emission of 0.72 kilo tons of particulate matter and 11.12 kilo tons of carbon per

It is high time to catch up with the rest of the world by going in for clean energy, decarbonising the economy and adopting 'Green hydrogen' as an environment-friendly and safe fuel for the next generations.

Pritam Singh is a retired Officer from an R&D institution in Dehradun. He delivers scientific lectures in colleges and universities on vehicular pollution

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

On the Taliban

The newly announced interim government in Afghanistan is a disappointment and is certainly non-inclusive (Page 1, September 8). If it is composed of UN-designated terrorists and has a stamp of Pakistan all over it, one cannot expect peaceful, prosperous, progressive and friendly rule. Given its doubtful credentials and fanatic history, there is bound to be trouble. Pakistan may be the only nation that is satisfied with the turn of events as it can fish in troubled waters. The international community should act as one without any bias in dealing with the new rulers of Afghanistan. There cannot be a sprouting of terrorism Dr. D.V.G. SANKARARAO,

■ The suggestion that the world community should

strive to restore peace in Afghanistan, which would include putting pressure on it in the form of imposing conditions on financial grants which the Taliban badly require, is welcome. But international pressure, without sufficient military backing, will have little impact on recalcitrant groups such as the Taliban. Besides, every nation engaging with the Taliban in Afghanistan has its own agenda to fulfil. The question is who will bell the cat dispassionately? DHARMARAJAN A.K., Thalassery, Kerala

■ We are indeed struck by the incongruity of the situation in Afghanistan: those who have been in the 'wanted lists' with multi-million dollar bounties announced on their persons now take up leading roles in the new Taliban government. The tasks of launching an insurgency and sustaining it for two decades and running a government require different commitments, skills and priorities. The Taliban have to reinvent themselves as an organisation that respects human rights, divergent opinions and ways of life, women's autonomy and prioritises economic renewal above religious agenda if they are to succeed as a government and gain international recognition. G. DAVID MILTON,

■ It is clear that Pakistan now wields tremendous influence. The cabinet formation in Afghanistan is sure to be dominated by or controlled back stage by the Haggani faction. Therefore, it is time to bid farewell to the idea of an all-inclusive government. The situation now is going to be very dangerous and will ensure that terror casts its dark shadow over the whole region. The puppet string master, Pakistan's

Inter-Services Intelligence, must be forced to withdraw. PANKAJ G.,

pragmatism and resolve.

R. NARAYANAN,

■ For the U.S., Afghanistan "that have made the Taliban was too distant till the felling better armed than ever". of the Twin Towers iin 2001. Reports say that the Taliban by inspired terror elements. and its associates are It then stormed into believed to control Afghanistan with massive sophisticated armoured troop strength in revenge. In vehicles, military drones and these two decades it has other high-technology suffered some losses with no hardware and ammunition. palpable economic or The havoc all this can cause political gains except for a in the wrong hands is unfathomable. There is also macho image It is Pakistan that has thrived the factor of China in all this all the while on big U.S. which would be waiting to grants while China has reverse engineer much of quietly built its this sophisticated politico-economic web technology. Is the U.S. planning to do something around the region which it would like to encash. In about this? delayed wisdom, the U.S. has ANUVANSH RAWAT, New Delhi now walked away and could well suffer criticism. domestic and international. But time will vindicate U.S. President Joe Biden's

Reforms, not refining The reservation policy needs reforms and not merely refining as the article (OpEd

reservation policy",

U.S.'s long and disastrous war in Afghanistan is its "gifting proposes. Reservation today, is more a political away" a vast amount of instrument than a social military gear and equipment justice tool. The makers of the Constitution never intended that the reservation pie should expand infinitely. A farcical regime of affirmative action will create a new underclass of discontents. If we go on

> society and our notion of progress because it presumes backwardness persists across generations. Limiting the reservation scheme to two generations is the least one can think of in infusing a degree of fairness into the principle of compensating for historical injustice. The argument that economic advancement has no impact on social status is

creating more backward

Independence, there is

something wrong with

classes years after

questionable. V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN, Thiruvananthapuram

September 8) "Refining the







THE HINDU DELHI
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

OPED 7

INTERVIEW | JOHN PILGER

'The invasion of Afghanistan was a fraud'

The journalist says the Taliban were a convenient target to satisfy a political lust for revenge for 9/11

JIPSON JOHN & JITHEESH P.M.

John Pilger is one of the world's most acclaimed investigative journalists and documentary filmmakers. He is a recipient of several prestigious awards, including an Emmy and a BAFTA. He has contributed to various international publications and news services, including The Guardian, The New York Times, BBC World Service, and Al Jazeera. Mr. Pilger has directed more than 60 documentaries capturing some of the important events of 20th and 21st centuries. In 2003, he directed Breaking the Silence: Truth and Lies in the War on Terror. In this interview, he talks about the present political developments in Afghanistan, the war on terror, and the history of the Taliban. Edited excerpts:

Twenty years ago, the U.S. entered Afghanistan with the promise of overthrowing the Taliban, establishing democracy and ending terrorism. But today the Taliban are back. How do you look at the situation?

■ President George W. Bush's 'promise' to establish democracy in Afghanistan was a rhetoric for domestic consumption. The invasion of Afghanistan was a fraud; the Taliban were a convenient target to satisfy a political lust for revenge for 9/11. An authentic military response to 9/11 might have seen U.S. bombs falling on the palaces of Saudi Arabia — most of the 9/11 hijackers were Saudi nationals, not least Osama bin Laden himself; not one was an Afghan.

Moral posturing over 9/11 had almost nothing to do with the invasion of Afghanistan; bin Laden had already left Afghanistan and the Taliban anyway wanted to get rid of him. To the U.S., Afghanistan's usefulness had been as a battleground on which to bring down the Soviet Union. This had been achieved long before 9/11.

The suffering in Afghanistan has also been profitable. The American war industry has tested and deployed numerous new products there. A recent study tells us that if you purchased \$10,000 worth of stock in America's top five defence contractors on September 18, 2001 – the day President George W. Bush



Military Force in Afghanistan – you would now be much richer.

As someone who has observed West Asia for decades, who are the major stakeholders in the Arab world? The unrest in West Asia is often attributed to be the by-product of the U.S. or 'imperial' involvement in the region

'imperial' involvement in the region. ■ Without imperial intervention, the Arab world would have been very different. Egypt might not be the tyranny it is today. With the rise of Gamal Abdel Nasser and the popular hope of a nationalist, semi-socialist Egypt and a region shaped by pan-Arabism, the U.S. and Britain responded by deploying religious extremism. Their first victory was the crushing of Nasserism. Since then, Israel, a colonial creation of the West, has been modern imperialism's watchtower and attack dog in the region. Without American support, Israel would have been forced to become a normal country and to make peace with its neighbours; Palestine would have emerged as an independent entity. Instead, Israel remains a permanent provocateur.

The general narrative created before any intervention perhaps is that 'imperial occupation is the only viable solution to bring about regime change in a corrupt and dictatorial state'. How do you look at this in the light of examples from Latin America, Africa, West Asia, etc.? When you accept that 'might is right' - the maxim of imperialism – you accept the place of criminality in world affairs.

the day President George W. Bush signed the Authorization for Use of foreign policy for decades. How is it

possible for a 'superpower' to retain its dominance without 'dealing' with the threatening countries?

■ Modern powers can and do assert their power without behaving like 19th century enforcers. China's 'Belt and Road' plans have brought welcome structural investment to hundreds of developing nations. China, while asserting its undisputed developmental power, gives no impression of seeking to dominate by force or coercion: the principal methods of imperialism. This is not to say that 'client' nations can afford to drop their guard when dealing with China, or Russia, or any other apparently benign great power; but the historical and contemporary record tells us that China has none of the colonising ambitions of Europe and the U.S. Whatever criticism one may have of China, its modernism and willingness to live in peace with the world are demonstrable.

The Taliban are in power in Afghanistan. What helped them gain power so rapidly?

■ The Taliban were part of the rise of jihadism brought about by the U.S. and Britain in the 1980s and 1990s. They are a puritanical offshoot of the mujahideen, which were backed and emboldened by Pakistan's intelligence services and bankrolled and armed by the CIA and Britain's MI6. For the U.S., the singular strategic purpose was destabilising the Soviet Union, which shares a border with Afghanistan. When the Soviets walked into the 'trap' laid by the West, and invaded Afghanistan, the international power of jihadism grew rapidly. There are many ironies and tragedies. The Taliban gained power in Afghanistan by overthrowing that country's most progressive government - which in the 1970s had given equal rights to women.

In planning to leave Afghanistan, the Trump administration chose the Taliban to discuss the transfer of power in Doha. Many argue that this action gave some legitimisation to the Taliban. Why did it prefer the Taliban to the Western-supported

democratically elected government?

The Afghan government was not democratic, neither was it democratically elected. It was a corrupt shell, and Donald Trump and his planners knew it would fall without U.S. backing. They were being expedient. When the U.S. abandoned the South Vietnamese regime in 1975 - which it had installed - the regime fell overnight. Its only legitimacy was its American sponsorship. The people suffering at Kabul airport are the victims of this same sponsorship; they are the victims of imperialism.

With the Taliban in Kabul, will Afghanistan be a haven of Islamist terrorists in the coming days?

■ Well, it depends on what you mean by terrorism. The most ubiquitous terrorism in the world is state-sponsored; America's 'war on terror' was, in reality, a war of terror. Eight Muslim countries were devastated. In Latin America, the U.S. has been running a war of terror since the early 20th century. If you mean 'Islamic terrorism', the future is unclear. The Taliban have a serious enemy in the Islamic State, whose terrorism is only too well known.

What does the Taliban rule mean for the world and West Asia in particular?

■ I am not a futurist. I don't know what Taliban rule will be like for Afghans. If the UN allows the West to isolate and 'sanction' Afghanistan, the Taliban will develop a siege mentality and their rule is likely to be harsh. The one lesson of the disaster in Afghanistan is that imperialism causes incalculable human suffering. Isn't it time we learned that lesson?

Jipson John and Jitheesh P.M. contribute to various national and international publications

Detecting Fragile X Syndrome

The symptoms cannot be treated but early detection and therapy can improve the individual's quality of life



OMA BASU

In 2017, a man in Delhi, affected by autism, underwent his first DNA blood test at the age of 40. He tested positive for Fragile X Syndrome (FXS). This is caused by changes in a gene called FMR1 which make an important protein (FMRP). This protein is required for brain development.

Largely undetected in India

It was in 1991, 14 years after that man was born, that the mutation was discovered and named FRAXA by three American geneticists – Ben Oostra, David Nelson and Stephen Warren. They found that it was the leading inherited cause of autism worldwide.

Three decades ago, there was no primary knowledge of this among healthcare professionals. However, even after the discovery of FMRI, the lack of awareness and appropriate training to diagnose FXS in time prevails everywhere. In India, the lack of adequate screening and diagnostic facilities, the stigma attached to mental health, the absence of surveys in community settings, and bare minimum hospital data based on clinical experience have all kept FXS largely undetected.

According to a 2019 review paper of the Advanced Centre for Evidence-Based Child Health, established by PGIMER, Chandigarh, under the aegis of the Indian Council of Medical Research, "there is an under-recognition of the genetic disorder due to delay in diagnosis at young age and the lack of uniform application of validated, accessible and affordable diagnostic tools." It is estimated there are 4,00,000 individuals who have been identified with mutated FMRI in India and 40 lakh undiagnosed carriers of the gene.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in 7,000 males and one in 11,000 females are affected with FXS. FXS is the leading inherited cause of autism in 4% of the population worldwide. The CDC estimates that one in 259 women and one in 800 men carry Fragile X. A mother who is a carrier has a 50% chance of passing the mutated gene to her children, who will either be carriers or have FXS. Men who are carriers do not pass the pre-mutation to their sons, but only daughters, who become carriers. This knowledge is crucial and the numbers are critical and demand attention, according to Professor Sumantra Chattarji, senior neurobiologist at the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bengaluru. His research is focused on correcting the powerful emotional symptoms of FXS. It helps empower parents with information about babies in whom the FMRI shuts down the production of FMRP.

Shalini Kedia, who founded the Fragile X Society of India in 2003 as a support system for families impacted with FXS, says that it is every woman's right to make an informed choice of becoming a special mother. Studies suggest a high effect of consanguineous parenting on FXS prevalence.

Timely detection

The simplest tool for timely detection is a DNA test. In the U.S., FXS testing is mandatory for every child diagnosed with autism. This helps parents plan their family better. In India, doctors often fail to appropriately guide women who have fertility issues, late pregnancies, opt for IVF with donor eggs, or donate embryo for surrogacy.

Experts suggest an overhaul of the MBBS curriculum to include a detailed chapter on FXS and more government-organised Continuing Medical Education programmes for practising healthcare professionals so that FXS is treated as a major public health concern. Mass awareness and an additional test in the list of pregnancy and prenatal and neonatal tests for other chromosomal abnormalities (such as Down Syndrome) will be beneficial. But the majority of people are either not aware of the FXS test or cannot afford it. Tests are done in major government hospitals and in a few private labs and cost between ₹4,500 and ₹7,500.

People must understand that autism triggered by FXS is a behavioural condition. The symptoms are learning difficulty, speech delay, aggressive behaviour, hyperactivity, attention deficit, fear of the unfamiliar, sensory processing disorders and problems in motor skills. These cannot be cured, but early therapy can improve the individual's quality of life.

The National Policy for Treatment of Rare Diseases, 2017, was limited by challenges in implementation. This year, the government introduced the National Policy for Rare Diseases Act. It calls for systematic epidemiological studies on incidence and prevalence of rare diseases. Without naming FXS directly, it recommends prenatal tests for lesser-known single-gene and other genetic disorders. This is profound as the dialogue on rare diseases has to be kept open, even during the pandemic. Or else, it will leave all those who are trying to cope feel even more vulnerable and isolated.

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A questionable quota policy

A proposal of the Odisha government betrays a lack of political will in improving government schools

ANANYA BEHERA

Reservation as a tool of social engineering seems to be flavour of the season in India. To add to the competitive populism of caste-based reservations, a few months ago, the Odisha government proposed a 15% reservation for government school students in medical and engineering colleges to reduce "inequity arising" from lack of "physical and

economic access to coaching institutions". The state machinery hailed it a historic decision. But is it?

A number of reports highlight the poor condition of government schools in many parts of the country. Odisha is no exception. Whether the

State government has any serious plan of action to improve the functioning of government schools is not clear. But this decision certainly reflects a lack of political will in improving the state of education in schools. This intervention gives the impression that little can be expected of government schools. The current obsession with developing model schools reinforces this impression.

Failing in its duty

About 62% of students attend government and government-aided schools in India. The other 38% go to private institutions, some of which belong to the elite category and the rest of which are of questionable quality. A much higher percentage of students in Odisha go to government schools. Reserving seats in higher technical institutions for government school students rather than focusing on improving these publicly funded institutions defies all logic. By announcing this policy of reservation, the government seems to be admitting that it has failed in its duty to provide the majority of students with good education and equip them with requisite competence to get admission in technical institutions on the basis of their own merit.

Decades ago, students from Odisha had a high success rate in national-level competitive examinations. This was attributed to the strong educational foundation laid in govern-

ment-run schools. During those days, teachers were known for their unquestionable sincerity and integrity. They were dedicated to their calling and commanded respect from the society. Over time, this seems to have changed.

There is no dearth of ideas or prac-

tices that can improve the quality of education in government schools. What is lacking is the government's

resolve to work on these ideas including capacity building of teachers to implement new pedagogic practices, emphasis on language teaching, filling up vacant teaching posts, and a change in the mindset among people and poli-

cymakers that government schools are typically backward and inferior to private schools. Instead of addressing relevant issues, government is trying to find a solution which could worsen the problem. The policy of automatically promoting the students to higher classes without passing examinations

needs to be scrapped.

Building an institution is tough.
Rebuilding it is even more so. The state can't simply shirk this responsibility of improving education in government schools where an overwhelming majority of the children study. Focusing on them will go a long way in building the morale of teachers and students who are likely to grow up with an inferiority complex if flawed policies like the one mentioned above are pursued.

Benefits to few

Some may argue that the quota would help some sections of the society which have long been deprived of good education and decent jobs. But this justification can nevertheless be questioned on several grounds. One of them is that the benefits of quota, if any, would be cornered by the creamy layer of students with better access to coaching and additional technology-enabled resources. There might also be an urban bias in the benefit-sharing.

Ananya Behera holds a PhD in Sociology from Utkal University

DATA POINT

The figures and observations were sourced from CMIE

In August, India's unemployment rate increased to 8.3% from 7% in July. This was due to two factors. The first is the recurring job loss in the agriculture sector. As farm-related jobs are seasonal, the sector routinely engages and ousts workers. The second factor is unusual. Normally, apart from the services sector, the construction or the manufacturing sector absorb the workers who are ousted by the agriculture sector. However, in August, only the services sector hired most of the returning farm workers, while those in the construction and manufacturing sectors continued to lose jobs. More worryingly, most of the jobs secured in the services sector were informal, so the quality of jobs was poor.

The table lists the no. of jobs gained/lost (-) in million (mn) among industry groups, within the service sector and occupation groups. In August 2021, 7.6 mp jobs were lost in the participation while 8.5 mp jobs were gained in the services sector.

groups. In Augu	oups. In August 2021, 7.6 mn jobs were lost in the agri sector, while 8.5 mn jobs were gained in the services sector														
In August this		IN	INDUSTRY GROUP					SERVICES GROUP OCCUPATIONAL GROUP						DUP	
India recorde loss of 1.9 mil The unemploy rate stood at	lion jobs. yment	AGRI	MANU- FACTURING	CONS- TRUCTION	SERVICES		RETAIL	NON-PRO- FESSIONAL*	OTHERS		BUSINESS	SALARIED	TRADERS & LABOURERS	FARMERS	
Aug-19	0.2	0.8	-0.5	2.6	-1.7		-1.8	0.9	-0.7		-2.2	-5.5	12.2	-4.3	
Sep-19	3.5	-12.5	4.1	2.8	7.7		0.6	5.1	1.9		4.3	10.1	-11.2	0.3	
Oct-19	-2.6	2.5	-1.3	-4.5	0.4		-0.2	0.7	-0.1		0.1	-1.0	-4.4	2.6	
Nov-19	-1.1	9.1	-0.4	-3.5	-5.4		-1.3	-2.2	-2.0		-1.0	-4.1	1.7	2.4	
Dec-19	2.6	-8.2	0.4	6.4	5.0		1.4	1.4	2.2		1.4	-4.6	15.9	-10.0	
Jan-20	4.8	-6.3	3.1	5.6	1.5		3.8	-2.8	0.5		4.4	7.9	-11.2	3.7	
Feb-20	-4.5	4.1	-6.2	-4.2	1.4		-1.1	4.3	-1.8		-2.7	-2.3	-4.0	4.2	
Mar-20	-10.1	6.8	0.7	-8.0	-9.0		-3.3	-6.5	0.8		-0.8	-3.3	-9.6	3.7	
_Apr-20	-113.6	-15.0	-17.0	-47.5	-33.9		-12.6	-8.1	-13.2		-20.2	-14.9	-78.7	0.0	
May-20	31.6	4.2	2.0	15.5	9.2		3.6	6.2	-0.6		8.2	-0.7	22.7	1.6	ш
_Jun-20	63.2	18.1	4.1	24.2	16.9		4.9	8.4	3.6		6.9	5.6	38.6	12.2	S
_Jul-20	15.3	7.1	1.4	8.3	-1.2		2.3	-6.4	2.9		1.4	-4.8	23.5	-4.8	yas,
Aug-20	0.2	-3.6	-1.3	1.7	4.4		5.8	0.7	-2.1		8.5	-3.4	-4.5	-0.5	. v
Sep-20	5.2	-5.8	-3.0	11.5	1.0		-2.6	1.1	2.5		-6.1	4.5	13.7	-6.8	lahe
Oct-20	-1.3	-0.9	3.8	-8.0	4.1		3.5	0.1	0.6		4.2	4.1	-10.6	0.8	∠
Nov-20	-2.3	3.0	-0.6	0.3	-4.8		-5.3	0.1	0.4		-1.4	-5.3	2.3	2.3	sin
Dec-20	-5.4	-11.8	1.6	1.2	4.9		0.0	2.5	2.3		-2.3	7.3	-0.2	-10.1	hen
Jan-21	11.9	4.5	0.4	8.5	-3.3		-0.1	-2.5	-0.6		-6.0	6.4	11.1	0.4	kitc
Feb-21	-2.5	1.2	1.0	-4.0	-0.2		4.2	-2.6	-1.8		1.7	0.3	-10.0	5.4	the
Mar-21	-0.1	6.7	-0.6	-2.2	-4.3		-5.8	1.4	0.1		-1.2	-5.5	4.0	2.8	is to
Apr-21	-7.4	-8.6	-0.6	2.7	0.9		4.7	-0.7	-3.1		2.1	-3.4	-0.2	-5.9	farm
May-21	-15.1	8.3	-3.6	-11.6	-9.7		-8.6	-0.3	-1.0		-7.7	0.4	-17.0	9.3	Що
_Jun-21	7.7	-4.9	3.8	2.2	6.9		11.2	-3.5	0.1		4.8	6.3	-2.1	-1.3	<u>i</u> .
Jul-21	16.2	11.2	-0.8	5.3	0.5		-3.2	0.0	3.0		-0.9	-3.6	18.4	2.4	Source: "From farms to the kitchen-sink", Mahesh Vyas, CMIE
Aug-21	-1.9	-7.6	-0.9	-0.5	8.5		4.5	4.7	-0.7		4.0	0.7	2.1	-8.7 -	So

■ In the past 25 months, whenever the agri sector shed jobs, the construction or manufacturing sector or both would absorb those workers, along with the services sector. August 2021 was an exception. Despite the agri sector shedding 7.6 mn jobs, not many were absorbed either by the construction or the manufacturing sector. Instead, most got into services sector, which gained 8.5 mn jobs. Trends during April-July 2020 were an outlier due to the national lockdown

recorded a net gain of 8.5 mn jobs, about 4.7 mn got into non-professional services*. Househelps cooks, beauticians, plumbers and security guards come in this category. About 4.5 mn entered the retail trade. Only a few gained jobs in the IT, financial, healthcare and professional services

■ While the services sector

armworkers did get into some service sector job, most such employment was informal. Salaried jobs increased by only 0.7 mn, while there was a significant rise in self-employed persons, small traders and wage labourers. This points to the poor quality of employment

The Mindu. FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 9, 1971

Spectre of civil war in N. Ireland

Roman Catholic opposition leaders rebuffed a British peace feeler to-day [Belfast, September 8] as bomb blasts rocked Northern Ireland's capital and a Protestant politician raised the spectre of outright civil war. Fears of an impending offensive by gunmen of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (I.R.A.) sent Chief of Britain's General Staff Gen. Sir Michael Carver flying into Belfast to review the military set-up. He flew from London unexpectedly last night for talks with officers commanding 12,500 British troops on peace-keeping duties in Ulster. Two bombs exploded in Belfast after midnight, one at an army veterans club and the other at a small factory. Five persons were taken to a hospital with undisclosed injuries. The British peace move was announced in London last night after two days of summit talks between Prime Minister Edward Heath and Irish Republic Prime Minister Jack Lynch that ended in icy dispute over ways of stopping the bloodshed in the North. One hundred lives have been lost in the past two years. Home Secretary Reginald Maudling invited all sections of Northern Ireland's feuding communities to a round table conference aimed at giving the Catholic minority "an active, permanent and guaranteed role" in the British province ruled by Protestants for 50 years.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 9, 1921

The Moplah revolt

The Bengalee of the 7th inst. writes:- His Excellency the Governor of Madras has observed that the Moplah revolt is the outcome of a widespread conspiracy hatched with the object of overthrowing the British Government. In view of this observation it is worth while to inquire how long ago the fact of this conspiracy was brought to the notice of Lord Willingdon, and why no attempt was made to scotch it before the actual outbreak. Did His Excellency hear of the conspiracy before or after? The question is important enough as the answer to it will determine whether and how far the Intelligence Department in Madras is efficient. We think therefore, we have a right to seek positive information on this point. Supposing, however, that the Governor of Madras was, as he should have been, aware of the conspiracy long before the outbreak of law-lessness, we are at a loss to make out why the opportunity was at all allowed to the conspirators to rise in open defiance of the majesty of law.

Amid protests, Centre hikes MSP for rabi crops

The unions are now in the tenth month of protest against the three farm reform laws, which they claim will hurt the MSP regime, and have also demanded a legal guarantee for MSP.

The Agriculture Minister, in a statement, said, "Some people who are spreading the illusion that MSP will be abolished should also learn from this decision. After the passage of the new agricultural reform laws, not only have the rates of MSP increased but there has also been a continuous increase in the procurement by the

According to the Centre, the cost of production of wheat for the upcoming marketing season of 2022-23 is ₹1,008 per quintal, meaning that the new MSP of ₹2,015 will result in 100% returns. Rapeseed and mustard farmers, who saw MSP rise 8.6%, or ₹400 per quintal, to a rate of ₹5,050 per quintal can also expect 100% returns. Masoor dal also saw a ₹400 per quintal hike, which means MSP for the lentil will be 7.8% higher than last year, with 79% returns over the cost of production. Chana or gram saw a 2.5% hike in MSP, resulting in 74% returns.

Mr. Tomar said the government had decided to fix the MSPs of all kharif and rabi crops at least 1.5 times more than their production cost and this has helped in enhancing the farmers' income.

The Centre's decision to procure pulses and oilseeds apart from wheat and paddy

he added. "The expected returns to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be highest in case of wheat and mustard seed (100% each), followed by lentil (79%), gram (74%); barley (60%) and safflower (50%)," an official statement

said. The government also said that concerted efforts were made over the past few years to realign the MSPs in favour of oilseeds, pulses and coarse cereals to encourage farmers to shift to a larger area under these crops and adopt best technologies and farm practices to correct the demand-supply imbalance.

BKS welcomes hikes

The RSS-affiliated farm union Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS), which held a nationwide agitation on Wednesday, welcomed the MSP hikes, but pointed out that most farmers would not get the benefits as they were still unable to sell their crops at that rate.

"We welcome this attempt to diversify crops and encourage pulses and oilseeds like masoor and sarson (mustard). The water and labour costs are lower for these crops, and since the MSP has been increased. profits should be higher for farmers," said Badrinarayan Chaudhary, general secretary of the BKS. " Our andolan remains because the government does not procure crops from all farmers. We still want a law which will remunerative prices for all," he added.

guarantee is also benefitting farmers,

BJP workers set fire to CPI(M) office

SYED SAJJAD ALI

BJP workers set fire to the CPI(M) State office in Agartala and burnt down several vehicles parked outside on Wednesday. The workers were protesting against a clash with CPI(M) cadres at Dhanpur in Sepahijala district recently. The activists also attacked the office of *Pratibadi Kalam*, a vernacular daily, and ransacked the building. The vehicle of its editor was vandalised and motorbikes of journalists were burnt.

Three journalists were injured and two of them were admitted to hospital.

The office of Daily Desher Katha, the CPI(M) mouthpiece, was also raided and ransacked. The CPI (M) alleged that police and paramilitary troops were mere spectators when the attacks were taking place.

The party said senior leaders would speak about the incidents at a press conference later.

(With inputs from PTI)

NDA will admit women: govt

Centre informs SC of its decision, to file an affidavit by September 22

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union government on Wednesday gave the Supreme Court the "good news" that it had taken a decision to allow women entry into the National Defence Academy (NDA), so far a male bastion for recruitment into the armed forces. If this decision comes

through formally on paper, women can prepare for a career in the armed forces immediately after Class 12. "There is good news. The

forces at the highest level and the government has taken a decision last evening to induct girls for permanent commission through the National Defence Academy," Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed a Bench led by Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M.M. Sundresh. The Bench asked the go-

vernment to file an affidavit in this regard by September 22, the next date of hearing. It said the armed forces was a respected institution, but it



In command: Women officers of the Army have brought laurels to the force, the Supreme Court said. ■FILE PHOTO

had more to do regarding gender equality.

The court admitted that it was not a happy situation for it to constantly nudge the authorities into taking action on bettering gender representation. The Bench said the authorities needed to act by themselves.

The court commended Ms. Bhati for taking pro-active measures in favour of women interested in a career in the armed forces.

Ms. Bhati urged the court for the time being to mainmissions to the NDA in the present academic year. She said the NDA exam, originally scheduled for September 5, had been postponed to November.

"Consider granting status quo for this examination and let it continue, as it will need policy, procedure, training and infrastructure changes," she submitted. On August 18, the court issued an interim order allowing women candidates to take the NDA exam, which was then sche-

duled on September 5. The court had also then

questioned why "co-education is a problem" in the armed forces. It had orally observed that it was "absurd" that women were not allowed to appear for the exam even after the Supreme Court, in a judgment, directed permanent commission for women in the Army.

Feb. 2020 ruling

On February 17 last year, the court upheld permanent commission for women officers. It dismissed the government's submissions that women were physiologically weaker than men as a "sex stereotype". It declared that Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers were eligible for permanent commission and command posts in the Army irrespective of their years of service.

"Women officers of the Indian Army have brought laurels to the force... Their track record of service to the nation is beyond reproach," **Justice Chandrachud had ob**served in a 54-page judgment in the Army case.

Don't want press freedom muzzled: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it did not want press freedom to be muzzled even as it granted interim protection to journalists of a news website from any coercive action by the State of Uttar Pradesh.

"We are aware of fundamental rights. We do not want press freedom to be muzzled," Justice L. Nageswara Rao addressed advocates Nitya Ramakrishnan and Shadan Farasat, appearing for the Foundation for Independent Journalism, which runs The Wire website. The foundation and

some journalists with the website had approached the court against FIRs registered against them by the State. The court, however, advised the petitioners to approach the Allahabad High Court first. The petitioners agreed to withdraw the plea from the Supreme Court.

Ceasefire with NSCN(K) Niki group

Agreement will boost the Naga peace process under way, says Home Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday entered into a one-year ceasefire agreement with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (K) Niki Group. More than 200 cadres of the outfit, with 83 weapons, have joined the peace process.

agreed ceasefire ground rules were also signed. In a statement, the Union Home Ministry said the agreement would boost the Naga peace process, under the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of an insurgency-free and prosperous northeast.

The development came days after demands were again raised by some politicians and activists for a new



Long road: A deserted street in Dimapur on August 3 during a bandh by the NSCN-IM in protest against the Centre's 'silence' on the Framework Agreement. • PTI

interlocutor, in place of Nagaland Governor R.N. Ravi, for the peace process, owing to the sharp disagreements between him and the Isak-Muivah faction of National Socialist Council of Nagaland or NSCN-IM.

The Centre has already signed a framework agreement with the NSCN-IM and ceasefire agreements with other Naga groups, the NSCN NSCN(K)-Khango.

In August 2019, the government had signed an accord with National Liberation Front of Tripura-Sabir Debbarma (NLFT-SD), under which 88 cadres along with 44 weapons joined the main-

With the signing of the Bodo Agreement in January last

stream in Tripura.

year, over 2,250 cadres of insurgent groups, including all factions of National Democratic Front of Boroland, along with 423 weapons and a huge quantity of ammunition, had surrendered in Assam and joined the mainstream. On February 23, 1,040

leaders and cadres of various underground Karbi groups of Assam surrendered along with 338 weapons, which was followed by the signing of the Karbi Anglong Agreement on Septem-

In December 2020, the government had accepted the offer of Niki Sumi to revive the ceasefire agreement after he floated a new faction of NSCN-Khaplang.

Centre can extend ED Director's term, says SC

But no further extension, Bench rules

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Wednesday did not intervene with the government's decision to "retrospectively extend" the tenure of Sanjay Kumar Mishra as the Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), saying his tenure is anyway drawing to a close in November 2021.

In a judgment pronounced on Wednesday, a Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao, however, said Mr. Mishra should not be given any further extension at the top of the specialised Central agency which investigates sensitive cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The court, however, upheld the power of the government to extend his te-

nure beyond two years.

"As the tenure of appointment of Director of Enforcement is not a maximum period of two years, a person can be appointed as Director of Enforcement for a period of more than two years... The decision to ex-

tend the tenure of the respondent [Mishra] is pursuant recommendation made by the high-powered committee," Justice Rao, who authored the 30-page judgment, interpreted the law on a petition by NGO, Common Cause, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan. However, the court said the power to grant extensions for a "reasonable period" to the ED Director should be done rarely and only after recording the reasons.

Court rejects plea for door-to-door vaccination

The petition had sought a general order to the Centre to begin door-to-door vaccination for the disabled, the aged, those unable to approach vaccination centres, among others.

It asked the court to direct the government to frame a Standard Operating Procedure for door-to-door administration of vaccines. It sought a 24X7 portal for this type of vaccination.

"Vaccination is already under way. The court is monitoring it in a suo motu petition... The court has constituted a National Task Force. At this stage, it's difficult to give a general direction considering the diversity of this country... We should not impinge upon the administrative power of the state to give vaccine, including door-to-door," the court said. It, however, gave the petitioner liberty to ap-

1 dead, 35 missing after

ferries collide in Assam

proach the Ministry of Health with the suggestions.

In a separate case, the court admonished the petitioner for presuming that every death caused by the pandemic was due to the negligence of the State.

"We cannot start with the presumption that every death was due to negli gence... Our country has gone through an unprecedented pandemic," Justice Chandrachud addressed petitioner Deepak Raj Singh's counsel advocate Sriram Pa-

ThisPIL petition had sought action against the authorities for "committing" gross negligence, leading to the deaths of patients in the second wave of CO-VID-19. It urged the court to direct the government to ina compensation scheme for those affected by the pandemic.

Late-running trains to cost Railways dear

Passengers must get relief: SC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has held that the Railways will have to pay passengers compensation for the late running of trains if unable to establish or prove that the delay was due to reasons beyond its control.

"These are the days of competition and accountability. If the public transportation has to survive and compete with private players, they have to improve the system and their working culture," a Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and Aniruddha Bose observed in an

order on Tuesday. The court upheld the compensation awarded to a passenger whose train was delayed by four hours while travelling to Jammu with his family in 2016. They missed their flight and had to take an expensive taxi to Srinagar. They also lost their booking of a boat on Dal

The District Consumer Forum put it down as deficiency in service by the Rail-

The forum ordered the North Western Railway to pay the disgruntled passenger ₹15,000 for taxi expenses and ₹10,000 towards booking expenses, along with ₹5,000 each towards mental agony and litigation expenses.

the Railways Though went on appeal, the effort failed both at the State and National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commis-

The consumer fora, in the same voice, said the Rail-



The court said every passenger's time is precious.

ways had never explained why the train was delayed.

Railways' argument In the top court, Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, for the Railways, vehemently submitted that late running of trains could not be said to be a deficiency of service. She quoted Rules 114 and 115 of the Indian Railway Conference Association Coaching Tariff, which said there should not be any liability of the Railways to pay compensation for the late running of

"There may be a number of reasons for delay and late running of trains," she argued.

However, the court was not convinced. "No evidence at all was led by the Railways explaining the delay and/or late arrival of trains at Jammu," it said. The court said "every

cious, they might have booked tickets for further journeys". "Like in the present case from Jammu to Srinagar and thereafter further journey,"

it noted.

passenger's time is pre-

Asthana appointment: HC allows more time to Centre

The Bench will hear the case on September 16

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday allowed more time to the Centre to submit its response to a petition challenging the appointment of Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner.

D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh permitted Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's plea for more time. The High Court will hear the case on September 16.

fresh notice to the IPS officer

as it was not served on him due to want of payment of process fee by the petitioner. Last week, the High Court had allowed an application

filed by a non-government

organisation, Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), seeking to be made a party in the case. The CPIL, in its impleading application, argued that the petition before the High Court filed by Sadre Alam was a "copypaste" of its plea before the

Supreme Court. The CPIL has stated that it got to know about the filing of Mr. Alam's petition before the High Court from media reports and "was surprised to see some of the paragraphs of the writ petition, as quoted by media, to be copy-pasted from the applicant's writ petition filed before the Supreme Court". The NGO said his petition "seems to be only to defeat public interest by scuttling the genuine, bonafide and well-researched and deliberated PIL petition filed by the applicant [NGO] before the Supreme Court".

Mr. Alam's plea said the 1984-batch IPS officer was appointed Delhi Police Commissioner just four days before his retirement.

Akali Dal swaps two seats

The Shiromani Akali Dal on Wednesday decided to swap sembly poll next year.

Badal said his party has given two Assembly seats, Sham Chaurasi and Kapurthala, to the BSP and taken back Amritsar North and Sujanpur Assembly consti-

month declared its two candidates from Amritsar North and Sujanpur constituencies. At that time, Mr. Badal had said the decision was taken with the consent of the

Both Amritsar North and Sujanpur were among the 20 seats given to the BSP as part of the seat-sharing arrangement between both the alliance partners.

"SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal announced that it has taken Amritsar North and Sujanpur seats back from the BSP. In place, the BSP has been given Sham Chaurasi and Kapurthala Assembly seats," senior SAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema said on Wednesday.

IN BRIEF



CBI to probe more cases related to judge's death NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has taken over two more cases linked to the death of Additional District and Sessions Judge Uttam Anand (in photo) in Jharkhand's Dhanbad in July. Earlier lodged with the local police, the FIRs pertained to the theft of three mobile phones allegedly involving Rahul Verma, who is an

Chargesheet against three in IS module case

accused in the case.

The NIA on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against three for allegedly being part of an Islamic State-inspired module that was involved in promoting violence. The accused have been identified as Mohammed Ameen, Mushab Anwar and Rahees Rasheed, all residents of Kerala. On March 5, the agency had registered the case against seven known persons and others.

Cadres of Manipur outfit killed in Myanmar

Two cadre of the Manipur extremist outfit, People's Liberation Army (PLA), were executed at the Nanyang Wakathan camp of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang-Yung Aung) in Myanmar on August 16-17 for deserting the organisation, according to security agencies. The incident happened days after six members were killed in a factional fight, triggered by the decision of some cadre to desert the outfit, said an official.

A ND-NDE

wheelers on the capsized

Timely help: Local residents trying to rescue passengers of the ill-fated ferry on Wednesday. •PTI "A communication error between the operators of the two boats perhaps led to the collision," he told The The ferries on the Brahmaputra operate under the Inland Water Transport Department. Passengers pay the fare onboard but since tickets are not issued, officials could not specify the number of passengers on the ill-fated ferry. The mechanised ferries have a capacity to carry 70-80 people along with vehicles, mostly two-wheelers. But locals claim most ferries haul 100-120 people. About 30 two-

ferry sank.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "Saddened by the boat accident in Assam. All efforts are being made to rescue the passengers. I pray for everyone's safety and well-being." Union Home Minister

Amit Shah called up Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to take stock of the situation. The Chief Minister is scheduled to visit Neamatighat on Thursday to assess the situation. Ports and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who represents the Majuli Assembly constituency, expressed deep anguish over the ferry mishap.

A Bench of Chief Justice

The High Court issued a

Sadanand Singh passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Senior Bihar Congress leader Sadanand Singh (76) passed away on Wednesday. He had been undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Patna for two Mr. Singh was the Con-

gress Legislature Party leader in the Assembly and nine-time MLA from Kahalgaon in Bhagalpur. He was a Minister and Assembly Speaker (2000-2005). He had been the Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee president twice.

with 'ally' BSP in Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH

two seats with the Bahujan Samaj Party, its alliance partner for the Punjab As-SAD chief Sukhbir Singh

tuencies from it.

The Akali Dal had last

India, Russia review Afghanistan situation

New Delhi raises issues of Pakistan's links with the new Taliban regime, JeM and LeT in the talks

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

India and Russia conducted their first "detailed and extensive review" of the situation in Afghanistan, agreeing to coordinate their positions at the United Nations, as a delegation led by Russia's Security Council Secretary General Nikolai Patrushev met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval in Delhi, officials said.

During the meeting that came a week after Russia decided to abstain from a UN Security Council Resolution on Afghanistan under India's presidency, the two sides stressed areas of "convergence", including the need to hold the Taliban to their promises thus far, the threat of terrorism from international terror groups inside Afghanistan, flow of weapons, radicalisation and increase in opium production and drug trafficking under the new regime.

"[Mr. Doval and Gen Pa-



High-level meet: NSA Ajit Doval with Secretary of the Russian Security Council General Nikolai Patrushev in New Delhi. • PTI

trushev] touched upon humanitarian and migration problems in [Afghanistan], as well as prospects for the Russian-Indian joint efforts aimed at creating conditions for launching a peaceful settlement process on the basis of an intra-Afghan dialogue," a statement issued by the Russian Embassy in Delhi said, adding that the two sides "agreed to coordinate the approaches of Russia and India in multilateral formats

on the Afghan settlement." The Russian Security chief also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. Mr. Modi appreciated Gen. Patrushev's visit "at a time when major changes are taking place in the region".

Sources said India raised the issue of Pakistan's links with Taliban, international terror groups, and the Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, believed to be operating in Afghanistan as well, in the talks with the Russian delegation.

The Indian delegation also raised the "special responsibility that Pakistan bears to ensure that Afghanistan soil is not used to spread terrorism," the sources said. Significantly, neither side gave any indication of talks on the status of the Haggani Network, a UNSC-designated terror group that has carried out attacks on the Indian Embassy and consulates in Afghanistan, whose leader Sirajuddin Haqqani has been named the Interior Minister of the new regime. The talks followed a day after CIA Director William Burns flew into Delhi to meet Mr. Doval, reported by *The Hindu*.

The U.S. has been discussing the issue of housing its Afghan evacuees who are being processed in other countries, the emerging terror threat from developments in Afghanistan and any future engagement with the Taliban government, now headed by Mohammed Hassan Akhund, who is also on the list of UNSC-designated terrorists.

The Modi government has thus far maintained an independent posture from both the U.S. and Russian stands on the Taliban regime, deciding to close down its embassy in Kabul unlike Russia, China and other countries that kept their missions open.

In an interview to RIA Novosti on Tuesday, Ambassador to Russia Venkatesh Verma said the results of the U.S.'s Doha Agreement and the Russia-led Troika plus talks which included the U.S., China and Pakistan had not been "matched by subsequent developments" in Afghanistan.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host Russian President Vladimir Putin and leaders of China, Brazil and South Africa for the BRICS summit in a virtual format.

Outgoing U.S. envoy meets RSS chief, discusses 'inclusivity'

The meet comes days ahead of Modi's visit to America

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

U.S. Acting Ambassador Atul Keshap met RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday, in a meeting considered significant as it comes days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit this month to the U.S., where he is expected to hold his first bilateral meeting with President Joseph Biden and attend the Quad summit.

"Good discussion with Shri Mohan Bhagwat about how India's tradition of diversity, democracy, inclusivity and pluralism can ensure the vitality and strength of a truly great nation," Mr. Keshap tweeted. Mr. Keshap was on a

round of farewell calls, and had also met Congress leader Privanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday. He is expected to return to the U.S. shortly, after completing just over two



Farewell call: U.S. Acting Ambassador Atul Keshap with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in New Delhi on Wednesday. • TWITTER

months as Charge D'Affaires.

"The U.S.-India relationship has never been better. Working together, our two great democracies will continue to advance human happiness around the world for years to come," Mr. Keshap said in a statement announcing his departure.

The Deputy Chief of Mission will officiate until Mr. Biden's Ambassadorial nominee, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, receives confirmation in the U.S. Senate.

U.S. Embassy officials declined to comment on whether the Ambassador's words to Mr. Bhagwat were meant to carry any special import. During a visit to Delhi last month, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken had also mentioned the importance of "democracy, pluralism, human rights and fun-

SC Collegium approves 12 names as permanent judges

10 additional judges from Karnataka and two from Kerala

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana, has approved the names of 10 additional judges of the Karnataka High Court and two from the Kerala High Court for appointment as permanent judges of these courts.

Elevation to the High Court Bench is followed by a period of work as an additional judge before the Collegium recommends for permanent judgeship.

The Collegium recommendations were made on September 7, close behind the August 24 and September 1 recommendations of a

whopping 68 names for appointments to 12 High Courts. The past few weeks had begun on a historic note with the Collegium recommending nine judges to the Supreme Court in one go. One of these judges, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, is poised to be India's first woman CJI in

Filling vacancies

The Collegium is pushing hard to fill vacancies. There is likely to be a steady flow of recommendation of names for filling vacancies in the 25 High Courts, which have over 465 vacancies. This is over 41% of the total sanctioned judicial strength of 1,098 in the High Courts. The additional judges re-

commended for permanent

judgeships in the Karnataka High Court are Justices Maralur Indrakumar Arun, Engalaguppe Seetharamaiah Indiresh, Ravi Venkappa Hosmani, Savanur Vishwajith Shetty, Shivashankar Amarannavar, M. Ganeshaiah Uma, Vedavyasachar Srishananda, Hanchate Sanjeevkumar, Padmaraj Nemachandra Desai, and P. Krishna Bhat. The Collegium has also recommended the appointment of additional judges of the Kerala High Court Justices M.R. Anitha and K. Nair Haripal as permanent judges.

Mamata begins campaign for bypoll

Addressing a meet at Bhabanipur, she targets BJP for alleged political vendetta

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday began her campaign for the Bhabanipur Assembly byelection by addressing a meeting of party supporters in the constituency. She targeted the BJP for allegedly indulging in political vendetta.

"Just after the bypoll dates are announced, Trinamool Congress leaders are being summoned by Central agencies. Notices are being sent to Abhishek [party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee] and Partha [party leader Partha Chatteriee)," she said. She dared the agencies to investigate the allegations against Mr. Banerjee.



Game on: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a party workers' meeting in Kolkata on Wednesday. • PTI

Her remarks come after the Enforcement Directorate served a second notice on Mr. Banerjee in a coal pilfer-

The Chief Minister has to face the byelection as she lost the election at Nandigram by a narrow margin of 1.956 votes to BIP leader Su-

contest a poll again due to a BJP conspiracy. We have gone to court over the issue. If there is no merit in the petition, the court would not have accepted it," she said. Referring to the recent As-

vendu Adhikari. "I have to

sembly election in which the Trinamool registered a convincing victory over the BJP by winning 213 of the 294 Assembly seats, she said the Centre, all its agencies and "money and muscle power" of the BJP could not defeat her. There was a planned attack on her in Nandigram in which she suffered a foot injury and had to confine herself to a wheelchair during the campaign, she said.

The Bhabanipur constituency will go to the polls on September 30.

CPI(M) fields lawyer to take on Bengal CM

damental freedoms".

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A day after the Congress decided not to field a candidate against West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee in the Bhabanipur Assembly bypoll, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Wednesday announced its candidate, Shrijeeb Biswas, a 31-year-old lawyer at the Alipore court, for the Since the Congress will

stay away from campaign, the candidate will not campaign under the banner of the Samyukt Morcha, a front created before the Assembly polls with the Left +Front, Congress and Indian Secular Front.

BJP announces poll managers

5 States go to the polls early next year; Dharmendra Pradhan is in charge of U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday announced a slew of organisational appointments for the five States going to the polls early next year.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has been put in charge of elections in Uttar Pradesh, along with Union Ministers Shobha Karandalaje, Arjun Meghwal, Annapurna Devi and Anurag Thakur as co in-charge. Saroj Pande and Captain Abhimanyu are part of the team.

Mr. Pradhan has overseen important polls in the past, having held charge of States such as Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Karnataka during Assembly polls.

5 die as heavy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Five people have died in

rain-related incidents in

rain lashes

Gujarat



Dharmendra Pradhan

Uttar Pradesh has also been divided into six parts for organisational purposes, with Lok Sabha member Sanjay Bhatia being put in charge of western Uttar Pradesh, Bihar MLA Sanjeev

Chaurasia of the Brij region, national secretary Y. Satya Kumar of Awadh, additional treasurer of the BJP Sudhir Gupta of Kanpur, national secretary Arvind Menon of Gorakhpur and Sunil Ojha (sah prabhari for Uttar Pradesh) of Kashi.

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has been given charge of Punjab, along with Union Ministers Hardeep Singh Puri and Meenakshi Lekhi and Lok Sabha member Vinod Chav-

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi has been asked to look after Uttarakhand along with Lok Sabha member from Bengal Locket Chatterjee and party spokes-

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has been put in charge of Manipur, along with Union Minister Pratima Bhowmick and Assam State Minister Ashok Singhal.

Maharashtra Former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who had held charge of the Assembly election in Bihar in 2020, has been put in charge of Goa, along with Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy and Minister of State for Railways Darshana Jardosh.

With this, the BIP seems to have put in place an organisational architecture to go into the very crucial set of polls next year.

'Restore J&K's

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

National Conference presi-

dent Dr. Farooq Abdullah

said the government must

restore Statehood in Jam-

mu and Kashmir before

elections. He pledged to

continue the fight for resto-

ration of special status.

Statehood

before poll'

Bid for supply & installation below mentioned items ar invited from interested bidder's upto 29-09-2021 at 04.00PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procure-

No. 7666-71/F/MC/Store/2021-22

Notice Inviting Bid

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S.M.S. MEDICAL COLLEGE &

CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR

ment portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and SMS Medical College, Jaipur Department

UBN:- SMS2122GLOB00256 to SMS2122GLOB00264 PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED NCR REGION ALWAR Manu Marg ALWAR (RAJ.) E-Mail- ace.alw.phed@rajasthan.gov.ir

NOTICE INVITING BID (Nit No. 42-43/2021-22) Bids for Work of construction of Sources, rising main pipelines, CWRs, Pump houses, ESRs, internal village distribution pipeline and FHTC including one year Defect Liability period of Various Villages under Panchayat samiti Bansur undawar under JJM in the jurisdiction of PHED Division Behrod / Rural division NCR 1st Alwar are invited from interested bidders upto 05:00 PM on Date 27.09.2021. Ohter particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and ttps://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website

UBN:-PHE2122WLOB06737 PHE2122WLOB06753 Aditya Sharm



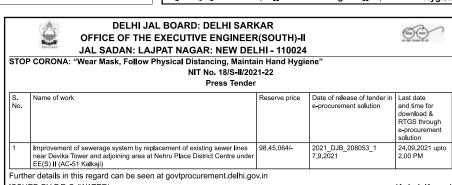
"e"-AUCTION NOTICE

Scrap Vehicles and Materials available at various units of KSRTC will be sold through e-Auction portal conducted by Auction Management, e-Procurement Cell, Centre for e-Governance, Government of Karnataka. Hence, all the bidders are requested to register their firms by

visiting e-Procurement cell directly at the below mentioned address: Auction Management, e-Procurement cell, Centre for e-Governance, 4th Floor, Sri Aravinda Bhavan, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru- 560 001, Helpdesk No.: 080-46010000, 68948777, e-mail: eprocurementhelpdesk @gmail.com

The interested bidders may log onto https://eproc.karnataka. gov.in Further they may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. KSRTC contact Phone Nos. : +91-7760990221/224, 080-22221321 Extn- 298

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फोन / Tele: 044-22411611 ईमेल: nischennaisiddha@yahoo.co.in

File No. NIS/1-43/Hospital Superintendent - Deputation/2021

फैक्स / Fax: 044-22381314

वेब: https://nischennai.org

Date: 08.09.2021

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO.03/2021 Applications in the prescribed format are invited

for filling up the post of Hospital Superintendent in the National Institute of Siddha on Deputation basis. The detailed notification and application form may be downloaded from the Institute's website https://nischennai.org.

DIRECTOR-NIS

🕟 TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI NOTICE INVITING TENDER - CUM-REVERSE TENDERING Roc.No.TID-44021(34)/3/2021-Press SEC TID. Dt:08-09-2021

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AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED Corporate Identification Number (CIN) – U40109RJ2000SGC016482 Registered Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makarwali Road, Ajmer-305004

Office of The Superintending Engineer (IT) ITCenter, Opp. 220KV GSS,Naka Madar,Ajmer Phone/Fax : 0145-2671860 ; E-mail: <u>seitavvnlajmer@gmail.com</u> ; Website –<u>http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl</u>

E-Tender Notice TN IT-46

NIB code:-AVV2122A0062

-bids are invited from eligible bidders in two parts (Techno-Commercial bid & price id) for the work of "For Establishment of Customer Care Helpdesk Operations at Subvision Levelas service under Ajmer Discom for 2 Years against TN-IT-46". All the e tails regarding tenders are available at our website details regarding tenders are available at our websit http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in an https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. In future corrigendum/extension etc. if any, shall b ublished only at website http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in Superintending Engineer(IT

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (PPP), P.W.D., Rajasthan, Jaipur

NIT No. 14/2021-22

INVITATION OF RFP FOR TOLL COLLECTION On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, Public Works Department

Rajasthan invites RFP for Toll Collection for WB funded Highway Jodhpur Marwar Jn. Jojawar Highway (SH-61 & 61A) (Km 0.00 to Km 119.100) (Package:- WB/RSHDP - II in specified format.

The RFP document can be viewed or / and downloaded from https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from 07.09.2021. Any further amendments to the RFP document shall only be made available on above websites as such prospective Bidders are advised to visit the above websites for the same.

UBN No. PWD2122WLOB06079

DIPR/C/8880

Raj.Samwad/C/21/5713

(V.K.Singh Addl. Chief Engineer (PPP) PWD, Rajasthan, Jaipu Email:aceppp.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in Tel: +91-141-2223547

AVVNL, Ajmei



Gujarat, as parts of Saurashtra and a few other regions have come under heavy spell of monsoon rains since Tuesday.

The five died in separate incidents of lightening strikes, as heavy rains battered Rajkot, Morbi and Amreli districts among others. According to the weather department, more than 10 districts have received moderate to heavy showers and this will continue till Friday.

So far, Gujarat has missed good rains due in the absence of any system in the Arabian Sea, which normally brings good rains during the south western monsoon.





The Jammu and Kashmir police conducted searches and detained four journalists in Srinagar on Wednesday. They were freed at

Around 7 a.m., simultaneous searches were carried out by multiple teams of the police at the residences of Hilal Mir, Shah Abbas, aand Azhar Qadri, all freelance journalists, and Showkat Motta, editor of the Kashmir Narrator magazine, in different locations

"We were asleep when the police raided my house. Later, they took away my mobile phone and laptop. Even my wife was asked to hand over her mobile and laptop. Our passports were

in Srinagar.

also seized," one of the four detained journalists told The Hindu. Another journalist said

the mobile phones of all the members were family seized. Three of the four detained journalists contribute to foreign publications. "We were asked about our background. We were not told about the case in which we have been summoned nor intimated of any charges," another detained journalist said.

A senior police officer said the four were detained in connection with the FIR 82/2020 lodged last year. "They are questioned as part of the investigation in the case," he said.

Reporters Sans Frontières termed the detentions "crude intimidation".



hearing on Kochhar plea

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday refused to urgently hear businessman Deepak Kochhar's plea to quash the proceedings initiated against him by the **Enforcement Directorate in** the ICICI and Videocon bank scam. The matter will be

Mahendra Pratap varsity

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh University in Aligarh on September 14. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Youi Adityanath visited Aligarh on Wednesday to take stock of the preparations.

on oil palm cultivation

to allay fears over the impact Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) forward is wasteland.

Assam govt. unveils electric vehicle policy

The Assam government on EVs within the next five years.

Panel set up to draft Bill on drugs, cosmetics and medical devices

Eight-member committee will submit draft document by November 30

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN NEW DELHI

The Union government has constituted a committee for framing legislation regarding new drugs, cosmetics and medical devices. The eightmember panel, headed by Drugs Controller General of India V.G. Somani, is scheduled to submit a draft document by November 30.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in an order dated August 27, said the committee would prepare the New Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices Bill.

The other members of the panel are Rajiv Wadhawan (Director, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare); S.E.



The government is looking at new laws on drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.

Reddy; A.K. Pradhan; the Drugs Controllers of Haryana, Gujarat and Maharashtra; and IAS officer N.L. Mee-

to co-opt one or more member if needed. The order further states

The committee is allowed

that the committee shall undertake pre-legislative consultations and examine the

present Act, previously framed Drugs and Cosmetics Bills and submit a draft document for a new Drugs, Cosmetics and Medical Devices

'Keep pharma distinct'

Reacting to the move, Rajiv Nath, forum coordinator, Association of Indian Medical Device Industry, said medical devices have outgrown the "joint family home" shared too long with phar-

"The separate rules were a good step to allow us to have our own home but the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation [CDSCO] is not letting go. If food can

have the FSSAI [Food Safety and Standards Authority of India], we need something similar for devices, which are engineering goods undergoing constant innovation," Mr. Nath stated.

The NITI Aayog Bill to regulate devices separately from drugs and decriminalise minor non-compliances was in the right direction, he

The composition of the committee was a serious conflict of interest and unprecedented, he said. "Involving stakeholders like manufacturers, would have been beneficial," he added.

scientists, doctors and patient groups

Implementing social security code a priority, says Minister

Bhupender Yadav declines to give implementation timeline

DAMINI NATH

Implementing the Code on Social Security, 2020, and bringing large numbers of workers within the ambit of social security schemes were the top priorities of the government, according to Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav.

Mr. Yadav told The Hindu on Tuesday that the focus on expanding social security schemes would be discussed during the Employees' State Insurance Corporation's meeting on Friday. Mr. Yaday, who was inducted into the Cabinet during the expansion of the Modi Ministry in July, said the task ahead for him and the Ministry would be to ensure that the benefits of the Code on Social Security "reach the poor and downtrodden". Among the features of the social se-



Bhupender Yadav

curity code is the expansion of benefits under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) to gig and platform workers. "The need of the hour is

that a large number of workers must come under the ambit of social security schemes," Mr. Yadav said.

The social security code, along with the codes on wages, industrial relations and occupational safety, is yet to

be implemented as the rules framed under the Act have not been notified. Asked when the four labour Codes would be implemented, Mr. Yadav declined to comment on a timeline.

According to Labour Ministry sources, the rules framed under the four Codes are ready to be notified and States are in the process of notifying their own rules for the same.

Earlier in the year, Labour and Employment Secretary Apurva Chandra had said the rules would be ready before April 1. Officials have since then not commented on when the rules would be notified. A Ministry source said once notified, the rules would take some time to be executed and employers would likely be given three months to comply with the

Work to expand BSP's base: Mayawati

Party chief addresses office-bearers, asks partymen to work on war footing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Wednesday instructed partymen to work on a war footing to expand the party's base among the 'sarv samaj', a day after addressing a 'prabudh varg sammelan' aimed at garnering the support of intellectuals, especially Brahmins, before the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Reviews preparations

Ms. Mayawati in a tweet in Hindi said she addressed senior office-bearers and district unit presidents of the BSP in an important meeting here.

She reviewed the prepara-



BSP chief Mayawati at a 'Vichar Sangosthi' in Lucknow.

tions of the party up to booth level in view of the

the society. The former Chief Minister also directed party-

Tuesday in Lucknow, she as-

sured that the Brahmin community will be treated right if her BSP forms the government in 2022.

"Now when a BSP-led government is formed, my efforts will not go into building memorials, parks and statues. My whole energy will go into changing the face of Uttar Pradesh so that the entire country and world can say that the BSP chief has changed the face of the State," Mayawati said.

The former Chief Minister gave a call for forging strong unity among Dalits and Brahmins so that the results of 2007 could be repeated, when the party had formed a government of its own in Uttar Pradesh.

India, Australia to hold 2+2 meet

Discussion on bilateral free trade agreement is likely

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

India and Australia will hold the inaugural 2+2 Ministerial meeting here during the upcoming visit of Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Minister of Defence Peter Dutton. The meeting will be part of Australia's engagement with regional partners as the Ministers will also visit Indonesia, South Korea and the U.S. for Indo-Pacific consultations.

"These inaugural 2+2 discussions are a cornerstone of the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Part-

nership, which is founded counterpart Rajnath Singh. on a shared commitment to The Sydney Morning Herald has reported that the disa secure, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region," said Ms. Payne before start-

ing the tour. A statement from the Minister said the bilateral relationship is at a "historic high" and the discussion between Ms. Payne and her Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar will cover economic issues, cyber security, climate change, critical technology and supply chains. Mr. Dutton will hold the defence cooperation related meeting with his Indian

cussion in Delhi is likely to include a bilateral free trade agreement. India and Australia have been in negotia-

tion over a possible free trade deal, which has so far not yielded a positive result. The Ministerial meetings will be held in the backdrop of the evacuation of western forces from Afghanistan where Australia had a military presence. Australia has evacuated around 4,100 persons from Afghanistan before the end of August.

'Keshav Desiraju placed focus on mental health care as basic right for all'

The former Health Secretary called for convergence between sectors in developing robust responses

Even as growing evidence emerged on the links between physical and mental health and social disadvantage, former Health Secretary Keshav Desiraju recognised poverty, deprivation and poor social networks as predictors for poor health and mental health outcomes.

Therefore, it was not a surprise that as architect of India's Mental Health Policy and Mental Health Care Act, he emphasised mental health care as a basic right for every citizen, placing the onus on the state to find both funding and developing a road map to ensure appropriateness and accessibility of care. This was his biggest

win! Mental health care was no longer exclusively within the ambit of health care, but was part of the broader development discourse and linked to how people lived and to corresponding values of equity, dignity, universality and person-centredness.

Keshav was a visionary not just in that he made landscape-level changes in how he placed mental health care at the centre stage within the health agenda, but also in that perhaps for the first time, he outlined precipitating and perpetuating factors linked to structural barriers such as caste, class and gender-related disparities.

He, therefore, recommended convergence between health and social sectors in developing robust responses. Mental health was now also a social justice issue that in the absence of adequate care pathways churned out social crises ranging from higher mortali ty rates to homelessness and from rights violations to unemployment segregation.

Innumerable innovations This paved the way for innumerable innovations that promoted community inclusion and addressed mental health concerns across one's life span.

Besides ensuring that the person living with a mental health challenge could access care in spaces that were therapeutic and responsive and placing the needs of the person first, balancing care



Keshav Desiraju

with rights and the pursuit of capabilities, the focus was always on participation and agency, key tenets of the recovery process.

SCAN TO PLAY

Further, innovations such as basic income, out-of-work allowances, family support structures and outreach services on the streets were entering mainstream mental health conversations. Gradually mental health and

Keshav and his ilk contributed significantly towards this.

TRIBUTE

While advised by 10 members in drafting the Policy (including the first author), and by scientific evidence and ongoing practices in the mental health sector, he would always in parallel want to get a feel of what the real and messy world looked like. This was his most endearing quality both as a bureaucrat and policymaker.

He would travel widely to hospitals, homes of impoverished persons, and always remain connected to those who may never have found

their way into his life. We could see that he felt

their suffering and in a sense that strengthened his sense of urgency to better understand issues and learn from people's wisdom. There was no difference between an Ivv League contributor or an experiential expert's insights since his brilliant mind saw the need for, and importance of, both.

and capability to listen to people whom he believed he 'served' made him one of our finest officers and a rare breed. In this is a tip for budding bureaucrats in a changing culture; to hold close to one's heart, values of humility, integrity and a sense of conscientiousness and pur-

Post retirement, he conti-

with focus on the advancement of the vision of equitable access to health in fields ranging from cancer care to mental health, women's health to disability, palliative care to framing better health

value-based care approaches

Commitment to tasks

A man committed to completing a task on hand, small or large, he ensured that the Policy and Act were seen through to their completion

before he passed, while the paramedics were by his side, he sent out mails to cancel appointments indicating that he would get back to those individuals/ institutions once he returned from the hospital.

This same sense of deter-

that those relegated to the margins on account of their disability, distress or social vulnerabilities would experience a better future inspired him in all that he did, and he strived to do his best with quiet and understated elegance.

To honour his memory and celebrate his life, he would have liked many things to happen, and top on that list would have been the need for young Indians and budding public servants to pursue just one goal ardently - the need to work towards an equal, secular, inclusive,

of life outcomes would be natural by-products.

(Vandana Gopikumar is co-founder, The Banyan and The Banyan Academy, and Ravi Chellam is a wildlife biologist and CEO of Metastring Foundation)

THEROSSWORD+ 13348 We are digital now. Come solve online.

16 Could be maid or lover, tendency is to follow law indeed in the first

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

17 Day scholar cycling with maiden without help; crazy people (6) 19 Death by vain fight, one entering with boxer, totally gutted (8) 21 Sketch of small gear... (4)

25 Teak, Ironwood, Mahogany, Birch, Elm, Red Sanders primarily are 26 Cowboy perhaps new, heartbroken covered by journalist (8) 27 Company left after setting up telescopes in towers (8)

28 A lucky charm from Letham, a Scottish town (6)

22 ... say, gear gets ticks (5,5)

2 Gory, hair-raising operation undergoing, likely to look at the sources 3 Throw weight behind boy to get reward (5)

5 Collection of only nimbus clouds (7) **6** It is used wrongly by modern girls – old bathing implement (7) 7 Lived with a madcap (9)

8 Say, a doctor with substance, everyone at emergency room goes to

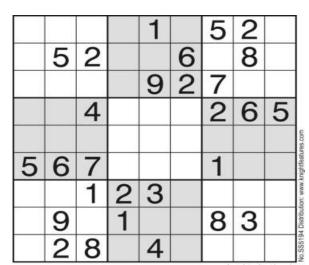
4 Unknown grainy representation while diagnosing perhaps (1-6)

14 Debar bishop's programme after absence (9) 15 One, two men on list take turn but permanent (9)

18 Descendant's back with 50000000000, it's an opening perhaps (7) 19 Cooks adding a bit of nutmeg and dill seeds for allies (7) **20** Somehow make it a target (4,3)

23 Hotel's arrival gate has obstacles perhaps (2-3) 24 Fine mythical ship in US city (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13347 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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FAITH

The Yamuna's retreat

Many miracles occurred on the night of Krishna's birth. Chains that bound Vasudeva fell off, the prison doors opened, the guards fell into deep sleep, and Vasudeva set off for Gokula. Adisesha and Garuda were with him, protecting and guiding him. But how was he to cross the Yamuna, which was overflowing its banks? Miraculously, the waters parted and made a path for Vasudeva. A river usually moves towards the ocean. Will a river ever reverse course and move upwards? That is what Yamuna seemed to be doing. While this was part of the marvels of Krishna's birth, one can find a reason for this in the Ramayana, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse.

Kumbhakarna tells Ravana that he should have asked his ministers and elders for advice, before hastily bringing Sita to Lanka. Instead, he was seeking advice after his act. This was not proper. The river Yamuna, when it comes down from a mountain, fills up the earth in its path. It does not go back in reverse to its point of origin. Seeking advice after the commission of an act was as ridiculous as expecting the Yamuna to go back. Maybe the Lord was impressed with Kumbhakarna's analogy. He might have wanted to show that the impossible was possible with Him. So, the river, which should rush towards the ocean, moved aside so that baby Krishna could cross it safely.

Vedanta Desika in his Yadavabhyudaya says that the Yamuna moved up so that it seemed as if she was trying to climb the Kalinda mountain, her father's abode. So, one can imagine that she was like a bride who, on her way to her husband's place, changes her mind and wonders if she should go back to her father! Desika's poetic imagination makes Yadavabhyudaya a unique account of Krishna avatara.



heard on September 22.

PM to lay stone for

Arunachal govt. keen

Contrary to some northeastern States such as Meghalaya, the Arunachal Pradesh government is keen on "reaping the benefits" of oil palm cultivation. Seeking on forests. Chief Minister Pema Khandu clarified that the 1.33 lakh hectares identified for taking the National Mission on Edible

Wednesday unveiled an electric vehicle (EV) policy for phasing out vehicles running on fossil fuels by 2030. The mission, approved recently, entails converting all government vehicles and fleet of public buses to electric and deploying 2 lakh

challenges of the upcoming poll and the ongoing efforts to expand the party's base among among all sections of

men to work on a war footing in this direction. At the sammelan held on

> well-being also found their way into the sustainable development goals and rightfully so. It is our belief that

Strong empathy

This grounding, respect

nued to work with civil society organisations to build organisational stability and systems.

and how! Similarly, even a few hours

mined commitment to serve his fellow citizens and ensure

just and caring India. Better health and quality

ACROSS 1 Encourage fight to obtain a container (3,3)

5 Volcanic glass in observation at India is broken (8) 9 Sex change operation in Spring? Lot (8)

11 ... on gab to get a container (7,3) 12 After leaving me its gloom (4)

10 Artists depend little... (6)

13 Contracts for bands after a ball (8)

The solution grid displayed in yesterday edition pertained to THC 13346, which was published on 7-9-2021 (set by Anon), and not 13336 as was wrongly printed.

THE HINDU DELHI THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021



Auroville Writer Akash Kapur turns his gaze inwards in his new book, *Better to Have Gone*, to investigate the mystery behind the deaths of two family members, and unravel larger truths about the City of Dawn and the price of perfection



Akash Kapur with his wife Auralice • SIMBARASHE CHA

:: MUKUND PADMANABHAN

History is believed to never happen by chance, but it was an accident that created and shaped this mesmerising account of the past. Ten years ago, looking through the contents of a drawer in a New York apartment when he came across a bunch of folders crammed with letters, pages from diaries, and old photographs. They were papers of John Walker, the adoptive father of Akash's wife, Auralice.

The discovery of the folders, which were preserved by John's sister, was at once painful and liberating.

In 1986, when Auralice was just 14, John and Auralice's mother Diane had died within hours of each other in Auroville under circumstances that were obscure and perplexing.

John had grown up in privilege, born in a family of great wealth, an impressive lineage, "a pedigree he has to live up to". Diane was a beautiful, sunny and flirtatious Belgian hippie who lived near Antwerp with a mother who relied on welfare checks. What these two unlikely partners shared was an itch to escape their lives and follow their dreams, a hankering that would lead them separately to Auroville, not so long after it was founded in 1968.

Soon after John and Diane mysteriously died, Auralice would move to the US to live with the former's family. In America, she would marry Akash, who also grew up in Auroville; the two knew each other as children.

In 2004, the couple returned to live in the experimental city that manifested in the dreams of Sri Aurobindo's foremost disciple, the Mother (Frenchwoman Mirra Alfassa). Their reasons for moving back, Akash says, were varied, and included such things as being homesick and wanting to try something. But the searingly tragic saga of Auralice's parents which included a fall that paralysed Diane's hips for years and the death of an infant son (Aurolouis) by drowning – continued to hang like a fog over their heads.

The diaries offered a forensic as well as a cathartic opportunity: to clear the mist and come to terms with the past.

Bringing up the divide

It is a journey that took Akash, now 46, almost 10 years to complete, a project that involved "tracking down old friends of John and Diane's, their

former lovers, fellow-travellers from Auroville... on six continents".

As he set out to write about the two, the scope of the book, perhaps inevitably, widened. The story of John and Diane would also become a social history of Auroville; their lives, after all, were inextricably twinned with the place they chose to live in.

Delving into Auroville's past meant dealing with a shadowy time when the utopia that was designed to be a place for "unending education, constant progress, and a youth that never ages" turned dark and almost

The passing of the Mother in 1973 was followed by deep divisions within the multi-cultural community. A part of the reason for this was the struggle for power and self-determination, one that pitted the Pondicherry-based Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS, which owned most of the land and assets in the expansive township) against residents of Auroville. There was an attendant ideological dimension, which cleaved Auroville down the middle.

There were revolutionaries (loosely, those who wanted to break free from the SAS) and the Neutrals (a grouping that was attacked for its alleged lack of revolutionary ardour and their supposed softness towards the SAS).

The collective that dominated Auroville was revolutionary and there was a period in which there prevailed a climate of slander, threats, evictions, deportations, and arrests. Children were 'liberated' by the closure of schools and, quite astonishingly, a bonfire was lit of books pulled from shelves from its library. Akash says terrible though it was, the book burning was an "isolated incident", a moment of madness. "The greater long-term damage was done by shutting down the schools. The ideology behind this and book burning was the same though. That the old forms of knowledge were unnecessary at a time when Aurovilians were going to

reinvent the world." Even children were infected by the polarisation. Akash recalls, with a stirring honesty and immense regret, that when he was about 10, some friends and he chased a couple of Neutrals down the road, sneering and throwing twigs and pebbles at them. "I am embarrassed about this and very ashamed. All kinds of things happened to the Neutrals at that time. They are now reintegrated into the community, but one of the revelations in talking to them for the book is that the pain still runs below the surface for many of them."

Balancing the dark and the light "Auroville walked to the edge of the precipice and back," he says when talking of that period. Has it walked back too far? Hasn't some of that early fervour, which saw the first few Aurovilians living simply in thatched huts with no money and few resources, vanished?

"It's fair to say that Auroville is middle-aged now, and with this comes a certain complacency," he replies. "But there are still people here who are very idealistic, sometimes to a fault. As the book suggests, there is a darker side to idealism and extremism. If that has dimmed, maybe it is not such a bad thing at all."

Bigger, more prosperous

Auroville is also much bigger today, with about 3,500 people from almost 60 countries. And, of course, much more prosperous. "Yes, that is true. And then, there is the tourism economy. And the restaurants. But within the Auroville master plan, none of us owns a house," he says. "My kids are in a school where it doesn't matter whether your dad has a flashy car or the biggest house. None of the games that play out in big cities play out here."

What sets Better to Have Gone (Scribner, ₹699) apart is Akash's voice and approach. It would have been far easier to have pulled off, for example, what Peter Washington did of another new age movement (the Theosophists). In Madame Blavatsky's Baboon, he panned the main players as eccentric founders of a cult, which claimed to receive divine wisdom in their visions and which encouraged all kinds of irrational ideas (which of

Notions such as immortality and talk of transforming cellular consciousness were very much present in the thoughts of the Mother and those close to her. But despite being someone who lives "closer to the side of reason", Akash is empathetic to even those he disagrees with.

course they did).

There is a recognition, the kind that good novelists have, that everyone has a story and that the truth is often not in black and white, but shades of grey. "Auroville has so many different points of view. I decided that I was going to state things as they were, but also that I was going to step out of the frame."

There are meditations on doubt and certitude, on the dangers that result when an imperfect species flirts with notions of utopia, and the virtues of fallibilism, moderation and incrementalism - values that lie at the heart of any true liberal project. The result is an empathetic non-judgmental work, written with a spare, almost frugal beauty, illuminating in its silences, and revealing in what is left unsaid.

Is Auralice in a better place now that she knows about the tragedies of Diane and John? "I think so," Akash replies. Yes, it was difficult when the research threw up painful facts. But overall, if you have family members die in these circumstances and if you don't understand why or how, it is liberating to see the bigger picture and what happened to them."

In short, and to tweak the title of the book a little, it is better to have



What is it like to meet your classmates for the first time, after almost two academic years online? As colleges reopen, join this student on her first day on campus at the University of Madras

:: SOWMYA BAI

How sad is it that my first day of college, in offline mode, is also one of the final days of my college life? That students of this generation have spent more than one-and-a-half years staring at screens from closed spaces.

Nevertheless, I consider myself lucky: at least I enjoyed two-and-a-half years of my under-graduation in a real classroom, before COVID wreaked havoc on the world, before we began to live our lives online, from March 2020. I finished my third year at Ethiraj College online, and then joined the University of

Madras for a two year postgraduation in November 2020. After 10 months of studying at the University of Madras, last week, I finally walked through its doors.

September 1 will be cherished by many students, as 'the' day we got to finally step into college after spending an academic year entirely online. I entered my post-graduate classroom with mixed emotions. There were traces of uncertainty but the excitement to meet my friends, whom I had only connected with virtually till now, surpassed the doubt and nervousness. Social distancing was not a problem, since the

SOPS FOR REOPENING COLLEGES

All colleges should ensure that the classes, chairs and sporting equipment are properly cleaned and sanitised

All students, teachers and support staff should compulsorily have taken both doses of vaccination.
Certificates should be kept ready for Government

If any student shows symptoms of COVID-19, people in close contact should undertake RT-PCR test

inspection

Clean drinking water should be made available for all

> Despite the awkwardness of having just met, we managed to connect. Informal online meets back in our first year had ensured that we didn't 'disconnect' after

classroom is huge and only

50% of the class strength is

present for offline classes, set

to be held on alternate days.

The rest have chosen to conti-

greetings, gossip and laught-

er. I walked in seeing a fami-

liar face (despite the mask)

and yelled out, "Atul". I ex-

pected Atul Ignatius David's

eyes to light up with equal joy

in response, but he seemed

confused. It took him a mi-

nute to realise that it was me.

sumed that you'd be short,"

exclaimed Shermin Oviya Je-

gath, another surprised class-

mate. I too had assumptions

about my classmates, made

over a year of corresponding

via Zoom and WhatsApp, only

to have them shattered the

moment we met. Rasmi M,

who always looked serious on

screen, turned out to be fun-

nier than the rest of us.

"You're tall. I've always as-

The room bustled with

nue learning online.

didn't 'disconnect' after class like our modems, making this easier. A sight we never get

to see online, that gave me goosebumps, is when our professors walked into the classroom together. Four hours a day of virtual class did not give us much of a chance to engage with professors. The six offline lectures so far have been a completely different experience. We do not have to go running to answer the doorbell, and there are no Internet glitches to worry about.

Small joys

During virtual classes, we had missed the little connections: passing chits during lectures, or making eye contact with a classmate till they giggle. These memories were finally created on our first day.

Until I got home, I did not realise that I hadn't used my mobile for almost five hours. Locked in our homes, the only entertainment most of us had were binge-able webseries and social media. My eyes would tear up, just to remind me that I have been staring at the screen for hours.

Many of my classmates travel for almost an hour to reach college before classes start at 10 am, since most of us live in different corners of the city. I was surprised to see many students from other districts and states in class: They somehow managed to arrange university hostels and private hostels within a week's notice, despite being given the choice to continue online.

Given the possibility of a third wave, I am unsure about how long offline lectures will continue. Since we do not know how much time we will get together, we are going all out to create memories as quickly as we can.

What makes a city?

Windowscapes to portraits that mimic sculptures — this group show by Chennai-based photographers meditates on a moment in time



:: GOWRI S

A green tin trunk. Inside are toffee boxes filled with stamps that have travelled countries, continents and time. Handwritten recipes, letters, and sepia-tinted envelopes. A pictorial stamp inscribed for the Ottoman Empire in 1914, when they were nearing total collapse, featuring the former Ministry of War which is now the entrance to the Istanbul University; a handwritten recipe for Everton toffee; a 1935 stamp of Ferdinand Magellan's landing on the island of Cebu (now part of the Philippines) in 1521.

When photographer Ami Gupta chanced upon this treasure chest, a new world opened up. The world of Banoo Pestonji, a woman she had never met and to whom the trunk belonged. Ami instantly realised that this unique collection of historical markers is worth a display.

In the group show A Moment In Time at VA Art Gallery, curated by Varuna Arvind and Upasana Asrani, Ami uses photography to record them for posterity. "This was given to my father by his friend in the '80s, but they date back to much earlier. There was also a book that was part-recipe and part-stamp book. For the stamps, I also used a magnifying lens to show the details, especially the texture of the paper," she says.

Alongside her display stand portraits, landscapes, people and architecture, frozen in time by other Chennai-based photographers: Praneeth Reddy, Rakshitha Arvind and Nirali Datta. In the quaint gallery space, each artist gets their own section, amid a flurry of art and decor pieces that have a permanent place.

Praneeth's collection is a series of powerful black-and-white images – all shot in one corner of his room. The four portraits show models in veils, drapes falling in waves across their



Fleeting frames (Top) Praneeth Reddy's Hew; a frame from Rakshita Arvind's series of windowscapes

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

faces; an attempt to recreate medieval sculptures through portraits. "In all of my pictures, I would like it if the identity of the person is not revealed. I try to use masks or similar props to ensure that," says Praneeth. In his notable work titled Hew, thin, streaked fabric masks a face. The controlled lighting makes a powerful statement.

As for Nirali, mundane activities call for documentation. Hers is a mix of black and white, as well as coloured photographs, with a specific interest in the sea and skies of Chennai. A seemingly pixelated frame of a building keeps one guessing: It is the reflection of a building on a pool of water.

Meanwhile, Rakshita Arvind's windowscapes take one through Chennai in lockdown. Says Rakshita, who shoots on film, "Last year, I found myself drawn to windows. There was something about trying to show the space or the people inside. There's a little mystery to it."

A Moment in Time is on display at VA Art Gallery, Gandhi Mandapam Road, till September 21

:: GOWRI S

On the cylindrical facade of a former cyclone shelter in Thiruvottiyur, a scene unfolds: smiling fisherfolk, some wielding oars and others holding baskets of their haul, invite you into the frothy ocean.

The expansive sea meets the sky dotted with clouds in what reminds one of simpler, happier times. The two-storied building of around 17,000 square feet, located where Ennore Express Road meets Kathivakkam High Road, is now a canvas.

The debris that once sur-

rounded this shelter has now disappeared; and so have the empty liquor bottles. Cut to Manali, and a *therukoothu* artiste gazes into the distance from the compound wall of the bus terminus.

These are only a couple of the new-found canvases that North Chennai is now home to. As part of the Greater Chennai Corporation's Singara Chennai 2.0 initia-

tive that looks at multiple beautification drives across the city, this wall art project bolstered by CSR initiatives is a work-in-progress.

The artists? Chennai's very own, born out of a near-forgotten practice called banner art.

Leg up to local talent

Helmed by JPK Vijay, this team of artists who have had a difficult couple of years due to the pandemic, has worked on the facades of Chennai Primary School, Manali; Manali bus terminus; Madhavaram roundabout and the former cyclone shelter/Amma Unavagam, Kathivakkam. The overarching theme of these murals points to Tamil Nadu's culture.

"The first site I got was the Amma Unavagam building and I Noticed lifelike murals dotting parts of the city, recently? Behind these public art projects are banner artists, now turning the walls of North Chennai into their canvas



wanted it to be one-of-a-kind. I wanted to use the art to spread awareness. I took inspiration from the area and depicted the fishing community that forms the heart of Ennore," says Vijay.

He recalls resentment from the local community when they started work. "But as soon as we started painting, they became curious and wanted to help us. It has now become a special place for them to preserve," he says, adding that their success lies in how the artwork helped bring behavioural changes indirectly. "We are looking for sponsors to fund landscaping and fountains in the entrance to the building, benches for senior citizens and toilets. The wall art project is only one part of the beautification planned for the site," says R Jayakumar, Assistant Executive Engineer, Zone 1,

On the compound walls of Chennai Primary School, Manali, a group of children in uniform play a heated game of *gilli-danda*. "Games like *gilli* remain for-

Kathivakkam. "We want the pu-

blic to benefit from this."

gotten. Children don't know of them anymore," says Vijay.

Sea and sand, on

an expressway

In the bus terminus, on the other hand, *therukoothu* takes centre stage. The fact that *therukoothu* is not portrayed as often as other traditional artforms like *silambam* is what led him to pick the folk form.

On another plastered wall, stone sculptures of Mamallapuram seamlessly blend onto the texture of the facade. "When it comes to Madhavaram roundabout which was a small site, we thought of depicting traditional

foods," says Vijay.

What makes these murals stand out is their realistic portrayal of people: familiar faces that call for an instant, rather personal connection for a passer-by. This life-like quality is an offshoot of the artists' years of experience with handpainted boards and cine banners.

This expertise with banner art, which uses emulsion paints and acrylics, helps them move from wall to wall swiftly. A public art project usually takes anywhere between two weeks to



months to be completed, but vijay's some of these walls were done in the one

a day's time.

"Wall art is also eco-friendly.

Flex prints for instance, leave a huge carbon footprint. Now, after seeing such works, the public is also slowly moving back to hand painted boards, banners and walls," adds Vijay.

In the noughties most banner artists lost their livelihood, owing to the digital shift and the flex culture. Handpainted boards that ensured employment to many small-scale artists were the norm until then. Vijay's father JP Krishna, president of Bharatiya Kalakar Sangh was one among them; a pioneer in cine banner art in the 1990s.

"There were lakhs of artists in Chennai who lost work around the time when flex printing started dominating," says Vijay.

ed dominating," says Vijay. Singara Chennai 2.0 is a revival, and a tribute to their talent. Vijay's next for the city will be the one kilometre-long subway near the RBI building and Secretariat. "The walls and the ceiling will be inspired by the wall paintings inside the Brihadeeswara temple's *gopuram*, which gave birth to the Tanjore style of

SPECIAL

City walls,

redefined

(Clockwise from

compound walls

terminus; Amma

Kathivakkam; at

Chennai Primary

and artist Vijay at

the site ■ B JOTHI RAMALINGAM AND

School, Manali;

of Manali bus

Unavagam at

paintings," says Vijay.

The biggest advantage of such beautification projects is its scope for employment, especially for those who belong to the

widely-hit arts sector, he adds.
"Many of the large-scale artworks that we see in Indira Nagar MRTS and Kannagi Nagar are
done by artists from across India
and abroad. We have the talent,
right here in our State, but we
don't utilise them," he says.

A silver lining to these projects is that the Greater Chennai Corporation is also identifying local, upcoming artists from each zone to beautify their own localities.

CM YK A ND-ND

Sanctions relief will be based on Taliban's behaviour, says U.S.

'If they harbour terrorists or fail to uphold rights, sanctions will stay in place'

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Hours after the Taliban announced a government in Kabul that included UN designated terrorists, the U.S. mission to the UN has said the UN Security Council will base any decisions on de-listing terrorists on the Taliban's human rights policies. The U.S. position is of particular importance to India, which is not only a close neighbour of Afghanistan but also the head of the 1988 UNSC Sanctions Committee, ʻTaliban Sanctions Committee'.

Among those in the newly formed Taliban government are Prime Minister Hasan Akhund - a UN designated terrorist - and Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is listed as a terrorist by both the UN and the U.S.

"We stand by Resolution 2513. We are watching the Taliban's actions closely," a U.S.-UN mission spokesperson told The Hindu via email on Tuesday.

Resolution 2513, adopted by the UNSC in March 2020 when the Trump administration was representing the U.S., supported, in principle, the de-listing of individuals to facilitate an intra-Afghan dialogue and peace.

The resolution linked a review of the listing decision to the actions of the Taliban in supporting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

"The Security Council will take into account any behaviour that disregards the human rights of Afghans as it reviews the travel ban exemption and the status of designations. We continuously review all UN sanctions pro-



Track record: Nawaz Sharif and Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, right, in Islamabad on August 26, 1999. • AFP/FILE

grammes and are prepared consensus, Foreign Secreto adjust them in light of tary Harsh Vardhan Shringla evolving circumstances. told reporters in Washington Needless to say, however, last Friday when asked about should the Taliban support whether the Security Council would de-list Taliban or harbour terrorists who threaten the security of the "Don't forget that we are international community, or fail to uphold human rights one out of 15 [UNSC] memin Afghanistan, including for bers and we have to also see what the rest of the internawomen and girls, sanctions will remain in place," the tional community is saying,"

on Tuesday. India's Permanent Representative to the UN T.S. Tirumurti said no requests had been discussed as of Wednesday morning.

mission spokesperson said

"There have been no delisting requests yet. The sanctions committee will take a decision on the requests if and when they are made. It is premature for me at this stage to predict what the Committee will decide," he told The Hindu on

Wednesday. India is following a 'wait and watch' approach with the Taliban, including on matters related to the UNSC. Committees are based on

Ghani regrets 'how it ended'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Former President Ashraf Ghani, who fled the country last month, apologised on Wednesday to the Afghan people, because he "could

not make it end differently" In a statement on Twitter, Mr. Ghani said he left at the urging of the palace security to avoid street fighting, and again denied stealing

millions from the treasury.

watching the evolving situation in Afghanistan as well as other countries' reaction (e.g., developments.

Asked whether he is concerned about China funding the Taliban, U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday said that China, like other countries, will try and work out an arrangement with the group. "Well, China has a real problem with the Taliban, so they're going to try to work out some arrangement with the Taliban, I'm sure as does Pakistan, as does Russia, as does Iran," he said. "They're all trying to figure out, what do they do now. So it will be interesting to see what happens."

On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in Doha on a visit, said the U.S. would be "looking very, very carefully" at whether the Taliban were living up to their commitments (such as upholding human rights of Afghans, especially women and girls, and allowing free

In new govt., Taliban offer old regime

Group's old guard and Haqqanis get key portfolios; women, Shias excluded

STANLY JOHNY

After capturing Kabul on August 15, Taliban leaders had repeatedly said they would establish an "inclusive government" representing all sections of Afghan society. There were also discussions on whether the Taliban 2.0 would be different from the last time they were in power.

But with the formation of an interim government on Tuesday, the Taliban have made it clear that the old guard who ran Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 still reigns supreme in the group and that they care little about what the world thinks about their conduct of governance.

Old guard

Almost all the senior positions of the interim government have been allocated to top Taliban leaders who were associated with the old regime. Mullah Hassan Akhund, who was the Foreign Minister of the previous Islamic Emirate, will head the government. Mullah Akhund, who is on a U.N. blacklist, is one of the Taliban's founders. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, another co-founder who was heading the Taliban's Doha-based negotiations with the U.S. and other countries, will be his deputy.

Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is heading the dreaded Haqgani Network, is the Interior Minister. Sirajuddin's father Jalaluddin Haqqani was a Minister in the previous Taliban regime and then a commander of the militants. Mohammad Yaqoob, the oldest son of the Taliban's founder Mullah Omar, is the Defence Minister.

Khalil Haqqani, another senior member from the Haqqani Network, has been



A university classroom divided by a curtain in Kabul. • AFP

named the Minister of Refugee Affairs. Taliban spokes person Zabihullah Mujahid has said the list is not complete. But the first list indicates that the key portfolios have been divided between the Taliban's religious leadership and the Hagganis, who provide military muscle to the group.

Sirajuddin is a globally designated terrorist wanted by Washington. The FBI has offered a reward of \$5 million for information about him. He will now be in charge of internal security, police forces and intelligence. His Haqgani Network has close ties with Pakistan's military establishment and had helped al-Qaeda in the past.

The appointment, which suggests Pakistan's deep influence on the Taliban, could make it difficult for other countries, especially for India and those in the West, in normalising relations with the regime. (The Haqqanis are blamed for the 2008 bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul in which 58 people were killed). But the Taliban leadership, like their peers in the 1990s, doesn't seem to care.

Four of the top five commanders who were detained in the Guantánamo prison and released by the Obama administration in 2014 in exchange for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl were also given senior posts in the regime – Mullah Khairullah Khairkhah, Minister for Information and Culture; Mullah Noorullah Noori, Minister of Borders and Tribal Affairs; Mohammad Fazl, Chief of Army Staff; and Abdul Haq Wasiq, Director of Intelligence.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Most of the Ministers are Pashtun, which is the largest ethnic group in Afghanistan. Unsurprisingly, there is no woman in the government. Afghanistan's Shia minority, who make up roughly 10% of the population, has also found no representative in the interim government.

In the 1990s, the Shia Hazara minority, who are largely concentrated in Mazar-i Sharif in northwest Afghanistan, faced systemic persecution under the Taliban regime. Iran, a Shia theocracy that had established contacts with the Sunni extremist Taliban years ago, had reportedly put pressure on Afghanistan's new rulers to include Hazara Shias in the government. But the Taliban did not relent.

Crackdown on women Two days before the government announcement, the Taliban's Education Ministry had issued an extensive doc-

ument, issuing instructions to educational institutions and the women who were going to colleges and universities. All female students, teachers and staff must wear an abaya robe and niaab covering the hair, body and most of the face as well as gloves to ensure hands are covered, stated the document, signalling how the regime would treat women. It also ordered classes to be segregated by gender or divided by a curtain.

Protests broke out in parts of Afghanistan, including in Kabul, where women staged rallies demanding freedoms. On Tuesday, the crowds were dispersed by the Taliban using force, which was followed by Zabihullah Mujahid's night-time press conference in which he announced the government formation.

Islamic system In September 1996, after

capturing Kabul, Mullah Omar said the Taliban would establish "a pure Islamic system" in Afghanistan. On September 7, 2021, after the integovernment announced, Hibatullah Akhundzada, Taliban's Emir who will be the supreme leader of the new Afghanistan, issued a statement saying: "Our previous 20 years of struggle and Jihad had had two major goals. Firstly to end foreign occupation and aggression and to liberate the country, and secondly to establish a complete, independent, stable and central Islamic system in the coun-

He added: "Based on this principle, in the future, all matters of governance and life in Afghanistan will be regulated by the laws of the Holy Shariah."

China welcomes Taliban govt. as 'end to anarchy'

he said, adding that no de-

listing requests had been

The recognition of the Ta-

liban is "a matter that's done

by Member States, not by

us," Farhan Haq, Deputy

Spokesperson for the Secre-

tary General, said, as report-

ed by the Press Trust of In-

dia. The 1988 Committee is

expected to meet in mid-

September. This roughly

coincides with the Septem-

ber 17 expiration of the UN

Assistance Mission In Af-

The U.S. government, across

its branches, appears not to

have a clear policy yet and is

ghanistan (UNAMA).

U.S. policy

discussed.

We stand ready to maintain communication with the new Afghan government & leaders, says Foreign Ministry

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Wednesday welcomed the Taliban's announcement of formation of an interim government as "a necessary step" and an end to the anarchy

Afghanistan. Beijing also appeared to water down its earlier stand of underlining the importance of the Taliban setting up an "inclusive" government, which some officials had suggested was an expectation of Beijing as it considers recognising the new re-

Asked how China viewed Tuesday's announcement by the Taliban of an interim government – one comprised of several sanctioned terrorists, no minorities, and no women and whether Beijing would recognise this government, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said: "The Chinese Embassy in Afghanistan is

operating normally. We stand ready to maintain communication with the new Afghan government and leaders.'

"We hope the new Afghan administration in the capacity of interim government will broadly solicit the opinions of all ethnic groups and factions and live up to the expectation of the Afghan people and aspiration of the international community," he added. "We noted that the Afghan Taliban stressed that all people will benefit from the new administration."

Necessary step

China earlier said it would consider recognising the Taliban only after government-formation in Kabul. Mr. Wang welcomed the announcement of an interim government, saving "this has put an end to the anarchy in Afghanistan that lasted for over three weeks and is a necessary step for Afghanistan to



Wang Wenbin

restore domestic order and pursue post-war reconstruction."

"China's position on the Afghan issue is consistent and clear," he said. "We always respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, adhere to noninterference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, and support the Afghan people in independently choosing a development path the country's

Mr. Wang did add that China hoped "Afghanistan will establish a broadly based and inclusive political structure, follow moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, resolutely combat all types of terrorist forces, and live on friendly terms with other countries, especially its neighbours".

Regular engagement

China and Russia, as well as China and Pakistan, have been regularly engaging on the Afghan issue in recent weeks. Mr. Wang said China had on September 5 attended a meeting with special representatives of Pakistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan held "under the chairmanship of the Pakistani side". Its special envoy Yue Xiaoyang had attended the meeting where the countries

"exchanged views mainly on the situation in Afghanistan, especially cooperation among Afghanistan's neighbouring countries on the Afghan-related affairs, and maintained communication with Russia, reaching much consensus"

China would "urgently provide 200 million yuan (\$30.96 million) worth of grains, winter supplies, vaccines, and medicines to Afghanistan" as well as 3 million vaccines, Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced on Wednesday at the "first meeting of Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries", held virtually and attended by officials from Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and

Turkmenistan. Chaired by Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mr. Wang said this new grouping would serve as "a new coordination mechanism among Afghanistan's neighbours."

Tiananmen vigil leaders held in HK

gils, a day after they re-

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Hong Kong police on Wednesday arrested

fused to cooperate with a national security four members of the group behind the city's

investigation. Prominent barrister

Tiananmen Square vi- Chow Hang-tung, vicechairwoman of the alliance, along with members Simon Leung, Sean Tang and Chan Towai, was arrested.

🜆 ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2021 (OJEE-2021)

DATE: 08.09.202

No:- OJEE / 313

KK-78:

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR 4 YEAR BACHELOR PROGRAM IN CINEMATIC ART AND TECHNOLOGY

Biju Pattanaik Film and Television Institute of Odisha (BPFTIO), Cuttack, established in 1998, is going to offer 4 yrs. degree program in Cinematic Art and Technology in three prime disciplines such as (I) CINEMATOGRAPHY, (II) SOUND RECORDING & SOUND DESIGN and (iii) FILM EDITING from the current Academic Session 2021-22

The Entrance Examination and Counselling for admission to these courses shall be conducted by OJEE Committee The process of online application for the Entrance Examination will start

from 09-09-2021 and the last date is 20-09-2021. Fees can be paid till 21-09-2021 (11.59 PM). Detailed instructions and terms and conditions for online application will be

like other forms as per the Information Brochure available in OJEE website, i.e., www.oiee.nic.in. The syllabus for the examination will be as per the information given in the website. The detailed schedule regarding dates of the Examination and of downloading

of Admit Cards etc. will be notified in due course of time.

Candidates are advised to visit the official websites of OJEE (www.ojee.nic.in) and of BPFTIO (www.bpftio.org) regularly for updated information.

> CHAIRMAN, OJEE Odisha OIPR-14020/11/0010/2122

Afghanistan's last Jew leaves country

He is now in a 'neighbouring country'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The last member of Afghanistan's Jewish community has left the country. Zebulon Simentov, who lived in a dilapidated synagogue in Kabul, kept kosher and prayed in Hebrew, endured decades of

But the Taliban takeover last month seems to have been the last straw. Moti Kahana, an Israeli-American who organised the evacuation, said he has been taken to a "neighbouring country."

Mr. Kahana said Mr. Simentov, who had lived under Taliban rule before, was not worried about them. But Mr. Kahana warned him that he was at risk of being kidnapped or killed by the far more radical Islamic State group. He said Mr. Simentov's neigh-



synagogue in Kabul, in this file photo. • AFP

bours also pressed him to leave, so that their children could join him on the bus out. They joined an exodus of tens of thousands of Afghans who have fled since the Taliban swept across the country.

dren live in Israel.



Mr. Kahana said his group is reaching out to U.S. and Israeli authorities to find a permanent home for Mr. Simentov, whose estranged wife and chil-

Iran urged to resume nuclear talks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The U.S. and Germany on Wednesday stepped up pressure on Iran to return soon to talks on its nuclear programme.

The last round of talks by the remaining parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear accord ended in June and no date has been set for their resumption. Last week. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said "it takes two to

three months for the achieved." "We've been new administration to establish and do planning for any sort of decision."

Asked whether the

delay suggested by Iran is too long, Mr. Blinken said: "I'm not going to put a date on it, but we are getting closer to the point at which a strict return to the compliance with the (nuclear deal) does not reproduce the benefits

very clear that the ability to rejoin the (deal), return to mutual compliance, is not indefinite," he added.

On Tuesday, the U.N. nuclear watchdog said Iran has continued to increase its stockpile of highly enriched uranium in breach of the accord. The IAEA also said that its verification and monitoring have been that that agreement undermined".

Russian Minister dies trying to save filmmaker in Arctic drills

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MOSCOW

Russia's Emergencies Minister has died trying to save a filmmaker who slipped from a cliff during training exercises in the Arctic, officials said on Wednesday.

Yevgeny Zinichev, who previously served in President Vladimir Putin's security detail, is the first Russian Cabinet member to die on duty. He was lauded by se-

nior government offi-

cials and the Russian

vant and a "hero". The Ministry identified the filmmaker as 63-

leader as a loyal civil ser-

year-old Alexander Melnik. It said he also died in the incident that took place earlier Wednesday.

78 killed as Marib fighting intensifies

pro-government troops have been killed as fighting intensifies for the northern city of Marib, officials said on Wednesday, nearly seven years into a war that has triggered a

killed in airstrikes after they renewed their attempt to capture the strategic city, the internationally recognised government's last outpost in the north, according to loyalists.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Nearly 80 Yemen rebels major humanitarian crisis.

Scores of rebels were "Sixty Houthi rebels

were killed – most of them in airstrikes conducted in the last 24 hours – while 18 pro-government were killed and dozens injured in clashes over the past 48 hours," an official said. The figures were confirmed by other sources, while the rebels rarely report casualty numbers.





1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Govern of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Bridge & Building work as mentioned below

: Bridge & Building Works 3. Nature of work Class of contractor : 'A' & Special Class

5. Tender Paper Cost

6. Available of bid documents: From 21.09.2021 to 16.00 Hours of 07.10.2021 in the web site . Date of opening of bid Dt.08.10.2021 at 11.00 Hours

: Rs.10000/- (Online)

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

> Sd/- P.K. Pradhan Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle OIPR-34012/11/0025/2122

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANG
Adani Ports	746.85	1.3
Asian Paints	3336.60	0.3
Axis Bank	794.70.	6.8
Bajaj Auto	3725.35	45.3
Bajaj Finserv		
Bajaj Finance	7463.20	5.9
Bharti Airtel	667.85	2.7
BPCL	489.55	7.6
Britannia Ind	4061.40	34.0
Cipla		
Coal India		
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech		
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd.		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
State Bank		
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma		
Tata Consume		/.3
Products Ltd		11.5
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan	2055.95	

Indicative direct rat except yen at 4 p.m.		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.40	73.72
Euro	86.74.	87.15
British Pound	101.01	101.47
Japanese Yen (100)	66.60.	66.90
Chinese Yuan	11.36.	11.42
Swiss Franc	79.72	80.07
Singapore Dollar	54.54.	54.79
Canadian Dollar	57.91	58.19
Malaysian Ringitt	17.67	17.76



Sun Pharmaceutical introduces nutrition bars

Sun Pharma said its consumer healthcare division has forayed into the nutrition-bar segment with Revital NXT. The product is a brand extension of Revital H. a health supplement for over three decades. "Revital NXT bar helps you stay active and ace life's demands," said Vidhi Shanghvi, head, Sun Pharma Consumer Healthcare

Arun Kumar Singh takes charge as BPCL CMD

Arun Kumar Singh took charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of BPCL on Tuesday. He has been with the company, leading several divisions in the past. In a statement, the country's second-largest fuel marketing company said Mr. Singh has more than 36 years of experience in the oil and gas industry. Vetsa Ramakrishna Gupta has been elevated as Director (Finance), BPCL said.

Germany's Schueco buys facade maker Alufit

Germany's building products maker Schueco International KG has acquired a majority stake in facade maker Alufit India Pvt. Ltd. for an undisclosed sum. "We have bought 75% stake in Alufit," Andreas Engelhardt, CEO and managing partner, Schueco International KG, told The Hindu. "Both are privately owned family businesses. We have known each other for a long time and it fits well with

'PC shipments hit 5-year high of 4.1 million units'

our synergies.'

PC shipments in India hit a five-year high to about 4.1 million units in the June 2021 guarter, growing at 42.7% year-on-year, according to research firm Canalys. The 4.1 million shipments included more than 2.4 million notebooks, 5.15.000 desktops, more than 1 million tablets and 54,000 workstations. Shipments of notebooks, the largest by volume, grew 43% over O2 2020, Canalys added. PTI

Govt. clears ₹10,683 cr. textiles PLI plan

Incentives aim to boost investment in new capacities in man-made fibre apparel, technical textiles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT COIMBATORE

The Union Cabinet on Wed nesday approved a ₹10,683 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the textile sector with a view to "helping India regain its historical dominant status in global textiles trade".

The incentives are designed to encourage investment in new capacities in man-made fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics, and 10 segments or products of technical textiles. The government expects the scheme to help attract fresh investment of more than ₹19,000 crore, creating an additional 7.5 lakh direct jobs.

Terming the move a 'game changer', Union Minister for Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution



Spinning support: The plan may help draw investment of over ₹19,000 crore, adding 7.5 lakh jobs. •s. siva saravanan

Piyush Goyal told *The Hindu* that any investment in the sector would have a multiplier effect especially in job creation. "The PLI as a whole is a game changer. And, for textiles it will be a big, big boost. Because... you create maximum employment in

the textile sector, for every rupee invested," he added.

Two-thirds of India's textile exports now are cotton based whereas 66-70% of world trade in textiles and apparel is MMF-based and technical textiles. India's focus on the manufacture of textiles in the MMF sector is expected to help boost its ability to compete globally.

Two categories

The scheme envisages two levels of investment with different sets of incentives. While any person or firm can invest a minimum ₹300 crore in plant, machinery, and civil works to produce the identified products to ensure eligibility for the PLI, in the second category a minimum investment of ₹100 crore would make an individual or firm eligible to apply for the incentives.

Priority would be given for investment in aspirational districts, tier-three, tierfour towns and rural areas. The scheme is expected to benefit States such as Gujarat, U.P., Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Andhra, Telangana and Odisha.

Textiles Secretary Upendra Prasad Singh said guidelines for implementation of the scheme would be notified by the end of this month. A portal would be opened to receive applications and the plan is to allow two months time to the units to apply for benefits under the scheme.

Applicants would have two years as investment period and 2024-2025 would be the 'performance' year. The incentive flow would start in 2025-2026 and extend for five years.

S.K. Sundararaman, chairman of the Indian Technical Textile Association, said the PLI plan, along with other schemes, was 'a boon' to the MMF sector. It would help accelerate decisions by firms eyeing the sector.

DIPAM picks 10 merchant bankers for LIC IPO

Goldman, Citigroup, Nomura in list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The government has appointed 10 merchant bankers, including Goldman Sachs (India) Securities, Citigroup Global Markets India, and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities India, to manage the mega initial public offering of the country's largest insurer LIC.

Other bankers selected are SBI Capital Markets, JM Financial, Axis Capital, BofA Securities, JP Morgan India, ICICI Securities and Kotak Mahindra Capital Co Ltd, the disinvestment department said in a circular on its website. "Government has finalised the book running lead managers and some other advisors for the IPO of LIC," the Department of Investment and Public Asset



cretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted.

DIPAM had invited applications from merchant bankers on July 15. Following this, 16 applicants made presentations for managing the listing and partial disinvestment of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). The department is also in the process of appointing a legal adviser for the stake sale.

Equity MFs get ₹8,666-cr. on strong inflow in NFOs

Stable SIP book adds to Aug. numbers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Strong inflows in new fund offers (NFOs) and a stable SIP book helped equity mutual funds (MFs) attract a net investment of ₹8,666 crore in August, making it sixth consecutive monthly infusion, amid an uptrend in stock markets.

This was much higher than July's net inflow of ₹22,583 crore, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed on Wednesday. Equity schemes saw net inflow of ₹5,988 crore in June, ₹10,083 crore in May, ₹3,437 crore in April and ₹9,115 crore in March.

Equity schemes had consistently witnessed outflows for eight months from July 2020 to February 2021.

The inflow pushed assets under management (AUM) of the MF industry to an alltime high of ₹36.6 lakh crore at August-end from ₹35.32 lakh crore a month earlier.

Arun Kumar, head of Research, FundsIndia, said many investors who were staying on the sidelines were slowly getting back. The trend also reflected in record NFO collections. "The decline of the se-

cond wave, increase in vaccinations, sharp equity rally... and the stability of the markets despite the second wave have added to investor comfort and confidence,"

Maruti output dips 8% on chip shortage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Wednesday said its total production in August declined by 8% on a yearly basis to 1,13,937 units, as the global semiconductor shortage impacted its manufacturing schedules.

The firm had produced a total of 1,23,769 units a year earlier, MSI said in a regulatory filing. Semiconductors cater to control and memory functions in products such as automobiles, computers and cell phones. MSI said total passenger vehicle output was 1,11,368 units last month, as against 1,21,381 units in

IPO-bound LIC saw drop in first-year premium in Aug.

Life insurers logged 2.89% year-on-year increase last month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Life insurers first-year premium (FYP) rose 2.89% to ₹27,820.74 crore for August on the back of another good show by the private players. Market leader and State-

owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) saw a 3.82% decline in FYP to ₹18,960.77 crore, according to the new business statement of life insurers released by IRDAI. On a sequential basis, it fared better. In July, the FYP stood at ₹12,030.93 crore.

For the 5-month period up to August, the FYP of all the lifer insurers stood at



₹1,00,980.72 crore, 1.63% higher. For LIC, it declined

6.75% to ₹66,592.38 crore. Emkay Global Financial Services said in a research note 'poor sales of high-ticket annuity products' and 'low focus on ULIPs' seemed to be hurting LIC's growth. Overall, the trend of market share consolidation towards

the bigger private players continued.

The 23 private players, who between them command a little more than 35% market share, in August mobilised a FYP of ₹8,859.97 crore, an increase of 20.95%. Up to August this fiscal, they had reported an increase of 23.05% to ₹34,388.34 crore.

The August performance is continuation of a pattern set by life insurers since April of neither a growth nor decline consecutively for two months. In April, their FYP rose (by 44.76%) while in May it declined (5.55%). It rose in June (by 3.95%). In Ju-

1-T site issues being resolved progressively'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Income Tax department on Wednesday said a number of technical issues in the new ITR portal are being progressively addressed and 1.19 crore ITRs for 2020-21 fiscal year have been filed so far.

Giving updates of activities carried out by taxpayers on the portal, the I-T department said more than 8.83 crore unique taxpayers have logged into the portal till September 7. The Income Tax Return (ITR) filing has risen to 3.2 lakh daily in September.

"A number of technical issues are being progressively addressed," the

Cement consumption expected to rise on infrastructure spending: Srinivasan

'T.N., A.P., Telangana channelling funds into irrigation, road, housing projects'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Cement consumption in the country is expected to go up with the Centre raising investments in infrastructure and State governments also spending on housing, irrigation and roads, among other projects, said N. Srinivasan, vice-chairman and MD, The India Cements Ltd. (ICL).

At the firm's 75th AGM on Wednesday, he said there were signs that the COVID situation was easing and that cement demand was also picking up. He also cited reports of 'good' rainfall for the third consecutive year, with the farm sector and the rural economy expected to do better, thus creating more rural demand. There was an increase in house-



Rural cheer: Good rainfall for the third consecutive year will

building and construction activity in urban and semiurban centres due to relocation of workplaces and increasing work-from-home

options, he pointed out. The new government in Tamil Nadu had started giving a push to housing and infrastructure development, he said. Andhra Pradesh and

help spur rural demand, says Srinivasan. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT Telangana governments were also implementing irrigation, road-building and other infrastructure projects

and new housing schemes,

he added. These develop-

ments gave room for cau-

tious optimism for cement

demand in the coming

months, he said, adding that

capacity utilisation would

mand. Asserting that there was uncertainty over the possibility of a third wave, he cautioned: "Therefore, one has to be cautiously optimistic about the immediate future." Highlighting that plant ca-

pacity utilisation had improved to 50% in Q1 against 35% a year earlier, he said it was slightly better in Q2 and was expected to improve further. To raise capacity, ICL would undertake de-bottlenecking of one or two plants in the South and also set up a new plant in Madhya Pradesh, he said.

At the AGM, shareholders approved Mr. Srinivasan's re-appointment as MD for five years effective May 26, with requisite majority.

Ashok Leyland 'looking at all options' to make EV batteries

'Outlook for FY22 positive, capacity utilisation improving'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hinduja group flagship Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) is 'looking at all options' for the manufacture of batteries for electric vehicles, according to chairman Dheerai G. Hinduja.

Addressing the 72nd Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, Mr. Hinduja said, "This is an area which goes hand in hand with our EV ambitions. I don't want to disclose any plans at this moment except to say that .. very much looking at all options," he said

Asked by shareholders the company would go in for production of electric cars on the lines of Tesla, he said ALL's core competence lay in making



Dheeraj G. Hinduja

intermediate commercial vehicles, light commercial vehicles and medium & heacommercial vehicles (M&HCV) and that the company did not want to (make cars and) compete with Tesla directly.

He said that the outlook for FY22 was positive, even while pointing out that the

ny was affected in FY21 due to volatility in the automotive sector, coupled with the global shortage of semiconductor chips. He said there were reports about a potential third

performance of the compa-

wave and that ALL was monitoring the situation closely. Referring to the improved scenario, he said capacity utilisation in the M&HCV segment was in the range of 52% to 70% at various plants, while for LCVs it was closer to 100%. "Demand is strong and we are doing de-bottlenecking wherever required."

Vipin Sondhi, MD and CEO, informed shareholders that the performance of the company in the coming quarters would be better quarter-on-quarter.

said the car business was a

any policy, planning around

it, executing it and accord-

ingly delivering the benefits

to customers always took

years," he said. "I hope there

will some further movement

[on industry's talk with the

government on duty regime]

and if there is a movement, I

sometimes even

"So, to take advantage of

long and a cyclical one.

Mondelez India forays into snack bar segment

Dairy Milk maker unveils Fuse Fit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mondelez India, the makers of Cadbury Dairy Milk, Bournvita, and Oreo, on Wednesday announced its entry into the snack bar category with the unveiling of 'Cadbury Fuse Fit'.

"After a lot of focus on our core [products] for the last 18 months, we are again starting our journey of innovation again," said Anil Viswanathan, senior director -Marketing, Mondelez India.

"We have now thought about categories beyond our core where we see growth. Snack bar is one such category," Mr. Viswanathan added.

The 'snack bar' segment in India is pegged at about ₹150-200 crore.

The Cadbury Fuse Fit, priced at ₹50 for 40 grams,



iants - Almonds and Peanuts and Cranberry and Nuts - and is targeted largely at 'young adults' looking for 'good for you' alternatives in daily snacking.

"Consumers are now increasingly looking for onthe-go snacks that could be for mid-morning hunger, mental stimulation or even to break fatigue, as they spend most time at home," Mr. Viswanathan said.

Shri Bajrang Power to add steel capacity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Shri Bajrang Power and Ispat Ltd., among top 10 steel producers in India, has lined up brownfield capacity expansion plan worth ₹217 crore of which ₹145 crore has already been invested, a top official said. The firm would set up a

0.20 MTPA additional

sponge iron plant, expand steel melting-shop capacity to 0.37 MTPA, set up a 0.10 MTPA galvanising plant and a 16 MW waste heat recovery based power plant. Its arm would set up a 50 MW solar unit for ₹175 crore. "The solar plant will come up in FY23 through investment from internal sources," said Sandeep Goel, CFO. The firm would finance capacity expansion

via internal accruals and

external borrowings.

V-shaped recovery: Martin Schwenk Order situation puts Mercedes-Benz at a pre-pandemic level, says MD MINI TEJASWI India's passenger car market

has seen a V-shaped recovery and Mercedes-Benz has witnessed a strong come back since mid-June, said MD & CEO Martin Schwenk. "Mercedes-Benz was wit-

growth in the January to August period," he said. "By the end of August, we sold almost as many cars as we sold the whole of last year," Mr. Schwenk told The

Hindu here on Wednesday. "If I look into the current order situation, and what happened in the last one to two months, we are basically on a pre-pandemic level," he

Strong demand for Mer-



India's passenger car market has seen

produce enough cars. Mr. Schwenk said. * Special Arrangement

cedes-Benz products had alcially for models like the GLS so led to a waiting period of or GLE, and GLA, the MD adup to even 8-16 weeks for ded. "We just need to prosome of the car lines, he duce enough cars now. The pandemic induced supply said. There were still constraints, so the luxury carconstraints are only slowly maker needed to prioritise going away," Mr. Schwenk with regard to delivery, espesaid. On taxation issues, he

would hope for consistency and visibility on what the plans are then for the coming years," Mr. Schwenk said. On the contribution from

the pre-owned cars (POCs) segment, the CEO said Mercedes-Benz would add 100 POCs a year to its sales volumes, which would be close to a 50% increase in the segment.

Ashwin recalled, Dhoni named mentor

Chahal and Dhawan miss out; Varun makes it; Shreyas, Shardul and Deepak Chahar on stand-by

T20 WC SQUAD

AMOL KARHADKAR MUMBAI

Off-spinner R. Ashwin, who has been forced to warm the bench in the ongoing Test series in England, has been recalled for the T20 World Cup to be played in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from October 17.

In yet another surprise, M.S. Dhoni, India's last ICC tournament-winning tain, has been roped in as the team mentor for the marquee event.

The national selection panel met on Wednesday evening in a virtual interaction, with India captain Virat Kohli in attendance, to finalise the squad. Ashwin will return to wearing blue after a four-year hiatus.

Chetan Sharma, the chief selector who addressed the media for the first time since his appointment last December, said Ashwin's consistent outings in the IPL, along with Washington Sundar's injury, won him the nod.

"He has been performing well in the IPL. And an offspinner will always be handy in UAE in a world tournament. Since Washington (Sundar) was unavailable, we decided to go with Ashwin," Sharma said.

Interestingly, Ashwin was dropped from the white-ball squads in 2017, with the team management and the previous selection panel believing that wrist-spinners were the match-winners in shorter formats

The champion spinner will have rookies Varun Chakravarthy and Rahul Chahar for company in the spin department along with the seasoned Axar Patel and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja.

Rahul, the younger of the Chahar cousins, was picked ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal, who has been India's leading spinner in limited-overs cricket since the conclusion



The squad

- K.L. Rahul Suryakumar Yadav
- Rishabh Pant (wk)
- Ishan Kishan (wk) ■ Hardik Pandya
- Ravindra Jadeja
- Rahul Chahar
- R. Ashwin
- Axar Patel
- Varun Chakravarthy
- Jasprit Bumrah Bhuvneshwar Kumar
- Mohammed Shami
- Reserves: Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar,
- & Shreyas Iyer ■ Mentor: M.S. Dhoni

Ashwin has been playing in the IPL regularly He has performed well there. When you go into the World Cup, you need an off-spinner. The wickets in the UAE will get slower as the IPL will also be played there. The spinners will

get assistance so

having an off-spin-

ner holds the key



of the 2017 Champions Trophy.

comeback to

the T20I side

years. He has

wickets from

taken 52

Chahal will not be the only one feeling hard done by. Veteran opener Shikhar Dhawan, who was the captain for India's tour to Sri Lanka in July, has not found a place in the squad, with the selectors picking Ishan Kishan as a left-handed batsman-cumkeeper option.

"Shikhar is a very important player for us. I can't disclose the discussion we had but he is in the loop. We thought the need of the hour was to look at others and rest him," Sharma said.

According to Sharma, the selection committee has included K.L. Rahul primarily as Rohit Sharma's opening partner and "floater" Ishan, "who can bat in the middle and keep wickets if required", as the back-up

ing the innings with Rohit in the T20I series-decider against England in March, captain Kohli had indicated that the partnership would continue. The selection committee has a different perspective, however, although Sharma left the choice to the

Interestingly, after open-

"If Virat bats at No. 3, the team can bat around him. Still, if the management feels

team management.

the need for him to open later on, it's their decision. For now, we have selected Rohit, Rahul and Ishan as openers," Sharma said.

With Sharma confident that Hardik Pandya would be able to "bowl his full quota in every match", Shardul Thakur was pushed from the main squad to the three stand-bys, along with Shreyas Iyer and Deepak

Can MS be India's talisman?

AMOL KARHADKAR MUMBAI

M.S. Dhoni will return to the Indian dressing room for the first time after the 2019 World Cup semifinal. The most successful Indian captain in the limited-overs format has agreed to join the squad only for the marquee event as team mentor, according to BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

"As far as Mahendra Singh Dhoni is concerned, I spoke to him when I was in Dubai. He was okay with my decision and agreed to be the mentor of Team India for the T20 World Cup only. I discussed this issue with my colleagues also," said Shah, in his first official interaction with the media after taking over as BCCI secretary in October

"I spoke to the captain and vice-captain as well as coach Ravi Shastri. They were all on the same page and that's why this matter reached its conclusion."

Only for T20 WC

The timing of Dhoni's appointment – with head coach Shastri's tenure set to end after the T20 World Cup – is bound to create a doubt whether the World Cup-winning captain's stint with the Indian team may continue.



On the same page: Shastri and Kohli backed the idea of having Dhoni on board as mentor for the World Cup, revealed Shah. • FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

But, as Shah emphasised, the arrangement is only for the T20 World Cup as of now.

While the national team will have a mentor for the first time, it will not be the first time that the head coach will have company at the top of the team management.

During Dhoni's tenure as skipper, Shastri was the team director, with Duncan Fletcher as the head coach for the 2015 World Cup.

Dhoni's presence is likely to be of immense help to the team management in the UAE.

Despite tasting unprecedented success across the globe in the Test arena, a World title in the limited-overs formats has eluded the captain-coach combination of Kohli-Shastri.

In fact, it was Dhoni who won India its last ICC title -Champions Trophy, 2013. It was the third World crown Dhoni clinched as India captain after the 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 50-over World Cup.

Dhoni will hope to have a big influence on the players and help India regain the T20 World Cup.

India to play T20I and ODI series in England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Indian cricket team will play six white-ball matches against England in July next year, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced as it unveiled its international home fixtures for 2022.

The Indian team is currently playing a five-Test se-

ries against England with the last match slated to start Sept. 10.

However, unlike other years, India's red and white ball series have been segregated due to the length of the tours in times of the CO-VID-19 pandemic.

England men will play all of their home white-ball matches in July against India, followed by South Africa.

England vs India, white-ball schedule. 2022:

T201 series: July 1: Emirates Old Trafford, July 3: Trent Bridge, July 6: Ageas Bowl.

ODI series: July 9: Edgbaston, July 12: Kia Oval, July 14:

India lies second after mixed day

RAKESH RAO

Cavourite India narrowly Γ fell short of maintaining a clean slate and held the se cond spot after three rounds of Top Division's Group 'B' in the FIDE Online Chess Olympiad on Wednesday. After a convincing 6-0 vic-

tory over Egypt, but not before Vaishali was awarded the game because her victorious rival failed to keep one of the two cameras on for the duration of the game, India suffered a mild setback with fourth seed France pulling off a 3-3 draw. In the day's third round, India defeated Sweden 4-2.

On a day when India fielded all 12 players, B. Adhiban won both his games, Viswanathan Anand and Tania Sachdev contributed 1.5 points each from two games while seven others remained unbeaten. However, R. Praggnanandhaa and debu-



B. Adhiban... a clean start. ■ FILE PHOTO

tant Savitha Shri lost a game The scores: Third round: India

bt Sweden 4-2 (P. Harikrishna bt Nils Grandelius, B. Adhiban bt Erik Blomqvist, K. Humpy drew with Pia Cramling, Tania Sachdev drew with Inna Agrest, Nihal Sarin bt Milton Pantzar. B. Savitha Shri lost to Margarita Zaritovskaja): Azerbajjan lost to Hungary 2-4; Belarus bt Shenzhen China 3.5-2.5; Moldova drew with France 3-3: Slovenia drew with Egypt 3-3.

Second round: France drew

with India 3-3 (Etienne Bacrot drew with Anand, Yannick Gozzoli drew with Vidit Guirathi. Marie Sebag drew with Humpy, Pauline Guichard drew with D. Harika, Marc Andria Maurizzi bt R. Praggnanandhaa, Florence Rollot lost to R. Vaishali); Hungary bt Slovenia 3.5-2.5; Egypt lost to Moldova 2.5-3.5; Sweden bt Belarus 5.5-0.5; Shenzhen China drew with Azerbaijan

First round: India bt Egypt 6-0 (Anand bt Ahmed Adly, Adhiban bt Adham Fawzy, Tania Sachdev bt Shahendra Wafa, Bhakti Kulkarni bt Ayah Moaataz. Praggnanandhaa bt Adham Kandil, Vaishali bt Sara Adel): Shenzhen China lost to Hungary 2-4; Azerbaijan bt Sweden 5.5-0.5; Belarus lost to France 2.5-3.5; Moldova drew with Slovenia 3-3.

Standings (after rounds): 1. Hungary (6 matchpoints); 2. India (5); 3-4. France, Moldova (4 each); 5. Azerbaijan (3); 6-8. Slovenia, Sweden, Belarus (2 each), 9-10. Shenzhen China and Egypt (1

Sports Minister felicitates Paralympic medal winners

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

The Indian athletes who won 19 medals, including five gold and eight silver in the Tokyo Paralympics, were felicitated by the Sports Ministry on Wednesday.

Three-time Paralympics medallist Devendra Jhajaria, who had won gold in 2004 and 2016, apart from a silver this time, was overwhelmed by the response from the whole nation, as he proudly said, "I have succeeded in my mission today."

Jhajaria had spent his own money to compete in the 2004 Athens Olympics, and has seen the paralympic movement grow to inspiring heights. He said that the entire contingent was inspired by the Prime Minister's interaction with the athletes.

"Our country gives so much respect to sports persons, that other countries are learning from our prime



Reward and recognition: Tokyo 2020 Paralympics medallists along with dignitaries during the felicitation function in New Delhi on Wednesday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

minister," Jhajaria said. Suhas Yathiraj, the District

Magistrate of Gautam Buddha Nagar, felt that "every long journey starts with a small first step."

Table tennis medallist Bhavina Patel said that she gained immensely by playing against an advanced robot

variety in improving her game.

Nineteen-year-old rifle shooter Avani Lekhara, who won a gold and bronze, said she was "so happy, and so grateful. Still a long way to

which provided tremendous

Government support en-

sured an electronic target system was installed at her place during the pandemic, ensuring high quality training. "It kept me motivated and kept me positive. It

helped me win the medals," said Avani. Sports Minister Anurag

Thakur said the athletes will

get all the support they need. We will leave no stone unturned for supporting them in future. No target is too high and no fear that they can't overcome," he said. The president of the Para-

lympic Committee of India (PCI), Deepa Malik, acknowledge the support of everyone, but was particularly appreciative of the coaches. "I congratulate the coach-

es, I salute all the gurus," she said, insisting that "we are getting bette."

She was also happy about the fact that from having three women athletes in the last Paralympics in Rio, the Indian contingent had 14 women athletes this time in Tokyo, and they had won gold and silver.

The former sports minister Kiren Rijiju congratulated every athlete. "You are the inspiration of the whole

Raducanu creates history; Fernandez and Auger-Aliassime's great run continues

Briton is the first qualifier to make the women's semifinals; Canadian sensations set up last four meeting with second seeds Sabalenka and Medvedev respectively

U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

British 18-year-old sensation Emma Raducanu became the first qualifier to reach the U.S. Open women's semifinals by defeating Tokyo Olympic champion Belinda Bencic 6-3, 6-4

Wednesday. The World No. 150 Raducanu, only the fourth qualifier to reach a Grand Slam semifinal, made the Swiss 11th seed the highest-rated victim of her young career in making history on the New York hardcourts.

Tough assignment

"It was a really tough match," Raducanu said. "I'm really

glad to have come through." Raducanu is the youngest Open women's semifinalist since Maria Sharapova in 2005, although she is only a couple of months younger than 19-year-old Leylah Fernandez, who will face second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the other semifinal.

On Tuesday, it was a night to remember for Canada as Fernandez and Felix Auger-Aliassime, 21, reached their maiden Slam semifinals.

Fernandez, who had ousted defending champion Naomi Osaka and three-time Slam winner Angelique Kerber, delivered another stunner to defeat Ukrainian fifthseed Elina Svitolina 6-3, 3-6,

Fernandez booked a lastfour match-up against the Sabalenka, who beat Czech eighth seed and reigning French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova 6-1, 6-4.





Surging ahead: Leylah Fernandez added another big scalp to her name by taking out Elina Svitolina in three sets, while Felix Auger-Aliassime made the last four when Carlos Alcaraz retired with an injury. • AFP, AP

Left-hander Fernandez, who turned 19 on Monday, snapped the Tokyo Olympic bronze medallists ninematch win streak with clutch shotmaking, firing 42 winset in 38 minutes, the first ners, as spectators roared their delight. Fernandez broke for a 4-2

Svitolina surrendered at the lead and captured the first

In the second set, Svitolina broke twice to lead 5-1 but

venth game and forced three break points in the last game before a Svitolina ace mandated a third set. Fernandez

Fernandez broke in the se-

breaks on the way to the tiebreaker, in which the teenager never trailed, advancing after two hours and 24 minutes with a service winner. "I told myself to trust my

and Svitolina exchanged four

shots," Fernandez said. "Even if I lose, I've got to go for it. And I'm glad I did."

"She's playing well," Sabalenka said of Fernandez. "She's moving well and the crowd cheers for her. I'd say nothing to lose for this one."

Alcaraz unfortunate

seeded Auger-Aliassime. 12th, advanced when 55thranked Spanish 18-year-old Carlos Alcaraz retired, trailing 6-3, 3-1 with a leg injury. The Canadian will next take on Russian second seed Daniil Medvedev.

Asked about his match, Auger-Aliassime said "It's an

weird way to end but I'll have a chance to play one of the best players in the world."

amazing milestone. It's a

'No choice'

"It's really tough to end a great tournament like this," Alcaraz said.

"I had no choice to still play. I have to take care of my body and to stay healthy. I didn't feel good to still play."

THE RESULTS

Quarterfinals: Men: 12-Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Alcaraz (Esp) Women: Fernandez (Can) bt 5-

Svitolina (Ukr) 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(5);

2-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 8-Krejcikova (Cze) 6-1, 6-4; Raducanu (GBr) bt 11-Bencic (Sui) 6-3, Fallen seeds:

Women: 5-Svitolina, 8-Krejcikova, 11-Bencic

TV PICKS

US OPEN 2021: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

England Women vs New Zealand Women: 3rd T201, Sony Six (SD & HD), 11 p.m.

WC 2022 Qualifiers: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 2 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF

Akshit slams century

NEW DELH Akshit Sharma's 128 helped We Cricket Leaders (WCL) defeat Dream Chasers in the Push Academy (under-13) league. For Dream Chasers Gorish Dahiya's unbeaten 124 went in vain. In another match, Mihier Doi Ganesh (107) shone for Sonnet Club. The scores: Dream Chasers 275/6 in 40 overs (Gorish Dahiya 124 n.o.) lost to We Cricket Leaders 277/4 in 39.4 overs (Akshit Sharma 128, Rudra Bhiduri 79) Sonnet Club 269/3 in 40 overs (Mihier Doi Ganesh 107, Mohammad Owais 41) bt Push Tulip 55 in 32.5 overs (Shaurya Sindhu 3/9).

Aditi Tyagi in semifinals

Aditi Tyagi beat Aditi Rawat 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 in the girls under-16 quarterfinals of the AITA Super Series junior tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

The results (quarterfinals): Under-16 boys: Vansh Nandal bt Dhruv Kumar 6-1, 6-2; Hitesh Chauhan bt Ekamjeet Singh Cheema 6-2, 6-2; Arjun Pandit bt Mayank Sharma 7-6(2), 6-2; Manish Yadav bt Satwik Murali Kollepalli 7-5, 6-3; Under-16 girls: Tamanna Takoria bt Dheepa Yazhini 7-5, 6-0; Thania Sarai bt Mahika Khanna 6-4, 6-2; Asmi Adkar bt Saijayani Banerjee 6-3, 6-0; Aditi Tyagi bt Aditi Rawat 3-6, 7-5, 6-0.

Navya, Riya win titles

Navya Verma and Riya Kaushik won the boys' and girls' titles respectively in the AITA Championship series under-18 tennis tournament here on Wednesday. The results (finals):

Under-18 boys: Navya Verma bt Aditya Chauhan 6-2, 6-2. Under-18 girls: Riya Kaushik bt Radhika Vasudeva 6-3, 7-5.

France ends a winless run

Scotland revives its hopes; Portugal, the Netherlands stay on track

WC QUALIFIERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Reigning champion France beat Finland 2-0 in a World Cup qualifier on Tuesday thanks to Antoine Griezmann's double strike to snap a five-game winless streak while Scotland kept its hopes alive with a 1-0 win in Austria.

In other action, Portugal and the Netherlands stayed on track to reach the finals in Qatar next year, with Memphis Depay grabbing a hattrick for the Dutch in a 6-1 demolition of Turkey.

France was roared on by 57,000 passionate spectators in Lyon where Griezmann – who ended an unhappy spell at Barcelona with a loan move back to Atletico Madrid in the transfer window – combined well with Karim Benzema as their side overcame a disjointed start.

Delightful backheel

Benzema's delightful backheel released Griezmann inside the box and he supplied a smooth finish after 25 minutes.

Griezmann made it 41 goals for his country when he beat Finnish 'keeper Lukas Hradecky at the near post to make it 2-0 in the 54th minute.

After a frustrating 1-1 draw with Ukraine in their last game, the victory was a welcome boost for the French who are still smarting after crashing out of Euro 2020 at the last 16 stage this summer.

"We did not do everything well but we have rediscovered our confidence," said France coach Didier Deschamps.

"This puts our fate in our hands and we must finish the job in November."

Scotland grabbed a valuable three points in its bid to qualify for Qatar with a 1-0



Smart finish: Antoine Griezmann seals France's win over Finland with his second strike of the night. • REUTERS

win against the Austrians in Vienna as Australian-born Lyndon Dykes' VAR-awarded penalty proved the difference.

The victory moved the Scots up to second in Group F, seven points behind Euro 2020 semifinalists Denmark which is cruising with a 100 percent record after thrashing Israel 5-0.

"Some people in (Scotland) don't believe in this group of players, but I do," Scotland manager Steve Clarke told Sky Sports. "I love my players. We're a good team."

Ruthless

The Netherlands was ruthless against Turkey as Depay's hat-trick took the Barcelona forward's international goal tally to 33.

The Dutch led 3-0 by halftime and any remaining chance for the Turks vanished when Leicester defender Caglar Soyuncu was sent off for a second bookable offence shortly before the break.

Louis van Gaal's side moved into top spot in Group G by virtue of goal difference above Norway which outclassed minnows Gibraltar 5-1, with Erling Braut Haaland notching a hat-trick.

Setback for Serbia

Serbia's bid to qualify for a second successive World Cup finals suffered a setback as Nikola Milenkovic's late own goal and a superb display from teenage goalkeeper Gavin Bazunu gave the Republic of Ireland a battling 1-1 draw in Dublin.

Lazio midfielder Sergej Milinkovic-Savic had put Serbia ahead in the first half.

The Serbs trail Portugal – which was a 3-0 winner in Azerbaijan – by two points in Group A.

No missing Ronaldo

The Portuguese did not miss the suspended Cristiano Ronaldo as Bernardo Silva scored a sparkling opener on 26 minutes before Andre Silva added a second five minutes later in Baku.

Liverpool forward Diogo Jota completed the job with a second-half header to continue his bright early season form.

The results:

Europe: Group A: Azerbaijan O lost to Portugal 3 (Bernardo Silva 26, Andre Silva 31, Diogo Jota 75); Ireland 1 (Milenkovic 86og) drew with Serbia 1 (Milin-kovic-Savic 20).

Group D: France 2 (Griezmann 25, 53) bt Finland 0; Bosnia 2 (Pjanic 74-pen, Menalo 85) drew with Kazakhstan 2 (Kuat 51, Zaynutdinov 90+5).

Group F: Faroe Island 2 (Olsen 68, Vatnsdal 71) bt Moldova 1 (Milnceanu 84); Denmark 5 (Poulsen 28, Kjaer 31, Olsen 41, Delaney 57, Cornelius 90+1) bt Israel 0; Austria 0 lost to Scotland 1 (Dykes 30-pen).

Group G: Norway 5 (Thorsvedt 22, Haaland 27, 39, 90+1, Sorloth 59) bt Gibraltar 1 (Styche 43); Montenegro O drew with Latvia O; the Netherlands 6 (Klaassen 1, Depay 16, 38-pen, 54, Til 80, Malen 90) bt Turkey 1 (Under 90+2).

Group H: Russia 2 (Smolov 10, Bakaev 84-pen) bt Malta 0; Slovakia 2 (Schranz 54, Koscelnik 77) bt Cyprus 0; Croatia 3 (Livaja 33, Pasalic 66, Vlasic 90+4) bt Slovenia 0.

Asia: Group A: South Korea 1 (Kwon Chang-hoon 60) bt Lebanon 0; Syria 1 (Mahmoud Al-Baher 64) drew with UAE 1 (Ali Mabkhout 11); Iraq O lost to Iran 3 (Alireza Jahanbakhsh 2, Mehdi Taremi 71, Ali Gholizadeh 90)

Group B: Vietnam O lost to Australia 1 (Rhyan Grant 43); China O lost to Japan 1 (Yuya Osako 40); Oman O lost to Saudi Arabia 1 (Saleh Al-Shehri 42).

Indian Navy fights back to beat Delhi FC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Indian Navy became the first among the six regimental sides to pick up a win when it beat Second Division League side Delhi Football Club 2-1 in a group-C league match of Durand Cup football here on Wednesday.

The Trinidad and Tobago striker took Delhi FC ahead in the 21st minute.

The sailors secured the equaliser within five minutes when V. Shreyas foxed the Delhi defence to finish a cross from Nihal Sudeesh. Indian Navy found the winner in the 86th minute through Dalraj.

The result: Delhi FC 1 (Willis Plaza 21) lost to Indian Navy 2 (V. Shreyas 26, Dalraj 86).

Gomez-Herrer beats Nagal in pre-quarters

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
BANJA LUKA (BOSNIA)

Sumit Nagal was beaten 7-5, 6-3 by Carlos Gomez-Herrera of Spain in the prequarterfinals of the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

Other results: €44,820 Challenger, Cassis, France Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ernesto Escobedo (USA) & Fernando Romboli (Bra) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & PC Vignesh 6-4, 6-4; Toshihide Matsui & Kaito Uesugi (Jpn) bt Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja 7-5, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round): Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam bt Fabrizio Andaloro (Ita) 6-3, 7-6(4).

\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo, Egypt: Singles (first round): Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Rishab Agarwal 7-6(4), 0-6, 6-4.

Jhajharia and Prasad in awards committee

Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Mukundakum is chairperson

GENERAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Three-time Paralympic medal-winning javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia, former cricketer Venkatesh Prasad and champion boxer L. Sarita Devi have been named in the selection committee for this year's National Sports Awards.

Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Mukundakum Sharma has been picked as the chairperson of the committee, which also includes shooter Anjali Bhagwat and former women's cricket team captain Anjum Chopra, the sports ministry stated in a circular.

This year's awards were delayed after the government decided to wait for India's performance at both the Olympic and Paralympic Games

The highest honour is the Khel Ratna award, which was rechristened from Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna to Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna this year, followed by the Arjuna Award.

The Khel Ratna carries a prize money of ₹25 lakh, while the Arjuna comes with a prize money of ₹15 lakh.

For coaches, the Dronacharya award is there. The annual honours also include the Lifetime Achievement award, the Rahstriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar, and the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad trophy for the year 2021.

The selection committee also includes hockey coach Baldev Singh, Sports Authority of India director-general Sandip Pradhan, and senior journalists Vijay Lokapally and Vikrant Gupta.

Knockout matches on Sept. 11 and 12

CARROM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The toppers of the Champions league, Rashmi Kumari and Mohd. Arif, will compete in the final of the Indian online carrom challenge, organised by the All India Carrom Federation.

The players who had placed second to fourth in qualifying for the knockout in the men's and women's events will play among themselves in deciding the challenger for the toppers.

Thus, Nidhi Gupta will play S. Shainy in the first

match of women's knockout on September 11.

The winner will play S. Appoorwa who had finished second in the league.

The emerging winner will challenge Rashmi in the final.

Same pattern for menSimilarly, in the men's

event, Riyaz Akbar Ali will play Vikas Dharia in the first match.

The winner will face Abdul Rahman, to decide the challenger for Mohd. Arif.

All the knockout matches are scheduled to be played on September 11 and

