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THE HINDU

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
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Thamirabarani civilisation 3,200 years old, suggest findings
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Protests called off in Kabul after Taliban bans demonstrations
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Govt. to release ₹56,027 cr. to exporters under various schemes
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Djokovic two wins away from calendar Slam, meets Zverev next
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NEARBY

Haryana govt. ready to investigate Karnal clash

CHANDIGARH

As the stand-off between the farmers and the government continued in Haryana's Karnal on Thursday, State Home Minister Anil Vij said they were ready to probe the protesters-police clash that erupted on August 28.

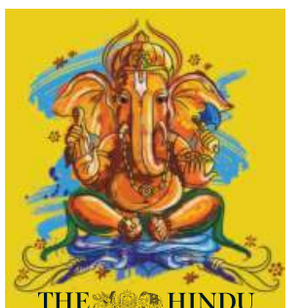
NEWS ▸ PAGE 10

Teachers visiting homes to help with COVID relief

NEW DELHI

Hundreds of schoolteachers in the Capital are visiting homes to get people registered for a scheme to provide compensation to those whose family members died due to COVID infection.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3



THE HINDU
greets its readers
on the occasion of
Vinayaka Chathurthi
There will be no issue of THE HINDU
dated September 11, 2021
as Vinayaka Chathurthi is a holiday
Readers can access the online edition at
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BRICS seeks 'inclusive' intra-Afghan dialogue

5-member group adopts Counter Terrorism Action Plan

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The 13th BRICS summit held virtually on Thursday called for an "inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue" for stability in Afghanistan.

The virtual summit, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was dominated by the developments in Afghanistan, and adopted the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan.

"We have also adopted the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan. With the agreement on Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation between our space agencies, a new chapter of cooperation has begun," Mr. Modi said, highlighting the key items on the agenda of the summit.

'Use peaceful means'

The discussion on Afghanistan at the event attended by the leaders of India, Russia, China, Brazil and South Africa was held against the backdrop of the Taliban announcing an interim government in Kabul. The BRICS leaders called for "settling the situation by peaceful means", and condemned the terrorist attacks at the Hamid Karzai International Airport which killed at least 100 persons, including several U.S. military personnel.

Common ground | A joint statement by BRICS leaders underscored the need to check attempts by terrorist organisations to use Afghan territory as terrorist sanctuary and carry out attacks against other countries

On the same page: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders at the 13th BRICS summit, which was held virtually on Thursday. ▪ ANI

> There is a very strong consensus. Afghanistan should not become a reason for problems in the neighbourhood
>
> SANJAY BHATTACHARYA
> SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

"We stress the need to contribute to fostering an inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue so as to ensure stability, civil peace, law and order in the country. We underscore the priority of fighting terrorism, including preventing attempts by terrorist organisations to use Afghan territory as terrorist sanctuary and to carry out attacks against other countries," declared a joint statement issued at the end of the summit.

The document, titled the New Delhi Declaration, also called for addressing the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, and urged the need to uphold rights of women, children and minorities.

The meeting gave an opportunity to the BRICS countries to discuss the situation in Afghanistan especially as two of the five members – Russia and China – continue to have a diplomatic presence in Kabul where an interim Taliban government is expected to take formal charge in few days.

BRICS countries are evidently divided on engagement with the Taliban with Russia and China adopting a proactive policy on the issue. A Russian media report said the Taliban has invited Turkey, Qatar, China and Iran for the swearing-in ceremony.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

IITs top Centre's rankings for 2021

IIT-M once again ranked no. 1; JNU, BHU in top 10

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras was ranked the best higher education institution in the country for the third year in a row by the Union Education Ministry, which released its India Rankings 2021 under the National Institutional Ranking Framework on Thursday.

The IITs dominated the overall rankings, grabbing seven of the top 10 positions. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru was ranked second, followed by the IITs in Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee and Guwahati. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) were at rank nine and 10, respectively.

Top schools | Only three non-IIT institutes feature among the top-10 higher-education institutes

Rank	Institute	Score
1	IIT, Madras	86.8
2	IISc, Bengaluru	82.8
3	IIT, Bombay	82.5
4	IIT, Delhi	81.8
5	IIT, Kanpur	76.5
6	IIT, Kharagpur	75.6
7	IIT, Roorkee	71.4
8	IIT, Guwahati	69.3
9	JNU, Delhi	66.6
10	BHU, Varanasi	63.1

Among universities, the IISc was ranked one, followed by the JNU, the BHU, the University of Calcutta, the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Jadavpur University, the University of Hyderabad and Aligarh Muslim University. Delhi University was placed 12 among universities and 19 overall.

Among engineering institutions, the IIT, Madras was number one, followed by the IITs in Delhi, Bombay, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati and Hyderabad, and the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) in Tiruchirapalli and Surathkal.

IIM-Ahmedabad on top

For management institutions, IIM-Ahmedabad was ranked one, followed by IIM-Bangalore, IIM-Calcutta, IIT-Kozhikode, IIT-Delhi, IIM-Indore, IIM-Lucknow, Xavier Labour Relations Institute in Jamshedpur, IIT-Kharagpur and IIT-Bombay. Jamia Hamdard was ranked one for pharmacy, followed by Panjab University. Manipal College of Dental Sciences was ranked the best in the dental category.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8
DU COLLEGES SHINE ▸ PAGE 2

Ford to shut Chennai, Sanand plants; 4,000 jobs on the line

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The U.S.-headquartered Ford Motor Company has announced restructuring of its Indian operations under which it will stop manufacturing vehicles in India.

The move, which follows accumulated operating losses of over $2 billion, will impact nearly 4,000 jobs. "Ford India will cease manufacturing vehicles for sale in India immediately...[the company] will wind down vehicle assembly in Sanand [Gujarat] by the fourth quarter of 2021 and vehicle and engine manufacturing in Chennai by the second quarter of 2022," the company said. It, however, said it would not fully exit the Indian market.

The company will focus on 'Ford Business Solutions', along with engineering and engine manufacturing for export as it looks to create a "sustainably profitable" business in the country. It will rely on imports to bring global products such as Mustang Coupe and electric vehicles to India, it said in a statement

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8
RELATED REPORT ▸ PAGE 12

Allow spying without nod, says Kerala Bill

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

The police can listen in on any communication, without waiting for official approval, to curb organised crimes, a draft of the Kerala Control of Organised Crimes Bill has proposed. The draft Bill suggests that an officer not below the rank of Additional DGP can authorise an application made by the IO.

DETAILS ▸ PAGE 5

Out of the blue

Hope afloat: Rescue operation under way on Thursday following a boat accident a day earlier on the Brahmaputra that left at least one person dead at Nimatighat in Jorhat district of Assam. ▪ RITU RAJ KONWAR (REPORT ON PAGE 8)

Centre kicks off major public outreach in J&K

70 Union Ministers to tour 20 districts in coming 9 weeks

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The BJP-led NDA government at the Centre on Thursday kicked off a major public outreach in J&K that will see around 70 Union Ministers meeting people and their representatives for the next nine weeks in the Union Territory.

Initiating the large-scale exercise, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Ministers of State Kailiash Choudhary and Shobha Karandlaje met farmers, horticulturists, agriculture scientists and others at the Centre of Excellence at Zawoora in Srinagar.

They took stock of the status of the government's welfare schemes and their implementation in the UT.

Officials said the horticulturists flagged many issues during their interaction with the Union Ministers, including the absence of lending from other banks, start-up policy, market intervention scheme for C-grade apple produce, Fasal Bima Yojana for apples and so on. They were assured of the Centre's intervention into the issues raised, officials added.

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar meeting horticulturists at the Centre of Excellence in Srinagar. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Union Agriculture Minister also inaugurated the Technology Park and e-inaugurated Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) for assisting farmers with issuing weather advisories.

Mr. Tomar's group is the first among the 70 Union Ministers who are slated to visit all 20 districts of J&K in the coming nine weeks.

Second such outreach

This is the second such outreach by the Centre since the reading down of Article 370 in 2019. Around 36 Union Ministers toured the UT in 2020. Officials said the Centre had tasked these Ministers with getting feedback directly from the people, administration and representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions on governance and development issues, especially the areas pertaining to the respective ministries.

Rahul visits a shrine in Jammu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday arrived in Jammu on a two-day tour and paid obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine. Mr. Gandhi refused to make any statement. "I have come here to offer prayers to the Mata. I don't want to make any political comments."

'Clarify stance in interfaith marriage case'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat High Court has asked the State government to file an affidavit explaining by September 20 its objections in an interfaith marriage case, in which the police have lodged an FIR against the husband, in-laws, and the person who solemnised the marriage, under the amended Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021, for forceful conversion through marriage.

The woman had categorically denied the police allegation and said she wanted to remain married to the person.

FULL REPORT ▸ PAGE 9

Proceedings stayed in Gyanvapi dispute

High Court comes down heavily on lower court for 'departing from traditional way'

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday placed an interim stay on the proceedings in a lower court in the Gyanvapi mosque-Kashi Vishwanath temple title dispute in Varanasi, including the April order of the lower court that had directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct a comprehensive physical survey of the Gyanvapi mosque compound adjacent to the temple.

The High Court put a stay on further proceedings in the original suit of 1991 pending before the court till the next date of listing on October 8. Justice Prakash Padia came down heavily on the lower court in Varanasi, stating that it should not have proceeded and decided the application filed by the plaintiffs in the original suit for survey by the ASI even as the judgment in the original pending petitions in the matter was reserved by the High Court on March 15. "...the court below should wait for the verdict in the petitions pending before this court and not to proceed further in the matter till the time a judgment is delivered. The judicial courtesy and decorum warranted such discipline which was expected from the court below but for the unfathomable reasons, neither of the courses were taken," said the High Court.

The Kashi Vishwanath temple and the adjacent Gyanvapi mosque. ▪ FILE PHOTO

'Judicial responsibility'

Justice Padia also regretted that the lower court judge "departed from this traditional way" in the present case and chose to examine the question himself. "I have said so with the fond hope that judicial enthusiasm should not obliterate the profound responsibility that is expected from the court below," he said.

The court allowed the amendment applications filed by the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board and the managing committee of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, and directed their counsel to make necessary amendments in the petition in three days.

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

HC rejects man's plea to return to Afghanistan without paying fine

'Very bleak chance' of his coming back to India, says court

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has rejected the plea of an Afghan national, who is embroiled in a customs case, to go to his country to look after his family, noting there was "very bleak chance" of his coming back to India in view of the prevailing situation there.

Justice Mukta Gupta said there was no ground to release the man's passport and permit him to leave India without depositing the penalty of ₹13 lakh imposed on him.

Ruhulla Amin was intercepted at the IGI Airport here carrying certain medicines illegally to Afghanistan. The value of the seized goods was calculated at ₹90.5 lakh.

A redemption fine of ₹9 lakh was imposed on the petitioner besides a penalty of ₹13 lakh under Section 114 of the Customs Act. Mr. Amin has not paid the penalty.

Ready to deposit 20%

The petitioner stated that he has 11 children, his first wife has been killed by militants and he has to look after his family. The plea stated that he was not in a position to deposit the penalty amount. He urged the court to permit him to deposit 20% of the amount and leave for Afghanistan.

His counsel argued that Mr. Amin is not inclined to take the goods to Afghanistan, hence the redemption fine of ₹9 lakh is not required to be paid and only the penalty has to be deposited.

"In view of this fact and particularly the fact that there is very bleak chance of the petitioner being able to come back to India, in view of the prevailing circumstances in Afghanistan, this court finds no ground to release the passport of the petitioner and permit him to leave the country without depositing the penalty of ₹13 lakh," the court said.

NC leader Trilochan Wazir found dead in west Delhi

Murder case filed after police recover his decomposed body

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

The day his granddaughter was born, former member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council and National Conference (NC) leader Trilochan Singh Wazir (69) was allegedly murdered at a flat in west Delhi's Basai Darapur on September 2. A week on, police found his highly decomposed body on Thursday morning. A murder case has been registered at Moti Nagar police station.

Wazir, also Chairman of J&K's Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and president of the State Transport Union for the last three decades, had come to Delhi on September 2 from his residence in Jammu's Gandhi Nagar. "His granddaughter was born on September 2 in Canada. He had to take the flight at 2 a.m. on September 3," said Jameel Chaudhary, an NC member who was associated with Wazir for over 15 years.

Trilochan Singh Wazir's body was found at a house in Basai Darapur. ▪ HEMANI BHANDARI

> He told a friend of Mr. Wazir that two people had come from Jammu and shot him. He asked the friend to take his body. He then switched off the phone
>
> JAMEEL CHAUDHARY
> NC member

Suspect on the run

Mr. Chaudhary said that in Basai, he was staying with a man identified as Harpreet Singh - now absconding and a prime suspect for the police.

"This man introduced himself as a journalist to Mr. Wazir over a year ago. He said he runs a newspaper and convinced Mr. Wazir that he'll publish stories on him," said Mr. Chaudhary.

Wazir's long-time associate said Harpreet offered to have dinner and drop him at the airport. "I spoke with Mr. Wazir at 10.30 p.m. on September 2. He told me that he has a flight at 2 a.m. and will leave soon. But he was sounding disoriented," he said.

Mr. Chaudhary said a few hours later, Harpreet videocalled Wazir's son from the airport and said he had dropped him off. "But on Wednesday morning, he told a friend of Mr. Wazir that two people had come from Jammu and shot him. He asked the friend to take his body. He then switched off the phone," Mr. Chaudhary said.

Senior J&K police officers were informed of his death as reported by Harpreet after which they contacted the Delhi police, which started looking for him. During investigation, it was also found that Wazir had not boarded the flight to Canada.

Crime Branch probe

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Urvija Goel said that they received a call on Thursday morning regarding a foul smell emanating from a house in Basai Darapur. When police reached the spot and broke open the door, his highly decomposed body was found lying on the floor, Ms. Goel said.

"There are two suspects – Harpreet and a Jammu resident named Harmeet Singh, as told by the family. Teams are working to apprehend them," the DCP said. The case has been transferred to Crime Branch for further investigation.

At the spot, Wazir's brother - retired Senior Superintendent of Police (Jammu) Bhupinder Singh - was present. Other family members were due to arrive from Canada later on Thursday. "This looks like an outcome of political rivalry. We hope police will investigate the case with due diligence," he said.

Court discharges 22-yr-old from riots case

It pulls up probe agency, says no progress or further investigation in the case has been made so far

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has discharged a 22-year-old man from the charge of causing arson during the north-east Delhi riots, noting that there is no CCTV footage, video clip or eyewitnesses of the incident.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav said the ingredients of Section 436 of the Indian Penal Code (mischief by fire or explosive substance), which was added in the chargesheet, are not at all made out in this case.

The judge remarked that till date, the investigating agency has not been able to apprehend or arrest any other accused person, "meaning thereby that no progress or further investigation in the case has been made so far".

The investigating agency is still standing on the same square, which it did when the accused Javed was enlarged on bail on July 24 last year, the judge said.

Charred remains of cars in riot-hit north-east Delhi. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Javed was arrested from his house on April 19, 2020, pursuant to receipt of a secret information and his categorical identification by a constable in the case.

As per the chargesheet, Javed has been accused of being an "active member of the riotous mob" that took part in rioting, vandalising and arson during the riots. Apart from a beat constable, who has categorically identified him, the call details record (CDR) location of his mobile phone number confirmed his presence at the scene of crime (SOC).

The Special Public Prosecutor has argued that further investigation is ongoing and efforts are being made to identify the other rioters in the incident in PS Dayalpur area.

The FIR was registered on March 3, 2020, on the basis of complaints made by four individuals who complained of their properties such as house, godown, and shops being looted and vandalised by the mob on February 25, 2020.

Discrepancies spotted

The judge highlighted the complaint made by one of the four individuals, where he had initially stated that on the night of February 25, 2020, a riotous mob, after breaking into his house, committed robbery of various household articles. However, this complainant later changed his statement and added that after looting his house, they set it on fire.

The judge said that from his first statement, the ingredients of Section 436 IPC are not at all made out. "It is a matter of record that he did not say a word about setting his house on fire by the riotous mob in his initial written complaint made to the police, based upon which FIR was registered," the court noted.

"It is only when his statement under Section 161 Cr.P.C was recorded by the IO (investigating officer) on March 06, 2020 that ingredients of Section 436 IPC for the first time came into fore and same were accordingly invoked in the chargesheet," the court said.

"I am afraid that the investigating agency cannot cover up the said flaw by way of recording the supplementary statements of complainants, if the ingredient(s) of Section 436 IPC was not there in their initial written complaints made to the police," the judge said.

'Use common sense'

"This court is conscious of the fact that cases of communal riots have to be considered with utmost sensitivity, but that does not mean that common sense should be given go by; mind has to be applied even at this stage with regard to the material available on record," the judge remarked.

The other sections invoked in the chargesheet are "exclusively triable" by a Magistrate, the court said.

It ordered for the case to be transferred before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (North-East).

Petition against govt. funding of fest dismissed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday declined to entertain a petition seeking to declare as illegal the AAP government's decision of organising Ganesh Chaturthi from State treasury and releasing advertisements.

A High Court Bench observed that the petition was filed hurriedly and without doing proper homework. The court said advocate Manohal Lal Sharma, also the petitioner, has not placed on record the advertisement based on which the petition has been filed.

Asvocate Sharma said he got to know through media that the Delhi government has been inviting people to join Ganesh puja, on September 10, organised by the State.

DU colleges shine in national rankings

Miranda House, LSR secure top two slots

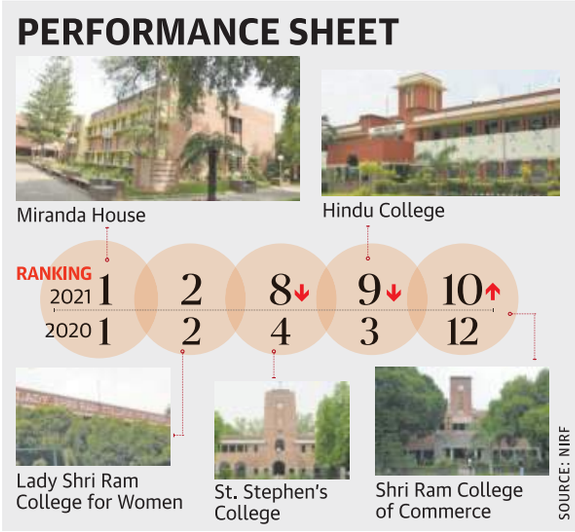
SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

Five out of the top 10 colleges under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking announced by the Union Education Ministry are Delhi University colleges, with Miranda House topping the list yet again.

For Miranda House, this is the fifth consecutive year when it has been ranked first, with the college receiving its first rank position in 2017.

This year, Lady Shri Ram (LSR) College for Women secured the second position followed by St. Stephen's College, Hindu College and Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) securing the eight, ninth and tenth position, across the country.

While LSR maintained its second rank for the second consecutive year, both Hindu College and St. Stephen's College dropped by a few ranks while SRCC rose from the 12th position in 2020 to among the top 10 colleges this year. In 2020, Hindu College had secured the third position while St. Stephen's College had secured the fourth position.



Sri Venkateswara College, Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, Hans Raj College, Gargi College and Kirori Mal College are the other DU institutions which have secured a position in the top 20 colleges across the country.

Both ARSD college and Sri Venkateswara College have improved its rankings this year as opposed to last year's 13th and 14th position respectively.

DU Vice-Chancellor P.C. Joshi congratulated the colleges for making it to the top 10 in the country.

Mr. Joshi told *The Hindu:* "First of all DU has done very well in the NIRF rankings across categories including research. The only setback we had was a poor student-teacher ratio. This is because recruitment had not happened for a very long time. But now we have addressed that issue. The colleges have done exceedingly well. We are very happy with the performance of the university as a whole."

Man held for killing mother

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 34-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly shooting his mother dead in outer Delhi's Mundka, police said on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Parvinder Singh said Sandeep had allegedly killed his mother on September 1 during a heated exchange with her and had since then been on the run.

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Forms can be submitted at District DCsP offices from **10.09.2021** to **16.09.2021** (both days inclusive)

Last date of depositing application forms is **16.09.2021** upto 06:00 PM at the respective offices of jurisdictional District DCsP.

Last date for issuance of license by Districts DCsP is **13.10.2021**

Validity of temporary fireworks license for pucca shops is 24 days and 15 days for temporary shed from the date of issuance of respective licenses

Appeals against rejection of applications by District DCsP can be filed before jurisdictional Joint Commissioners of Police/Ranges between **14.10.2021 & 15.10.2021** (both days inclusive)

Appeals will be decided by the jurisdictional Joint CsP/Ranges between **17.10.2021 & 18.10.2021** (both days inclusive)

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DP/9288/2021

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झारखण्ड सरकार
खाद्य, सार्वजनिक वितरण एवं उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग

नियुक्ति विज्ञापन

उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2019 के तहत झारखण्ड राज्य में गठित झारखण्ड राज्य आयोग के अध्यक्ष के रिक्त पद के विरूद्ध कार्यहित में पूर्णकालिक नियुक्ति हेतु सुयोग्य उम्मीदवारों से निम्न विज्ञापन के अन्तर्गत ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं –

(i) विज्ञापन संख्या : 05/2021 – राज्य आयोग में अध्यक्ष पद पर नियुक्ति

2. आवेदक/आवेदिका नियुक्ति की आवश्यक अर्हत्ताएँ आदि से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरणी वेबसाईट www.jharkhand.gov.in Department Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs Department Recruitment से प्राप्त कर सकते है।

3. आवेदक/आवेदिका संबंधित विज्ञापन संख्या के अन्तर्गत उपर्युक्त वेबसाईट www.jharkhand.gov.in -> Department -> Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs Department -> Online Apply अथवा http://dlms.jharkhand.gov.in/ पर दिनांक 04.09.2021 - 00:00 बजे से दिनांक 24.09.2021- 23:59 बजे तक ऑनलाईन आवेदन कर सकते है।

ह0/–
(ज्योति कुमारी झा),
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PR 253042 Food Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs(21-22).D

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM TO e-AUCTION SALE PROGRAMME
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

E-Auction Sale Programme scheduled to be held in the month of SEPTEMBER-2021 at PRTN Depot scheduled on 10.09.2021 has been rescheduled on 15.09.2021. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. Please visit Western Railway website of Material Management Department i.e. www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in as well as on www.ireps.gov.in e-auction portal for further information.

No. SIII/Auction Programme-3/September-2021, Dated: 08.09.2021

D-0409 Dy. CMM/Sales For PCMM

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पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि PR No. 251760 Road (21-22) D एवं PR No. 252201 Road (21-22) D द्वारा प्रकाशित शुद्धि पत्र के आलोक में निविदा आमंत्रण संख्या RCD /PAKUR/347/2021-22 दिनांक : 19.08.2021 में ई०–निविदा का बेबसाईट पर प्रकाशन की तिथि 07.09.2021 एवं समय पूर्वाह्न 10.30 बजे से के स्थान पर तिथि 20.09.2021 एवं समय पूर्वाह्न 10.30 बजे से और ई०–निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 28.09.2021 एवं समय पूर्वाह्न 12.00 बजे तक के स्थान पर तिथि 18.10.2021 एवं समय पूर्वाह्न 12.00 बजे तक पढ़ा जाय।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़।

PR 252995 Road(21-22)D

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
No. PW-DPD-CB-Tender/2021: 14092-97 Dated:-08.09.2021

The Executive Engineer Dharampur Division, HPPWD Dharampur Distt. Mandi (H.P) on behalf of Governor of HP invite the item rate bids in electronics tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the work as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Starting date of downloading Bid	Deadline for submission of Bid	Time Period
1.	Microsurfacing on Baroti Rakhera Dharampur Marhi Kamlah Galu Road (SH: P/L microsurfacing in KM 8/00 to 18/00)	1,44,97,000/-	2,23,000/-	16/09/2021	22/09/2021	Two Months
2.	C/O link road to Village Bassi kothi km 0/0 to 0/620 (SH: C/O vented cause way, Metalling and Tarring in km 0/0 to 0/620)	9,81,329/-	20,000/-	16/09/2021	22/09/2021	Two Months
3.	C/O Link road Jodhan to Hukkal km 0/0 to 1/800 (SH: F/C 5/7 Meter at 0/350 to 1/800, C/O R/wall, B/wall, GSB and CC pavement at various Reaches)	14,58,520/-	30,000/-	16/09/2021	22/09/2021	Two Months

The bidder are advised to note other details of tender from the department website www.hptender.gov.in

Executive Engineer,
Dharampur Division,
HP.PWD, Dharampur,
Distt: Mandi (H.P).

HP / 3969/21-22

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH,
Room No. 324, Bapu Bhawan, Vidhan Shabha Marg Lucknow(UP) 226001, India
ADVERTISEMENT NO. 02/2021

Department of Energy, Government of Uttar Pradesh invites on-line application for the following different posts

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE POST	NAME OF CORPORATION/DISCOM	NOS. OF VACANCY
1	Director(IT)	U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., Lucknow	1
2	Director (Corporate Planning)	U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., Lucknow	1
3	Director(Finance)	U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., Lucknow	1
4	Director(Commercial)	U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., Lucknow	1
5	Director (Personnel Management & Admn.)	U.P. Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd., Lucknow	1
6	Director(Project & Commercial)	U.P. Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd., Lucknow	1
7	Director (Finance)	U.P. Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd., Lucknow	1
8	Director (Works & Project)	U.P. Power Transmission Corporation Ltd., Lucknow	1
9	Director (Operation)	U.P. Power Transmission Corporation Ltd., Lucknow	1
10	Director (Personnel Management & Admn.)	U.P. Power Transmission Corporation Ltd., Lucknow	1
11	Director (Planning & Commercial)	U.P. Power Transmission Corporation Ltd., Lucknow	1
12	Director (Personnel & Managment)	Pashchimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Meerut	1
13	Director (Personnel & Managment)	Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Agra	1
14	Director (Finance)	Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Agra	1
15	Director(Finance)	KESCO Ltd., Kanpur	1
16	Director (Commercial)	KESCO Ltd., Kanpur	1
17	Director (Commercial)	Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Varanasi	1
18	Director (Finance)	Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Varanasi	1
19	Director (Commercial)	Madhayanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Lko.	1
20	Director (Technical)	Madhayanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Lucknow	1

Opening date for filling of application is Sept. 13, 2021
Last date for filling of application is Sept. 28,2021
Details and on line application is available on www.uppcl.org and www.upenergy.in
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY (ENERGY), GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH

Timings
DELHI

FRIDAY, SEP. 10		
RISE	06:04	SET 18:32
RISE	09:13	SET 20:53
SATURDAY, SEP. 11		
RISE	06:04	SET 18:31
RISE	10:18	SET 21:33
SUNDAY, SEP. 12		
RISE	06:05	SET 18:30
RISE	11:26	SET 22:16

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	34	27
Safdarjang	34	27
Palam	34	27

Delhi Palam Today
33°C Few spells of light to moderate rain and thunder-shower with gusty winds may occur at some areas. A humid day with mainly overcast sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
31°C Few spells rain and thunderstorm may occur at some places with gusty winds.

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IN BRIEF

'Virtual appearance okay for marriage registration'

NEW DELHI

The High Court on Thursday said the requirement of personal appearance before the authority concerned for registration of marriage would include appearance through videoconferencing. The HC had permitted registration of marriage through virtual mode earlier as well.

Teachers visiting homes to help with COVID relief

Measure taken after HC asked govt. for a proactive approach; official says most of the applications have been cleared now

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Around 1 p.m., clutching a temporary identity card from the District Magistrate's office, 33-year-old Chitra Suyal, a primary school teacher, rang the doorbell of a house and took a step back.

As an elderly woman half opened the door, Ms. Suyal said, "We are from the SDM (Sub-Divisional Magistrate) office for the COVID compensation scheme. We had talked to your son."

The elderly woman returned to the door with son Navneet Singh, 36, and invited them inside. However, there is one thing that stood out: The family had never applied for the scheme.

Hundreds of teachers like Ms. Suyal are hopping from house to house to get people registered for a scheme to provide compensation for those whose family members have died due to COVID-19.

Helping hand: A teacher during her visit to a house at Mukherjee Nagar in the Capital on Thursday. ▪SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

For non-applicants too

A list of names from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been shared by the Delhi government with all 11 districts, and teachers are contacting people in the list to tell them about the scheme and visiting their houses, even if they haven't applied for it.

They are also visiting people's houses for verification and helping them fill the form online.

"Initially, we were going to people's houses only for verification. However, later we reviewed the scheme and to increase the number of people benefiting from the scheme, we started going to houses of people who were on the list, but not yet applied to make them aware about the scheme and help them with the process," said Isha Khosla, District Magistrate (North Delhi).

Not easy work

Inside the house in Mukherjee Nagar, Ms. Suyal and another teacher Ajay Gaur, 38, waited for Mr. Singh's younger brother whom they had met on their first visit about two weeks ago.

"First, you have to make a surviving member certificate (SMC), for which each member has to get an affidavit," Mr. Gaur started explaining the process.

The teachers detailed them the entire process and the specific things to watch out for while filing the application, besides telling them to contact them if they had any doubt.

"My parent had tested positive last year. My father was completely alright and we were worried about mother as she has heart-related ailments. When we decided to move her to a hospital, my father said, 'I will also get admitted with you to give you company' and went to the hospital. But, in the end, he died due to COVID-19," Mr. Singh said.

After they stepped out of the house, Mr. Gaur said, "In the last 10-12 days, this work has picked up speed and more teachers were called to do the visits."

Ms. Suyal said that she has done close to 90 such visits and it is not that easy every time.

Address and numbers

"In at least 20-30 cases, the address was not properly given in the list and there were no phone numbers. We had to go to the area and ask around to find the address. Tracing people like that becomes difficult at times. But we traced most of the addresses except for three or four," she said.

The primary school teacher also said that people behave rudely at times.

"In middle class and poor neighbourhoods, people are very cooperative, but in posh areas, many don't even answer the door. Once, a family was talking from the balcony and I was standing under the sun and responding to them. I felt really bad. Don't invite us inside, but at least open the door," she said.

No facilities provided

The teachers are not provided transportation or money for it by the government.

The beneficiaries of the scheme include children, and on August 23, the High Court had said that it "would be unfair to expect children who lost their parents to be able to procure documents and avail benefits" and directed the government to fix issues in the process to get compensation.

The HC had also noted that the government should take a proactive approach rather than taking the applications in a routine way.

"Officers are working overtime and we have cleared most of the applications now," a Delhi government official said.

"If people come with the affidavits and their ID proofs, then we issue them the SMC on the same day," said Model Town SDM Rahul Saini. He said that there are currently 15 teams who are doing house visits in his area alone.

Delhi reports 36 new cases, no deaths

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The city reported no new COVID-19 death in 24 hours for the second consecutive day and the total number of deaths stood at 25,083, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Thursday.

Also, 36 new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14,38,118. A total of 79,003 tests were done in a day and the test positivity rate was 0.05%. Of the total cases, 14,12,620 people have recovered and there are only 415 active cases.

The COVID-19 vaccine stock of the city on Thursday morning would last for six days, as per another bulletin. A total of 1,44,963 vaccinations were administered in the city on Wednesday and a total of 1,45,85,525 doses have been given till now.

Meanwhile, RT-PCR, the most recommended method for tracing the virus, accounted for over 70% of the total tests conducted to identify infected patients in Delhi in the last five months, according to government data.

In 7 years, Haryana panel gets only 7 complaints

It was set up to deliver services efficiently

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

The Haryana Right to Service Commission, set up in 2014 to ensure timely delivery of various services notified under the law, has received only seven complaints in as many years.

It was revealed by the commission's newly appointed Chairperson T.C. Gupta, a retd. IAS officer, at a meeting with the representatives of the Residents' Welfare Associations, NGOs and municipal councillors at Apparel House auditorium in Sector 44 here.

Mr. Gupta said he had held six meetings across the State to create awareness on Haryana Right to Service Act within three months of his appointment.

Lack of awareness

Mr. Gupta said that 546 routine services were notified under the Act and 277 of these were available online through Antodaya Saral portal. He said the commission had sent notices to 250 officials for not providing the notified services in the time-bound manner, but regretted that there was lack of awareness among the masses to report the delays to the commission.

The Commission can impose penalty on the designated officers or any other official involved in the process of providing such services up to a sum of ₹20,000 and can also allow compensation up to ₹5,000 to be paid to the eligible person by the defaulter. Where the commission is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to enquire into a matter arising out of the provisions of this Act, it may also, suo moto, initiate an enquiry for better implementation of this Act.

The Commission under Section 17 of the Act can take suo moto notice of failure to deliver services in accordance with this Act and refer such cases for decision to the First or the Second Grievance Redressal Authority and pass appropriate orders.

Mr. Gupta said as per the Act the power supply in the city must be restored within four hours.

'Govt. for 10-point winter action plan'

Will seek help from other States: Rai

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday said that the government is preparing a winter action plan based on 10 focus points to protect the people of Delhi from pollution.

"The Arvind Kejriwal government, with the support of the people of Delhi, is taking concrete steps to tackle the rising pollution levels. In this prospect, we have started preparations for the winter action plan. A high-level review meeting was held today with officials of the Environment Department, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the Development Department and Forest Department," the Minister said.

"Our 10 focus points are curbing stubble, garbage, vehicular and dust pollution, identification of hotspots, study of smog towers, communication with neighboring States, War Room and Green App upgradation, coordination with the Central government and Commission For Air Quality Management," he added.

> **The Kejriwal government, with the support of Delhiites, is taking concrete steps to tackle the rising pollution levels**
>
> GOPAL RAI
> Environment Minister

Mr. Rai said that another area of concern would be holding discussions with other States and seeking their cooperation, and a team will be put together to hold such discussions.

An airshed issue

"The problem of pollution is not limited to Delhi alone. Experts have ruled that this an airshed issue. However, administrators of our neighbouring States do not consider it to be a reason for pollution. The airshed of North India impacts pollution levels immensely. If there's a bump in pollution levels in Ghaziabad, it will naturally impact Delhi as well," he said.

BJP celebrates administration of free vaccine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The State BJP on Thursday celebrated the administration of an estimated 1.43 crore free vaccination doses to the citizens of the Capital at over 200 locations, expressing hope that the country would soon tide over the COVID pandemic.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, while thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for free vaccination, said the city had seen about 1.43 free vaccination jabs being administered to citizens till Wednesday.

Mr. Gupta, addressing a meeting at the ITO crossing, said in a country of over 130 crore people, the way Modi government handled the COVID-19 pandemic was an example for the world.

"The Central government is running the free vaccination drive in the entire city in top gear and party workers are going to every household to create awareness among people about the necessity for the vaccination," he said.

'Processing over 6,700 applications for ex gratia to kin of COVID victims'

Money released to 3,200 people, Delhi govt. tells HC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government informed the High Court on Thursday that it is processing over 6,700 applications for releasing ex gratia of ₹50,000 each to the families of persons who have died due to COVID-19 or related problems.

A Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh was informed that the Delhi government has prepared a list of around 25,000 persons who may be entitled to receive ₹50,000 ex gratia on account of death within the family due to COVID-19 or COVID-19 related issues.

Senior advocate Rahul Mehra, representing the Delhi government, said as on Thursday, 6,719 applications have been received for release of the amount and money has already been released to 3,200 people and the rest of the work is in process as there are still 18,000 people who are out of the system.

Post-complications

Mr. Mehra said the ex gratia amount is being released for COVID deaths and it also includes those persons who had recovered from COVID-19 but died within a month due to post-COVID complications.

Share data with DSLSA

The High Court asked Mr. Mehra to share the data with the Delhi State Legal Service Authority (DSLSA) secretary Kanwal Jeet Arora who shall render assistance to those who are left out or finding it difficult to apply for ex gratia.

The High Court was dealing with several aspects relating to COVID-19 crisis in the Capital, including grant of ex gratia to those who lost their family members to COVID-19 and rehabilitation of children who have become orphans following the death of one or both parents due to the virus. It will hear the case again on October 1.

Capital to soon get first, unique multilevel parking for DTC buses

Construction of depots will start by year-end, finish by 2024

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government will develop multilevel bus parking facilities at various Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) sites which, the government claimed, would be uniquely designed and be a first in the history of the city.

The project, executed by the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC), will also aim to develop two prime DTC Depot sites – Hari Nagar and Vasant Vihar – into world-class depots with twice to thrice their current parking capacity as well as retail spaces.

According to the government, these facilities will be self-sustaining and zero energy. The depots at Hari Nagar I and II and Vasant Vihar, of 5 acre and 6.21 acre, respectively currently house 100 and 230 buses each.

This will increase to accommodate 330 and 400 buses, each, over 4 and 7 floor depots after the redevelopment and will also account for basement parking spaces of over 2.6 lakh square feet accommodating over 690 cars and retail spaces.

The bus depots will be self-sustainable.

These depots, the government stated, are designed with a vibration isolation system by use of steel helical springs after noise and vibration impact analyses and a 45° angle for maximum parking efficiency.

Detailed research

According to the government, these design considerations have been made after detailed research of similar projects abroad and live case studies and simulations, and the use of 45° angles would also enable 10-15% more buses to be parked at each depot.

Various other depot features such as washing pits, fuel filling stations which will in future be replaced by electric charging stations will also be incorporated at these sites, the government stated.

Apart from these two sites, DTC colonies at Shadipur and Hari Nagar 3 are being redeveloped into residential units along with retail and commercial facilities and will also include EWS housing as per the Delhi Master Plan 2021 norms.

In October 2020, the DTC had signed an MoU with the NBCC as part of which the NBCC will act as project management consultants for development of its major land parcels in various locations across Delhi for multilevel bus parking depots, redevelopment of residential colonies of DTC and more commercial facilities.

The construction of these multilevel bus depots will start by the end of this year and will be completed in a phased manner by 2024.

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The Lalit Kala Akademi invites applications for the booking of its Art Galleries at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi for the year 2021-22.

Application forms can be downloaded from the Akademi's website : **http://www.lalitkala.gov.in** or collected from the office of Lalit Kala Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, 35, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110001 (on any working day between 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.). The forms are also available at all the Regional Centre of the Akademi at Lucknow, Kolkata, Chennai, Bhubaneswar and Garhi. Forms can also be collected from Akademi's Sub Centres at Shimla, Patna, Ahmedabad and Agartala.

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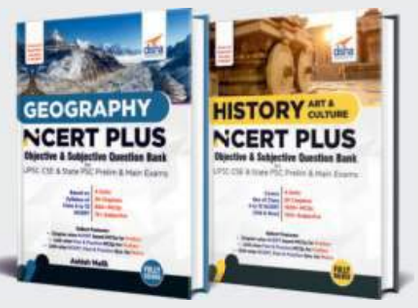

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Rajasthan session begins in the shadow of poll results

BJP set to corner Cong. over coal shortage, law and order issues; govt. to target factional fight within BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Assembly's session, which was a continuation of the Budget session adjourned sine die on March 19 this year, started here on Thursday in the shadow of results of the panchayat body elections held in six districts. The Opposition BJP snatched the Jaipur Zila Pramukh's seat from the ruling Congress despite the latter obtaining a majority in the panchayat samitis.

With the rift in the Congress playing out once again, the BJP took exception to the State government not sending the file to the Governor for prorogation of the Budget session. In the first instance in the State's parliamentary history, the Assembly's session was convened after a gap of more than five months without the previous session being prorogued.

Political observers attributed the government's unusual decision to last year's incidents, when Governor Kalraj Mishra had repeatedly

CM Ashok Gehlot

turned down the State Cabinet's advice to convene a session in the aftermath of a rebellion staged by the then Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot along with 18 MLAs supporting him.

The BJP is set to corner the Congress in the Assembly over the issues such as power crisis because of shortage of coal, farmers' plight after a weak monsoon and the deteriorating law and order situation across the State. The broad daylight shooting incidents in the State Capital are also likely to be raised in the House.

While the Opposition may highlight the discontent among the Congress MLAs over the inordinate delay in the Cabinet expansion and political appointments, the ruling party will take potshots at the renewed factional fight within the BJP amid fresh allegations levelled by senior leader Kailash Meghwal against Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria.

The Assembly proceedings were adjourned for the day on Thursday after the House paid obituary references to departed leaders, including former Govenor Kalyan Singh and former Chief Minister Jagannath Pahadia.

Odisha varsities failed to improve employability: CAG

'Poor show by students in job exams'

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha's premier State-run universities have failed in improving employability of students, whose performance in competitive examinations remained poor, said the Comptroller Auditor General of India (CAG).

Report in Assembly

The CAG report on Higher Education, which was tabled in the State Assembly on Thursday, took a dim view of students' employability saying, "the performance of students in competitive examinations remained poor."

"In case Tikal University it was observed that the total number of students enrolled in the university, the percentage of students who qualified in different competitive examinations was 40.19% in 2015-16 and in the remaining years, the same ranged between 2.23% to 27.10%," the CAG report points out.

"In case of North Odisha University, the percentage of students who qualified in the competitive examinations, ranged between 3.50% and 7.72% of the total number of enrolled students, during the year 2014-15 to 2018-19," it said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

26-08-1927 - 10-09-2012
Mrs. Sarojini Natarajan
M.A. (English), M.A. (Hindi), M.A. (Sanskrit), SahityaRatna, Praveen, Kovid, Dip. in Gandhian Thought, PG Dipl. in Teaching Eng, PG Dipl. in Translation, Cert. in Bengali, Diploma in French
Retired Principal & Professor of English, Former Office - Bearer: Principals' Association, Madurai Kamaraj University; Women's Voluntary Service, Ramnad Dist; Sarvodaya Sangh, Ramnad Dist.
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THE HINDU
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SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Tender No. TRD-BSP-121-21-22
Date: 31.08.2021
Work: (1) Provision of OHE at the extended track portion of the existing Chirimiri siding of SECL, Chirimiri Area. (2) Provision/modification of OHE in connection with construction of conventional type OHE (Catenary Type) at KTO yard Line No-04. **Tender Value : Rs. 33,46,575.00, EMD :** Exempted as per Railway Board letter No. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Polocy, Dt. **30.12.2020**, **Submission of Tender:** Up to **15:00** hrs. on **28.09.2021.**
For further details/purchase of Tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above works, please contact Office of the Sr. DEE/TRD/SECR/Bilaspur or refer/ download Tender document which is available on our website www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. Divl. Elec. Engg. (TRD)
CPR/10/158 S.E.C. Railway/Bilaspur
South East Central Railway @secrail

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LTD
Regd. Office H No.123, Annagappa Naicken Street, Chennai-600001
And their North Admin Office at: 3rd floor Plot no-12 Block-3, Vill- Chikamberpur Near Dilshad Garden Metro Station, Ghaziabad-201006, Phone: 0120-3841000
GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
There will be a Public Auction of Pledged Gold Ornaments Pertaining to the Gold Loan Defaulters as per the List Given Below in the Premises Situated at Shriram City Union Finance Limited.
ADDRESS - D-6 & 7, 1ST FLOOR, KIRAN GARDEN OPP. METRO PILLER NO 715, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059
All below mentioned branch cases will be Auction on 20/09/2021 at the ZONAL OFFICE premise only. The E.M.D of Rs. 1000/- will be collected between 11.00 AM to 11.30 AM and Auction will begin at 11.30 am. The defaulter loans which are closed on after 18/09/2021 also will have to bear the publication charges.
Note: Participating Bidders shall have to submit ID Proof/Residential Proof for Participating in Auction
FOR BRANCH: GHAZIABAD - CDGHAPJ2011100001 SALIM, CDGHAPJ2011180001 REENA, CDGHAPJ2011180002 REENA, CDGHAPJ2012010001 MANISH, CDGHAPJ2012030003 MANISH FOR DILSHAD GARDEN - CDDIGPJ2103250001 ALTAF FOR GURGOAN - CDGRNPJ2011300001 ANIL YADAV FOR UTTAM NAGAR - CDUTTPJ2103080003 AJAY, CDUTTPJ21.03220004 RAJNI, CDUTTPJ2103100001 BHARAT
Authorized Person: MR DEEPAK KUMAR SHARMA -9729220525

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Call: 9606900004
Address: Jayanagar, Bangalore- 560041

XPRESSIONS
GREETINGS
MY DEAR Zeenat, happy birthday wish you an exciting year ahead. Love Maanat. 8840994992

PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform that Plot no C7/7 DLF City Phase-1 Gurgaon, Haryana was registered in the name of Mr. Ravinder Kumar Maniktala S/o Sh. Ved Prakash Maniktala, R/o B-1/15 Janak Puri New Delhi. He passed away on 7/05/2021 and his wife Mrs. Sujata Maniktala had already passed away on 14/11/2013. His only surviving members are Mr. Abhishek Maniktala and Mr. Ankit Maniktala, and accordingly the names of Mr. Abhishek Maniktala and Mr. Ankit Maniktala are being noted in DLF's record in respect of the captioned plot. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach M/s DLF Ltd within 21 days of publication of this notice.

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SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Himanshu
General Public is hereby informed that one male child **Namely: Himanshu, S/o Veeru Lal, R/o** H.No. 50, Bhisam Colony, A-Block, Ballabhgarh, Haryana, **also at:** Bachi Bhajari, Veerlal Dhiba, P.S. Balrampur, Distt. Balrampur, U.P., has been kidnaped from since **15.06.2014** from Ticket Counter No. 8, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 226/14 dated 15.06.2014** has been registered at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the kidnaped boy is as under: **Age:** 4 months, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 1.5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Yellow colour T-shirt and pink colour nacker, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing boy kindly inform to the following.
Website: http//cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/246/RLY/2021
SHO
PS Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Namely:** Suresh Yadav **S/o**: unknown, **R/o**: unknown. **Age**: 60-65 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** white colour shirt and linedar nicker, who was found dead near Metro pillar No. 30 Khoya Mandi, Mori Gate, Delhi In this regard a case **DD No. 36-A dated 03.09.2021 has been registered at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.**
Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.
Sd/- SHO
P.S: Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Tel. No.: 011-23967889
DP1492/N/2021(UIDB)

North Eastern Railway
Open Tender Notice No. NER-BSB0SnT-OT-14-2021:
"Open Tenders" through online (E-Tendering) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecomm)/Varanasi/N. E. Railway for and behalf of the President of India for the following works:
S.No.: 1, **Tender Notice No. and Description of Work : NER-BSB0SnT-OT-14-2021: Name of Work :** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of AMARA RAJA make IPS for 36 months (03 years) of BSB Division. **Approx. Value :** Rs. 30378913.92, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 00.00/-. **Cost of Tender Form :** Rs. 00.00/-. **Completion period :** 36 Months, **Tender Closing Date & Time :** 04.10.2021. up to 15.00 Hrs. **1.** Tender Online will be submitted up to 15.00 Hrs. on date 04.10.2021. **2.** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the official website of Indian railways i.e. www.ireps.gov.in.
Divl. Rly. Manager (S&T)
CPRO/Sig-35 N.E. Railway, Varanasi
About any Passenger Amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955
Do not travel with inflammable article in train

EASTERN RAILWAY
Open e-tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Eastern Railway, Howrah for awarding contract for display of advertisement through vinyl wrapping (Graphic Films according to RDSO specification) on the exterior surface of the entire side walls (barring windows and mandatory signage) of the coaches and on the specified area of interior of the coaches of Rajdhani/Shatabdi other Premium Trains Mail/Express/Superfast Passenger trains primarily maintained of Howrah Division for a period of five years from the firm/agency having (a) Minimum experience of 02 (two) years in the field of Commercial Advertising which may even be outside the railways. (b) Minimum yearly turnover equivalent to 50% of estimated value for 1st year for one rake. (1) GST amount on cost of Tender Document is to be submitted to concerned GST Department on Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) basis. (2) Tender is invited On Rake Basis. (3) Availability of Tender Document : **www.ireps.gov.in** (4) Period of Contract : 05 (five) years. (5) Validity of Offer : 60 days. Bids are to be submitted online only on **www.ireps.gov.in**. No Manual Offer will be accepted. **Sl No., Tender Notice No., Estimated Value per Rake for 1st year, EMD, Cost of Tender Document & Total No. Coaches per rake are as follows : (1) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G1-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G1-R3-21 ,** ₹ 15,53,641, ₹ 1,65,000, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 21. **(2) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G2-R1-21 ,** ₹ 7,49,027, ₹ 79,600, ₹ 3000 + 360 (12% GST), 11. **(3) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G3-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G3-R3-21 ,** ₹ 15,91,751, ₹ 1,69,100, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 22. **(4) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G4-R1-21,** ₹ 15,91,751, ₹ 1,69,100, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 22. **(5) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G5-R1-21,** ₹ 13,81,958, ₹ 1,46,800, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 19. **(6) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G6-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G6-R4-21 ,** ₹ 13,12,821, ₹ 1,39,500, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 18. **(7) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G7-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G7-R2-21 ,** ₹ 15,79,913, ₹ 1,67,800, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 22. **(8) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G8-R1-21,** ₹ 15,79,913, ₹ 1,67,800, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 22. **(9) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G9-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G9-R4-21,** ₹ 15,79,913, ₹ 1,67,800, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 22. **(10) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G10-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G10-R4-21 ,** ₹ 15,06,783, ₹ 1,60,100, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 21. **(11) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G11-R2-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G11-R4-21 ,** ₹ 15,83,943, ₹ 1,68,300, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 22. **(12) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G12-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G12-R2-21 ,** ₹ 15,87,545, ₹ 1,68,600, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 22. **(13) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G13-R1-21,** ₹ 13,78,161, ₹ 1,46,400, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 19. **(14) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G14-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G14-R4-21 ,** ₹ 15,52,815, ₹ 1,65,000, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 21. **(15) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G15-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G15-R3-21 ,** ₹ 12,78,168, ₹ 1,35,800, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 17. **(16) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G16-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G16-R4-21 ,** ₹ 13,54,830, ₹ 1,43,900, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 18. **(17) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G17-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G17-R2-21,** ₹ 14,16,024, ₹ 1,50,400, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 19. **(18) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G18-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G18-R2-21,** ₹ 14,98,189 ₹ 1,59,200, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 20. **(19) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G19-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G19-R2-21,** ₹ 13,64,538, ₹ 1,45,000, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 18. **(20) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G20-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G20-R2-21,** ₹ 10,60,276, ₹ 1,12,700, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 14. **(21) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G21-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G21-R2-21,** ₹ 9,94,438, ₹ 1,05,700, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 13. **(22) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G22-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G22-R2-21,** ₹ 9,94,438, ₹ 1,05,700, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 13. **(23) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G23-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G23-R4-21,** ₹ 18,19,344, ₹ 1,93,300, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 24. **(24) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G24-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G24-R2-21,** ₹ 12,81,256, ₹ 1,36,100, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 17. **(25) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G25-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G25-R3-21,** ₹ 9,94,438, ₹ 1,05,700, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 13. **(26) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G26-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G26-R3-21,** ₹ 9,04,938, ₹ 96,200, ₹ 3000 + 360 (12% GST), 12. **(27) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G27-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G27-R2-21,** ₹ 11,99,492, ₹ 1,27,400, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 16. **(28) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G28-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G28-R3-21,** ₹ 8,47,028, ₹ 90,000, ₹ 3000 + 360 (12% GST), 11. **(29) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G29-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G29-R6-21,** ₹ 9,25,909, ₹ 98,400, ₹ 3000 + 360 (12% GST), 12. **(30) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G30-R1-21,** ₹ 13,20,317, ₹ 1,40,300, ₹ 5000 + 600 (12% GST), 17. **(31) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G31-R1-21,** ₹ 7,68,146, ₹ 81,600, ₹ 3000 + 360 (12% GST), 10. **(32) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G32-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G32-R2-21,** ₹ 7,68,146, ₹ 81,600, ₹ 3000 + 360 (12% GST), 10. **(33) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G33-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G33-R4-21,** ₹ 7,68,146, ₹ 81,600, ₹ 3000 + 360 (12% GST), 10. **(34) COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G34-R1-21 to COM-PUB-HWH-FBV-G33-R4-21,** ₹ 7,68,146, ₹ 81,600, ₹ 3000 + 360 (12% GST), 10. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender :** 28.09.2021 at 15.00 hrs. for Sl. No. 1 to 9 and 29.09.2021 at 15.00 hrs. for Sl. No. 10 to 34. Note: Presently above trains are running with Special Numbers, Names & Timings. After normalisation of regular Train Service of above mentioned trains will run with their original train no., name and schedule timing.
HWH-110/2021-22
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works Division Nanded
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. (43) FOR 2021-2022
E-tenders for **15** Works in **B-1 form** are invited by the Executive Engineer P.W.Division Nanded (Phone No.02462-253711) from the registered contractors in appropriate class of Public Works department of Govt.of Maharashtra for the improvement in Dist.Nanded.
1. The tender costs of the above works are more than Rs.1.00 crores.
2. All information related to this tender is made available on the following website.
Also, all the changes will be made available on this website.
www.mahapwd.com
https://mahatenders.gov.in
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division Nanded
DGIPR/2021/2022/1890

Jammu & Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Ltd.
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER, MECHANICAL UNIT, BTF PERMISES, OPPOSITE SRTC YARD, ADJACENT TO EDI BUILDING, PAMPORE, PULWAMA
(Telefax No: 01933-222273, e-mail id:dgmmechsrinagar@jkpcc.com)
E-NIT NO: JKPCC/MU/K/46 OF 2021-22, DATED 01-09-2021
For and on behalf of Managing Director Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Ltd, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Original equipment manufacturers of Lifts or their authorized dealers/ representatives or Registered/ reputed and experienced firms for the following works

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in months)	Technical sanction No.	Position of Funds/ AAA
1	2	3	4	5	6
Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of one no, 2500 Kgs, G+2, Goods lifts includes electrifications of lift shafts, illumination lights inside the shaft and in the machine room with proper exhaust fan, earthing as per standards of OEM. the job further includes minor civil works at Drug warehouse Bemina, Srinagar	41.30	5000	4 Months	Under Process	Available

Position of funds = Available
1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of Quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-09-2021
2.	Date of publishing of NIT online	From 06-09-2021,06:00 Pm
3.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06-09-2021, 06:00 Pm
4.	Bid submission Start Date	From 06-09-2021, 06:00 PM
5.	Bid Submission End Date	27-09-2021 up to 12 Noon
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	27-09-2021 at 03:00 PM in the Office of the General Manager JKPCC ltd
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

Hard Copies of Technical Bid will be invited from L1 only before allotment of work
Bid security not required. All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure-X below).The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/ within 03 Days before fixation of Contract pledged to General Manager(K) J&KPCC Ltd. Srinagar. The cost of the tender document shall be deposited into the Bank Account of Financial Controller, JKPCC Ltd. by the bidder for which the following information can be used by the bidder:
Financial Controller J&KPCC Ltd.
Name of Bank: J&K Bank Ltd
Branch: New Secretariat Road Srinagar
Account Type: Current
Account No:0084010100002408
IFSC Code: JAKA0PROMPT
Swift Code: JAKABBINRSGR
i. Documents pertaining to Pre qualification of the bidders viz: GST registration certificate,
ii. PAN. (iii) Duly accepted scanned copies of Annexure of this NIT.
iv. Documentary proof of having successfully supplied, installed, tested and commissioned Lift (s) amounting to at least 60% of the estimated Cost in single work contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each 0r 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in the last Seven years within the country in any Govt./Semi Govt. Department along with satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer shall be considered.
(The Department may physically inspect the work as reflected by the Bidder in Experience Documents, before accepting the Bid).
Sd/-
DIP/K- 3242-NB
Deputy General Manager Mech Unit JKPCC Ltd., Srinagar

TRIPURA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AENCY
(Department of Power, Government of Tripura)
Vigyan Bhawan, Pandit Nehru Complex, Gorkhabasti, Agartala, Tripura
PNIe-T No. F.6(296)/TREDA/NCES/2021/2417 Date 09/09/2021
NOTICE INVITING e-Tender
On behalf of Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency, Joint Director invites e-tenders for the work of design, manufacture, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 1KWp grid interactive Solar PV Power Plants on turn-key basis vide DNIe-T No. F. 6(296)/TREDA/NCES/2021/2416, dated 09/09/2021.
The tender papers may be downloaded from e-procurement portal **http://tripuratenders.gov.in** and the deadline for submission of online e-bid is **23/09/2021 upto 2:00PM.**
(D S DAS)
Joint Director

WESTERN RAILWAY
RENEWAL WORK OF PIPE BRIDGE
Executive: DEN (East) BCT **Tender No.:** BCT/21-22/192 **Date:** 08/09/2021 **Work & Location :** Udhna - Jalgaon section: Renewal of pipe bridge by providing box culverts (total = 16 bridges) **Approx. Cost of Work:** ₹7,53,79,111.50/- **EMD:** Nil **Last Date & Time for Submission & Opening :** 15.00 Hrs. on 05/10/2021 and Opening at 15.30 Hrs. on 05/10/2021 Please visit our website **www.ireps.gov.in** to view detailed tender containing cost of tender document (Non-Refundable), EMD, Eligibility Criteria, Similar Nature of Work, detailed tender conditions. Manual offers will not be considered.
D-0403
Like us on : facebook.com/WesternRly

IN BRIEF

22 more contacts test negative for Nipah

KOZHIKODE

Twenty-two more on the contact list of Nipah victim Mohammed Hashim have tested negative for the virus. As many as 68 people have so far been declared free from the infection. Kerala Health Minister Veena George said seven of the samples were tested at the Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode.

Bommai calls Delhi visit as 'very successful'

BENGALURU

Describing his two-day visit to Delhi as "very successful", Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said various projects that had been discussed with Central authorities, including a special programme to provide rural connectivity, were making good progress.

'Thamirabarani civilisation 3,200 years old'

Tamil Nadu CM Stalin cites carbon dating analysis by Miami-based lab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A carbon dating analysis of rice with soil, found in a burial urn at Sivakalai in Thoothukudi district in southern Tamil Nadu, by the Miami-based Beta Analytic Testing Laboratory, has yielded the date of 1155 BCE, thereby indicating that the Thamirabarani civilisation dates back to 3,200 years.

Encouraged by this finding, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday announced in the Assembly the establishment of Porunai Museum in Tirunelveli at a cost of ₹15 crore.

"The finding has established that the Porunai river [Thamirabarani] civilisation dates back to 3,200 years. It is the government's task to scientifically prove that the history of the Indian Subcontinent should begin from the Tamil landscape," he said in a *suo motu* statement. The Beta Analytic Testing Laboratory in Miami, U.S., released the test report on August 27.

Mr. Stalin said archaeological excavations would be carried out in other States and countries in search of Tamil roots. In the first phase, studies would be undertaken at the ancient port of Musiri, now known as Pattanam, in Kerala. "The research will be done jointly with Kerala archaeologists to establish the ancientness and culture of the Chera country," he said.

Research in Egypt

Similar studies would be conducted at Vengi in Andhra Pradesh, Thalaikadu in Karnataka and Palur in Odisha.

The Chief Minister said the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department would conduct research at Quseir al-Qadim and Pernica Anekke in Egypt, which were once part of the Roman empire, as well as in Khor Rori in Oman, to establish the Tamils' trade relations with these countries. "Pot shreds with Tamil scripts have been found in these countries. The study will be conducted with the help of archaeologists of these countries," he said.

Mr. Stalin said studies would also be conducted in southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, where king Rajendra Chola had established supremacy.

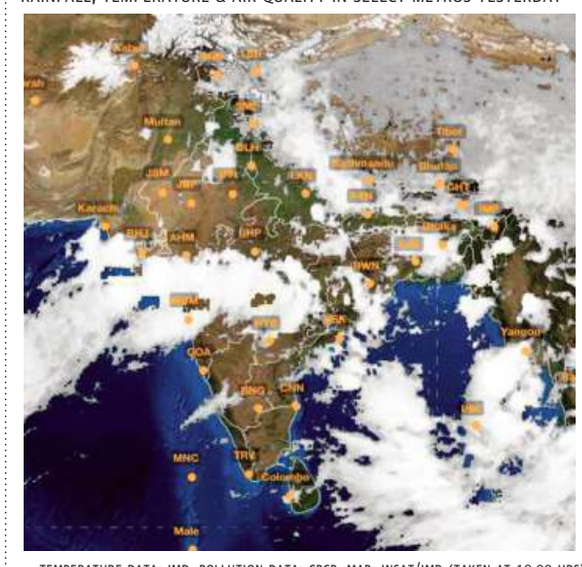
Yielding a surprise: The rice with soil for the analysis was taken from this burial urn found at Sivakalai.

Recalling his visit to Keezhadi, where archaeological excavations had thrown up new findings, the Chief Minister said carbon dating of the objects unearthed there had proved that Tamil society achieved literacy even in 6th century BCE. "The world Keezhadi has united Tamils across the world," he added.

He said Calcutta University professor Susmita Basu Majumdar had come to the conclusion that the silver coin with Sun and other symbols was pre-Mauryan. Rakesh Tewari, former Director-General of the Arachaeological Survey of India, had said the outcome of recent excavations in Keeladi, Kodumanal and other sites in Tamil Nadu, including NBP, black slipped ware and good number of potshreds with Brahmi inscriptions, have corroborated the view that contacts between South India and North India might be as early as 600-700 BCE or even earlier.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Saurashtra & Kutch, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Konkan & Goa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2	32.4	26.0	Kozhikode	28	32.2	24.7
Ahmedabad	2.2	30.6	25.4	Kurnool	–	33.0	23.4
Aizawl	55.3	30.5	18.4	Lucknow	0.5	34.7	26.7
Allahabad	–	35.4	25.8	Madurai	–	37.3	27.4
Bengaluru	0.5	29.1	20.0	Mangaluru	13.4	29.0	23.3
Bhopal	8.6	26.9	24.0	Mumbai	18	31.2	24.6
Bhubaneswar	6	32.2	25.6	Mysuru	–	31.0	22.0
Chandigarh	50	36.8	23.9	New Delhi	–	34.0	27.2
Chennai	–	35.8	27.2	Patna	–	35.2	26.8
Coimbatore	–	33.0	22.7	Port Blair	37	28.2	24.2
Dehradun	2	33.6	24.6	Puducherry	–	35.8	24.4
Gangtok	19	21.2	16.9	Pune	2.2	27.4	22.0
Goa	4	30.3	25.0	Raipur	–	31.6	24.8
Guwahati	–	34.8	26.0	Ranchi	–	31.6	23.8
Hubballi	–	28.0	22.0	Shillong	2	25.0	17.4
Hyderabad	–	30.4	22.3	Shimla	23	21.6	15.6
Imphal	0.1	31.2	21.6	Srinagar	–	29.0	17.3
Jaipur	–	31.8	25.4	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	31.8	24.5
Kochi	0.2	30.6	24.6	Tiruchi	–	36.3	24.8
Kohima	9	23.0	16.8	Vijayawada	–	34.0	24.5
Kolkata	–	34.7	26.7	Visakhapatnam	3	35.6	26.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	124	.37	33	38	
Bengaluru	11	.24	101	–	46	
Chennai	26	.17	.35	39	47	
Delhi	7	.19	.49	62	.124	
Hyderabad	3	.64	.16	10	19	
Kolkata	10	.21	.57	19	30	
Lucknow	7	.22	.91	28	42	
Mumbai	12	.10	–	64	.103	
Pune	33	182	109	41	35	
Visakhapatnam	17	.54	.47	39	94	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 140 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Chandrapur, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

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

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

Allow spying without nod, says Kerala Bill

Police do not have to wait for official approval to curb organised crimes

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

The police can listen in on any communication, without waiting for official approval of the competent authority, to curb organised crimes, a draft of the Kerala Control of Organised Crimes Bill has proposed.

The draft Bill suggests that an officer not below the rank of Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP) can authorise an application made by the investigating officer within 48 hours of interception.

The ADGP can permit the interception of wire, electronic or oral communication if he 'reasonably determines' that an emergency situation involving 'conspirational activities threatening the security or interest of the State' or 'imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to any person' exists, says the draft.

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The draft will be scrutinised by a panel led by the Chief Secretary on Friday.

The bill comes even as a petition, filed by senior journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar, for an independent probe into the mass surveillance of over 142 potential "targets", including journalists, lawyers, Ministers, Opposition politicians, constitutional functionaries and civil society activists using the spyware Pegasus, is under the consideration of Supreme Court.

The draft bill further states that the interception shall immediately terminate in the absence of an order approving the interception or the communication sought is obtained or when the application for the order is rejected, whichever is earlier.

The evidence collected through such interception will be admissible against the accused in the case. The contents of the intercepted communication shall be, if possible, recorded on tape or wire or other comparable devices.

Under normal circumstances, the Act suggests that a police officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police can approach the competent authority to be formed for the purpose of seeking permission for interception.

A panel led by the State Chief Secretary shall review the orders of the competent authority in 10 days, it was proposed.

'Some Muslim groups indulging in love jihad'

Kerala Bishop cautions Christians

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN
KOTTAYAM

Close on the heels of his circular on alleged attempts by fraudsters to entrap young women, Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop of Palai (Syro-Malabar Church), has accused a section of Muslims of targeting Christians through 'love jihad' and 'narcotic jihad'.

Addressing the laity on the occasion of the eight-day lent in connection with the birth anniversary of St. Mary on Wednesday, the bishop urged the laity to be conscious of the pitfalls of "befriending people from other communities."

"A very few Muslim groups have been indulged in promoting communal violence and religious hatred. They are present everywhere, including Kerala." They have been using different strategies for multiplying, which are bafflingly difficult to pin down.

Citing a sharp rise in cases of young Christian women being subjected to abuse or religious conversion after eloping with men from the other community, the bishop warned that these "jihadists" had cast their nets over schools, colleges, training centres and even commercial centres.

BMC defends ₹15 cr. tender for upkeep of penguins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has defended the ₹15.26 crore tender it had floated for the upkeep of penguins at Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan, popularly known as Byculla zoo, and claimed that the birds had helped increase the civic-run facility's revenue.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the BMC said the zoo's income had surged to ₹14.36 crore between April 2017 and March 2020, as against ₹2.10 crore between April 2014 and March 2017, with the arrival of the birds.

Last month, the BMC floated the tender for the upkeep of seven penguins for three years, which comes to an expenditure of around ₹5 crore for a year.

Heavy rain continues in Marathwada

31 dead in rain-related accidents in Maharashtra so far

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

At least 31 people have died in rain-related accidents across Maharashtra in a week. The water level in the Godavari river touched the "alert" mark as heavy rainfall continued to pound the Marathwada region and other parts of the State on Thursday.

Parbhani, Nanded, Jalna and Aurangabad were badly-hit in the region. Rainfall also pummelled districts in Vidarbha, including Gondia, Amravati and Nagpur. Of the rain-related deaths, seven were from Nanded.

"The water level has reached the 'alert' mark in the Godavari river after nearly 15 years. Over the years, several buildings have come up along the river. I have also seen certain structures that have been built in the nullahs in Nanded city," State Public Works Department Minister Ashok Chavan, who is also the Guardian Minister of Nanded district, said while reviewing the situation in Marathwada.

In deep waters: Vehicles wade through a waterlogged Ghodbunder Road at Manpada junction in Thane last week. • PTI

The Minister said aid would be disbursed to those whose homes were flooded, adding that agriculture and infrastructural losses would also be looked into immediately.

According to officials, Nanded has received 962.7 mm of rainfall this monsoon, which was 118% of its average annual rainfall. A total of 145 circles in Marathwada, which comprises eight districts, recorded rainfall above 65 mm in 24 hours till Tuesday. The circles were from Aurangabad, Jalna, Latur, Osmanabad, Beed and Nanded districts.

Animals, property bear brunt

According to officials, 1,687 domesticated animals, including 598 poultry birds in Jalna district, had perished in the region as a result of heavy rain since September 1.

More than 60 houses in the region were damaged due to rainfall, while water reservoirs – two each at Kannad (Aurangabad) and Ahmedpur (Latur) – were destroyed.

Bombay HC to State: transfer blast accused to hospice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday directed the Maharashtra government to transfer alleged Maoist leader Nirmala Uppuganti, an accused in the 2019 Gadchiroli IED blast case, from prison to a hospice for palliative care.

A Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.J. Jamadar directed authorities to shift Ms. Uppuganti from the Byculla women's prison to a hospice by September 15.

Ms. Uppuganti had filed a plea in the high court earlier this month seeking that she be shifted from the prison to a hospice as she is terminally ill with cancer.

In her plea filed through senior counsel Yug Chaudhry and advocate Payoshi Roy, Ms. Uppuganti urged that she be shifted to a hospice so that she was "properly taken care of during her final days".

The State's counsel Sangeeta Shinde, however, had opposed her plea.

Lookout circulars issued against Rane's wife, son

Case related to unpaid loans, say police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

Lookout circulars have been issued against Union Minister Narayan Rane's wife Nilam and son Nitesh in connection with cases related to unpaid loans taken from a financial institution, the Pune police said on Thursday.

Confirming the development, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Srinivas Ghadge said the lookout circulars were issued on September 3. He said Artline Properties Pvt Ltd (main borrower), a firm owned by Ms. Nilam Rane, had availed a loan of ₹25 crore from DHFL (Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd). She was the co-borrower and the outstanding amount was over ₹27.13 crore. Likewise, Nilam Hotels, owned by Nitesh Rane, too, had availed of a loan from the private financial institute whose outstanding was over ₹34 crore.

Both loan accounts were later classified as NPAs (non-performing assets) by DHFL due to non-repayment. It approached the Centre, which issued directions to the State government to issue the lookout circulars.

Woman constable ordered hit on colleague to settle scores: police

54-year-old was mowed down by vehicle outside Panvel station last month

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

Three weeks after a police constable was killed in a road accident, the Panvel City police have found out that it was actually a hit ordered by a woman colleague.

The police have arrested Sheetal Pansare (29) who was earlier posted with the victim, Shivaji Madhavrao Sanap (54), at Nehru Nagar police station. In 2019, Ms. Pansare had filed complaints of molestation and rape against Sanap. "While the rape case was quashed, a charge sheet has been filed in the molestation case," said senior police inspector Ajay Landge. On August 15, Sanap was mowed down by a vehicle outside Panvel station. The main witness in the case was Dhanraj Jadhav, who identified the assailants, Vishal Babanrao Jadhav and Ganesh Lakshman Chavan, from CCTV footage.

The police said that Ms. Pansare married Mr. Jadhav, a bus driver, four days after befriending him on Instagram. Two days after their marriage, she asked him to run over Sanap with his bus. When he refused to do the job, she divorced him and booked a case against him for clicking her intimate pictures.

"Ms. Pansare had transferred ₹70,000 into the accused's account," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone II) Shivraj Patil said.

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Catching up

The success of the PLI is likely to hinge on how entrepreneurs weigh the risk-reward equation

The Cabinet's approval of a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the textile sector that is expressly targeted at the man-made fibre (MMF) and technical textiles segments is a belated acknowledgment by the Government that the ground has inexorably shifted in the global textiles trade. A relentless shift in consumer preferences and fashion trends saw MMF surpass cotton as the fibre of choice in the 1990s, since vaulting its share in worldwide textile consumption to about 75%. India's textile and clothing exports on the other hand have continued to remain dominated by cotton and other natural fibre-based products, with MMF having contributed less than 30% of the country's $35.6 billion in overall sectoral exports in 2017-18. And MMF's share remained relatively unchanged in the last fiscal as well when the sectoral exports were about $33 billion. While policy makers have been cognisant of the need to bolster support for the MMF segment, the task of crafting a meaningful initiative that would engender enhanced investment in capacity creation, leading to increased exports, has been a while in coming. Wednesday's decision on the focused PLI scheme, with a budgeted outlay of ₹10,683 crore, is the second time in 11 months that the Cabinet has approved what is broadly the same plan, with the Government using the intervening period to incorporate amendments to the incentive structure based on industry feedback.

The aim of the scheme is to specifically focus investment attention on 40 MMF apparel product lines, 14 MMF fabric lines and 10 segments or products of technical textiles. These 64 items have been chosen on account of being among the top-traded lines in the global market as well as India having less than a 5% share in each of them. The inclusion of intermediate products at industry's request also reflects the Government's keenness to ensure the scheme ultimately delivers on the broader policy objectives. The incentives have been categorised into two investment levels. Firms investing at least ₹300 crore into plant and machinery over two years for making a specified product would need to hit a minimum turnover of ₹600 crore before becoming eligible to receive the incentive over a five-year period, and at a second level an investment of ₹100 crore with a pre-set minimum turnover of ₹200 crore would enable qualification for the incentive. On the face of it, the scheme appears designed with a fair deal of thought, but its operational success is likely to hinge on how new entrepreneurs and existing companies weigh the risk-reward equation, especially at a time when the pandemic-spurred uncertainty has already made private businesses leery of making fresh capital expenditure.

Return of the Mullahs

Taliban have sent a clear message that they care little about what the world thinks of them

The debate on whether the Taliban would form an "inclusive government" representing all sections of Afghan society was laid to rest by the Taliban themselves on September 7 when the group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, announced the formation of the new administration of the 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan'. Of the 33 Cabinet Ministers named, 30 are Pashtun, two ethnic Tajiks, and one is Uzbek. The Taliban are predominantly Pashtun, who make up some 40% of Afghanistan's ethnically diverse population of 40 million. Women and the Hazara Shia minority – both faced targeted harassment and discrimination when the Taliban were in power in the 1990s – were excluded completely. Seventeen Ministers are on the UN sanctions blacklist for terrorists, including the head of the government, Mullah Hassan Akhund, and Sirajuddin Haqqani, the head of the Haqqani Network. Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban's reclusive emir, will be the 'Amir ul-Momineen' (commander of the faithful), a title Mullah Omar had assumed in the 1990s. With the Cabinet portfolios allocated to the Taliban's core and the Haqqanis, and introducing a system that resembles the previous Islamic Emirate known for its disregard for basic human rights, the Taliban have sent a clear message that they care little about what the world thinks about them.

Today's Taliban appear to be stronger than their last avatar. In the 1990s, only three countries recognised the Islamic Emirate; the Taliban also never controlled the whole of Afghanistan. But now, more regional powers are ready to engage with them, including China and Russia. The group has also claimed total control over the country, with Panjshir, the last holdout, overrun earlier this week. With the new government, a stronger Taliban are trying to tighten their grip, though it may not be easy. Ever since Afghanistan became a republic in 1973, no government in Kabul has managed to stabilise the country. The ethnic, religious and political contradictions are too deep to be glossed over by the Taliban's divisive Islamist Pasthun nationalism. In Panjshir, the rebels may have withdrawn to the mountains, like the Taliban did in 2001, but they could regroup and hit back like the Taliban did after 2005. The total exclusion of Shias and marginalisation of other ethnicities could blow back in the near term. Afghanistan has also seen the emergence of a vibrant civil society, especially in its cities, which may not accept the Taliban's rule of the Mullahs quietly. Already, the crackdown on women's rights has sparked large-scale protests by women in Kabul and elsewhere, which was unimaginable in the 1990s. If the Taliban were wise, they would have focused on healing the wounds of the long war and rebuilding the ruptured state and society. But the Pashtun, Islamist, sectarian Taliban seem programmatically incapable of doing that.

The fall of Afghanistan, the fallout in West Asia

While Pakistan takes a lead role, it is West Asia's influence that will shape the future of the beleaguered country

TALMIZ AHMAD

On September 7, three weeks after they walked into Kabul without any resistance, the Taliban announced an interim Council of Ministers. This government-formation was tightly controlled by Pakistan: the head of its Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, had made a high-profile descent on Kabul a few days earlier to signal the success of Pakistan's 20-year project to install the Taliban in power and, more immediately, to ensure that the incoming government would safeguard its interests.

The chord with Pakistan

Pakistan appears to have got its way. Afghanistan's acting Prime Minister is Mullah Hassan Akhund, close associate of former Taliban founder Mullah Omar. But this could be a short-term appointment as he has not shone in Taliban ranks either as warrior or administrator. Abdul Ghani Baradar is his deputy, but again, this could be a token position. Baradar had been arrested in 2010 by the Pakistanis for pursuing a dialogue with the Hamid Karzai government without Pakistani sanction and jailed for eight years.

Pakistan's true protégés are Sirajuddin Haqqani, the acting interior minister, and Mohammed Yaqoob, the acting defence minister, a son of Mullah Omar, who is also close to Haqqani. Both have long-standing ties with Pakistan and should be the real wielders of power in Kabul.

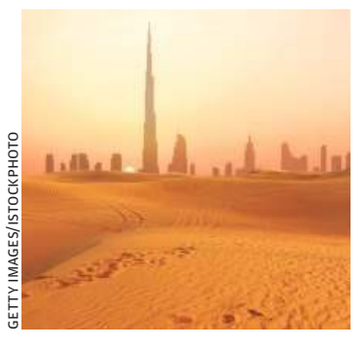
The West Asian players

While Pakistan is playing the lead public role in Afghan affairs, the country's West Asian/Gulf neighbours will be a significant influence in shaping the future of that beleaguered country.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iran have been direct role-players in Afghan affairs for over 25 years. In the 1990s, the first two were supporters and sources of funding for the Taliban, while Iran was an antagonist, backing the Northern Alliance against the emirate in Kandahar. After the 9/11 attacks, all three countries became deeply involved with the Taliban. From 2005, the Gulf sheikhdoms have contributed millions of dollars to different Taliban leaders and factions. Iran began a substantial engagement with various Taliban leaders from 2007 and provided funding, weapons, training and refuge, when required. It wanted the Taliban to maintain pressure on the U.S. forces to ensure their speedy departure from the country.

In the 2010s, when the U.S. began to engage with Iran on the nuclear issue, Saudi Arabia became more directly involved in Afghan matters to prevent Iran's expanding influence among Taliban groups. Thus, besides Syria and Yemen, Iran and Saudi Arabia have also made Afghanistan an arena for their regional competitions.

In 2012, Qatar, on U.S. request, allowed the Taliban to open an office in Doha as a venue for their dialogue with the Americans. This has made Qatar an influential player in Afghan affairs, with deep personal ties with several leaders,



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

many of whom keep their families in Doha.

Competitions for influence

The low-key reactions of the Gulf countries to recent developments in Kabul reflect the uncertainties relating to the Taliban in power, i.e., their ability to remain united, their policies relating to human rights, and, above all, whether the Taliban will again make their country a sanctuary for extremist groups. The country already has several thousand foreign fighters, whose ranks could swell with extremists coming in from Iraq and Syria, and threaten the security of all neighbouring states.

Three sets of regional players are active in Afghanistan today: one, the Pakistan-Saudi coalition, which has been the principal source of support for the Taliban-at-war. They would like to remain influential in the new order, but neither would like to see the Taliban revert to their practices of the 1990s that had justifiably appalled the global community.

Two, Turkey and Qatar represent the region's Islamist coalition and, thus, share an ideological kinship with the Taliban. Both would like to see a moderate and inclusive administration, but Turkey is seen as a political and doctrinal antagonist by Saudi Arabia, while Qatar remains a rival for the kingdom as it backs political Islam and improved ties with Iran. The interplay of these rivalries will resonate in Afghanistan.

The third player is Iran: while many of its hardliners are overjoyed at the U.S. "defeat", more reflective observers recall the earlier Taliban emirate which was viscerally hostile to Shias and Iran. Iran also sees itself as the guardian of the Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara minorities in the country. This consideration, as also its suspicions of Wahhabi influence in the country, led its spokesman, on September 6, to "strongly condemn" Pakistani participation in the Taliban attacks on the resistance fighters, largely Tajik and Uzbek, in the Panjshir valley.

The outlook for security

Besides the challenges that individual countries are grappling with, in West Asia there is the larger issue of regional security after the U.S. withdrawal. The region now has two options: one, an Israel-centric security order in which the Arab Gulf states would link themselves with Israel to confront Iran.

This is being actively promoted by Israeli hawks since it would tie Israel with neighbouring Arab states without having to concede anything to meet Palestinian aspirations. The weakness of this arrangement is that while the regimes of some Gulf states could be attracted to it, their populations are likely to be opposed. The proposal will also ensure that West Asia remains confrontational and unstable.

The other option is more ambitious: a comprehensive regional security arrangement. The facilitators and guarantors of this security arrangement are likely to be China and Russia: over the last few years, both have built close relations with the major states of the region. i.e., Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Recent developments suggest that this need not be a far-fetched proposition any more: one, in January, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states led by Saudi Arabia lifted the over three year blockade of Qatar; two, since April, there have been three rounds of discussions between Iran and Saudi Arabia and plans are in place for the next meetings; and, three, Turkey has initiated diplomatic overtures towards Egypt and Saudi Arabia. None of these initiatives involves the Americans.

Other significant events have also taken place recently. On August 24, Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Defence, Khalid bin Salman, the younger brother of the Crown Prince, signed a military cooperation agreement with Russia, in Moscow. This is an obvious case of "strategic hedging" as the U.S. has placed restrictions on defence supplies to the kingdom. Besides this, there were the two conferences in Baghdad – one set up a coalition of Iraq, Jordan and Egypt for economic cooperation, while the other, on August 28, brought together the principal regional states to confront shared challenges – all these interactions have taken place without U.S. presence.

These developments suggest that the germ of a new regional security order in West Asia is already sown in fertile ground.

Talmiz Ahmad is the former Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, and holds the Ram Sathe Chair for International Studies at Symbiosis International University, Pune

The national security discourse is changing

Policymakers and practitioners are leading the emerging consensus on the need to fundamentally reassess assumptions

HARSH V. PANT

The global security landscape is undergoing a churn, creating complexities and new realities unlike any time in the recent past. From a rising China to the pressures of climate change; from the challenges of counter terrorism to a seemingly never-ending COVID-19 pandemic (the four Cs), the old order is collapsing much faster than the ability of nations to create the foundations of a new one. National security debates and discourse are, quietly but surely, undergoing an almost revolutionary transformation. While the academic world has long talked about the need for a 'holistic' conception of national security, much of that debate was considered far too esoteric by practitioners. Today, it is the policymakers and practitioners themselves that are leading the emerging consensus on the need to fundamentally reassess our assumptions about national security thinking.

Change in the U.S.

The U.S. policymakers have started changing their cognitive lens when it comes to national security policy making. A process that was started by former U.S. President Donald Trump has been taken forward with gusto by the Biden Administration. Asserting that "foreign policy is domestic policy and domestic policy is foreign policy," U.S. President Joe Biden's National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan has suggested that his team's task is to re-imagine American "national security for the unprecedented combination of crises we face at home and abroad: the pandemic, the economic crisis, the climate crisis, technological disruption, threats to democracy, racial injustice, and inequality in all forms". He has gone on to argue that "the alliances we rebuild, the institutions we lead, the agreements we sign, all of them should be judged by a basic question. Will this make life better, easier, safer, for working families across this country?"

The U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, too has reiterated this message in his comments that "more than at any other time in my career – maybe in my lifetime – distinctions between domestic and foreign policy have simply fallen away" and that "our domestic renewal and our strength in the world are completely entwined, and how we work will reflect that reality".

Both Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Blinken have taken their cue from their boss, President Biden, who had campaigned on a "foreign policy for the middle-class" and has been unabashed about the need for the U.S. "to invest in our people, sharpen our innovative edge, and unite the economic might of democracies around the world to grow the middle-class and reduce inequality and do things like counter the predatory trade practices of our competitors and adversaries".

There is a growing bipartisan acknowledgement in the U.S. today that if the requirements of American national security during

AFP

the Cold War could be largely met by its fleets of bombers, nuclear missiles, aircraft carriers and overseas bases, today's strategic environment requires a different response: one that shores up domestic industrial base, helps in maintaining pre-eminence in critical technologies, makes supply chains for critical goods more resilient, protects critical infrastructure from cyberattacks, and responds with a sense of urgency to climate change.

Not a novel idea

The idea that foreign and domestic policies are tightly intertwined is not a novel one. All serious grand strategic thinking in democracies, at the end of the day looks for sustenance in popular public support. Mr. Trump's rise and his ideas challenged both the liberals and the conservatives in the U.S. foreign policy establishment as they underscored the widening gulf between the policy community and the American hinterland. Mr. Biden and his team have learned their lessons. Mr. Sullivan is working towards integrating the National Security Council with the other components of the White House such as the National Economic Council, with the Domestic Policy Council, with the Office of Science and Technology Policy. This will inevitably present its own sets of challenges but there is no shying away from this new reality.

The Indian situation

In India too, we have seen a greater recognition of the challenges emanating on national security from domestic vulnerabilities. One of the most significant consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, underscored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, has been to reveal how deeply India has been dependent on Chinese manufacturing for critical supplies. At a time when Indian armed forces were facing the People's Liberation Army across the Line of Actual Line, this exposed India to a new realisation that dependence on overseas supply chains is a national security challenge of the highest order, one that cannot be overlooked any more. India has since moved towards shoring up domestic capacities in critical areas and also started looking at free trade agreements through a new lens.

The Indian Army chief, General M.M. Naravane, in his remarks, has also made it apparent that views of the military leadership in this country are also evolving. He has argued that "national security comprises not only warfare and defence but also financial security, health security, food security, energy security and environment security apart from information security" and suggested that instead of viewing national security "primarily from the perspective of an armed conflict, there is a need to take a whole-of-government approach towards security".

Highlight the synergies

In the post-pandemic world with a serious strain on national resources, it will be important for policymakers to underline the synergies between the civilian and the military spheres. The Army chief has rightfully pointed out a range of tangible and intangible ways in which investment in the armed forces contributes to the national economy such as indigenisation of defence procurement, providing an impetus to indigenous industries, aid to civil authorities or Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations protecting infrastructure, demand for hi-tech military products by the armed forces spurring entire industries, and transportation and logistics capacities of the armed forces acting as force enablers for the Government in times of emergencies.

The Army leadership has done well to highlight the role of armed forces in sustaining a broader conception of national security than primarily focusing on war fighting. As nations across the world reconceptualise their strategic priorities to bring their ends, ways and means into greater balance, questions of resource allocation will become even more contentious and policymakers will need to think more creatively about the roles of various instruments of statecraft. National security thinking is undergoing a shift. India cannot be left behind.

Harsh V. Pant is Director of Research, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi and a Professor of International Relations, King's College London

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Democracy at stake

The recent statement of the Chief Justice of India, that the Government is not obeying Court orders, is unprecedented in a constitutional democracy. It is destructive of democracy itself because the Constitution has pride of place for the enforcement of the Supreme Court's orders, under Articles 141, 142 and 144. It is needless to cite, much less recite, that the Supreme Court, under those Articles, has ample powers to see that its orders are implemented. It is their restraint which has led to the present state of affairs. Far from lamenting over the Government not implementing its orders, the top court should turn the question to itself. Therein lies the answer. The present Government's sense of majoritarianism without any constitutional direction has led to this state of affairs. This has to be corrected. And it is not too late.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
Chennai

Monetising assets

The 'monetising of public assets' carries the risk of ultimately putting more wealth in the hands of a select few in the country. In fact these buyers are sure to be utilising the assets only in the businesses which suit them the most. It may also lead to clandestine transitions by the buyers of such assets who may 'sublet' such assets or properties on perpetual basis to others on which the Government of India will virtually have no control. If the businesses of these buyers flop on account of the many global reasons of depression, there are chances that banks and financial institutions could face difficulties.
The Government of India must tread carefully by putting in place a regulatory framework so that private players do not exploit consumers by levying irrational charges in airports, railway or road utility projects. Transparency in the monetisation of assets has to be ensured.

BRIJ B. GOYAL,
Ludhiana, Punjab

Learning Hindi

There are many who would agree with Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu's views about the fallout of having opposed Hindi blindly. Apart from being spoken and understood across several States, Hindi is the easiest language to learn. I found myself in trouble when I moved to Vrindavan-Mathura from Chennai, being unable to communicate in Hindi. Of course I managed to overcome the handicap by acquiring a fair amount of spoken Hindi watching children's serials! Let us approach this issue of learning Hindi with an open mind.

M.R. ANAND,
Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh

Srinivasa Sastri

Teacher's Day, on September 5, has passed, which also marks the birthday of scholar-statesman Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. There is another tall Indian, acclaimed for his oratory and command over the English language, who deserves recognition too – V.S. Srinivasa Sastri whose birthday falls on September 22.
Both sons of India brought their share of plaudits to our country.
Srinivasa Sastri made a mark at the Round Table Conferences. That Sastri was a spitting image of Demosthenes, that grandiloquent orator and peerless patriot, was the confirmed opinion of all the delegates. The Tamil Nadu government has been recognising noteworthy contributions of the past made by tall citizens, and can perhaps think of honouring Sastri, who was a walking encyclopaedia. Perhaps an academic prize in his honour would be ideal.

MANI NATARAAJAN,
Chennai

Why hasn't marital rape been criminalised in India yet?

PARLEY

Parliament and courts have missed opportunities to bring in changes on this sensitive issue

In 2017, the Supreme Court, in Independent Thought v. Union of India, refused to delve into the question of marital rape of adult women while examining an exception to Section 375 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which allows a man to force sex on his wife. Recent rulings by High Courts have been contradictory – one backed marital rape as a valid ground for divorce, while another granted anticipatory bail to a man while concluding that forcible sex is not an "illegal thing". Why do differences persist despite the Justice J.S. Verma Committee recommendation to criminalise marital rape? Shraddha Chaudhary and Manuraj Shunmugasundaram discuss why marital rape has not been criminalised in India yet, in a conversation moderated by **Sudipta Datta**. *Edited excerpts:*

Shraddha Chaudhary
is Lecturer, Jindal Global Law School, Sonepat, and Ph.D Candidate (Law), University of Cambridge

Manuraj Shunmugasundaram
is Advocate, Madras High Court, and spokesperson of the DMK

Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

Recent rulings by High Courts pointing out that any sexual act between a man and his wife, even if it involves force, is not rape perhaps highlights the lacuna in the IPC. Why does a provision like this exist in the IPC in the first place?

Shraddha Chaudhary: Section 375 of the IPC defines the offence of rape. It lays down which physical acts are required to make out the offence, and it is a very broad definition. The second important element of this definition is consent. Where these acts are done without the consent of the woman, then the offence of rape is made out. This is the general rule, but there is an exception, which says that sexual acts by a husband with his wife, if she is 18 years of age and above, would not be rape. While the rest of the provision is centred on consent, this exception does not talk about consent at all. It creates the legal fiction that a wife always consents to her husband, which in effect means that her non-consent is irrelevant. It is of course possible for there to be reprieve for rape within a marriage, but not as rape. If there are physical injuries, then there can be reprieve for that separately. Marital rape may be recognised as a form of cruelty, it may be a ground for divorce, but it is not punished as rape, which is a very distinct wrong and has very distinct terms. That is where the lacuna in the law lies. Insofar as fixing it is concerned, either Parliament may legislate and remove this exception, or a constitutional court has to strike it down.

Manuraj Shunmugasundaram: How did we end up here? Partly because we inherited an IPC prior to the enactment of the Constitution, but that doesn't absolve us of the deficiencies in the present legal structure and 'legal fiction', as Ms. Chaudhary says. The so-called marital rape immunity or the exception to rape, as we have structured it in our penal code, has been done away with in other jurisdictions, and rightly so. Marital rape today exists in a very unique sort of stratosphere wherein it can be a ground for cruelty and therefore, for divorce under the personal laws, but it will not render the offender guilty of the offence itself.

Where does the fault lie?

SC: Primarily, it should have fallen on Parliament to legislate and remove this exception. But we should also keep in mind that courts have noted the cruelty of this exception and they have acknowledged its problems. They have not gone on to strike it down entirely. As far as Parliament is concerned, it is quite common to leave to the court legislation that may not give very good political returns. We saw this with Section 377 as well. It had to be struck down by the court finally.

Why were the Justice J.S. Verma Committee recommendations on marital rape not adopted when the criminal law was amended in 2013?

MS: Parliament did miss an opportunity to enact changes, as recommended by the Justice Verma Committee. The official response was that they wanted further discussions around marital rape laws before they could enact it because it involves other questions of law as well. There might be some element of truth to that, but it exposes a vulnerability to issues that may not have political mileage or in fact may have other political ramifications.

RAO G.N.

The Supreme Court missed a fantastic opportunity to go into these matters in the *Independent Thought* case in 2017. Under Article 142, the Supreme Court has powers almost equivalent to that of a lawmaking power. Like with the *Navtej Johar* case (2018) when the Supreme Court missed an opportunity to provide the entire spectrum of civil marital inheritance rights to non-heterosexual couples, the Supreme Court equally missed an opportunity during the course of the *Independent Thought* case to extend its remit to look at all forms of marital rape and not only that restricted to women below 18 years.

When the Supreme Court was reading down the exception to Section 375, shouldn't it have afforded the same protection to adult women as well?

SC: The court made the conscious decision to restrict itself to the question of minors. The case was framed as a question of parity between the IPC on the one hand and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, on the other. I am sure a lot of constitutional commentators will talk about the merits of judicial restraint, and there is an argument to be made for that.

The issue is sensitive and can be controversial because a lot of people, including educated, seemingly liberal people, still believe that criminalising marital rape will somehow threaten the 'institution of marriage' and will become some sort of a witch-hunt against husbands. These arguments channel the Victorian morality of the IPC, which we have tried to counter but have not quite done it fully, or as well as perhaps we would have liked to. That morality also captured the common law of coverture, under which women had no rights after marriage, their rights were to be exercised by their husbands, so they were completely reduced to the status of chattel, of property.

> **We need to show that it is as absurd to ask for protection of a husband from marital rape as it is to ask for protection of a family member from child sexual abuse.**
>
> MANURAJ SHUNMUGASUNDARAM

Judgments of courts around the world, such as the European Court of Human Rights, have stressed on the offence and violence of rape, rather than the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. To what extent are these developments relevant to India?

MS: They are extremely relevant in terms of how our own jurisprudence could evolve in the coming years. We have seen how LGBTQ jurisprudence over the last 15 years in other countries has impacted to some extent how India's own jurisprudence from *Navtej Johar* has changed with regard to LGBTQ rights. Ultimately, the recognition of the perversity of the marital rape exception must come from within. For that we only need to look towards Article 14. The most compelling argument in support of the marital rape exception as it is prevalent in our statute today is that the institution of marriage is sacrosanct and that it should not be disturbed. But the Constitution places no importance on any particular institution; the Constitution is unequivocal in the significance given to the individual. A person deserves equality, equal protection and autonomy. Therefore, the exception to marital rape in itself is unconstitutional and violative of Article 14. Further, marital rape is an affront to the dignity of the individual, which is protected under Article 21. Just because the nature of the relationship between the victim and the offender is one of marriage, it does not absolve a person of the crime. The argument that is built around the institution of marriage and its sanctity needs to be broken, which is what has happened in other jurisdictions around us. Once we realise that, our society will have no choice but to remove the marital rape exception.

SC: We can also learn from the experiences of countries which have criminalised marital rape. It did not lead to a witch-hunt against husbands and definitely not to the destruction of marriage. There are socio-economic differences between India and some of the countries that have criminalised marital rape. I was reading that the government has used that as well as a rationale against criminalising marital rape, saying that the poverty, illiteracy and diversity in this country make the issue complex. But we need to question to what extent these factors map on to criminalising marital rape, and to what extent we can let them hamstring us.

What are the hurdles in reporting and prosecuting a crime like marital rape?

MS: Most acts of sexual violence are away from eyewitnesses, and to lead evidence is a challenge in itself. I don't see why marital rape should be more difficult to report or prove in court than any other sexual offence. The POCSO Act has been an important step in ensuring that there is justice for child sexual abuse victims. Now we know that most offenders of child sexual abuses are within the family, but we don't give them immunity, right? We don't say there's an institution of family, so let's protect offenders who are within the same family. We need to show that it is as absurd to ask for protection of a husband from marital rape as it is to ask for protection of a family member from child sexual abuse.

SC: The marital space does create issues in reporting and prosecuting crime – not because of the nature of the offence or what is being criminalised but because of the way that the functionaries in the criminal justice system think of these things. The police, judges, prosecutors and anyone with whom the complainant will have to interact – it is they who are likely to create, either unwittingly or intentionally, barriers in reporting and prosecution because in their minds, consent being presumed within a marriage may persevere, even if the law happens to have changed.

Would you agree that social structures that justify violence against women pose a challenge to the implementation of laws on rape. Even if laws are amended, have mindsets changed?

MS: Societal change is very important. It is not only patriarchy or misogyny that needs to change, we need to challenge notions about the sanctity of marriage. We need to check ourselves every time we indulge in blaming the victim. We also need to challenge our conservative mindsets when it comes to discussing sexual offences or offences that take place within the family. Just going back to POCSO, till date, such crimes are largely under-reported, because most of the abuse is within the family.

SC: There have existed certain power structures in our society, typically based on caste and gender. When these power structures are challenged by laws, the rhetoric of misuse comes in. That is the strongest kind of weapon operationalised against the implementation of such laws. It's important to counter such narratives as well as to establish that misuse is extremely unlikely. We must believe victims, complainants, and [see this] hullabaloo of misuse as a red herring. We need to counter this [misuse argument] strongly in politics, judgments, civil society.

MS: The roadmap is readily available for either the constitutional courts or Parliament to act on this. We need to frame the discussion around rape as an offence against bodily integrity and we need to emphasise the importance of the rights of the individual, as laid down in Article 14. We need to tell people that every act must be protected with consent.

Where are the programmers?

Inadequate teaching has given rise to an aversion of programming across campuses

JAMES K. VARKEY

Every year, lakhs of youngsters graduate with computer science, computer application and engineering degrees from Indian universities. A few years ago, Aspiring Minds created a stir when it published a report that stated that 95% of engineers were not fit for software development jobs. The report said only 1.4% of them could write functionally correct code. Computer programs are the foundation of applied computer science, and writing them is an important skill for students to have. Every IT company in India looks for fresh graduates with programming skills. Since the companies are convinced that new computer science graduates don't have these skills, they screen them for logical reasoning/aptitude tests and train them in programming languages.

Missing programming culture

The problem is that new graduates are often afraid of programming or lack the right understanding of basic concepts. The aversion to programming is so prevalent in campuses that even graduates with high marks prefer to move to non-programming careers with lower salaries. Thousands of talented students drift away from highly rewarding programming careers because of poor teaching of programming. Except some elite institutions, the faculty in computer science departments of a majority of the colleges do not put their knowledge to use, to solve real-life problems. They may have graduated with excellent academic credentials, but they lack expertise in programming. The faculty memorise programs and then go on to teach their students the same method. As a result, over the last two decades, selling graduate-level computer science projects has become a parallel industry. Students buy ready-made projects for a fee from marquee institutes to submit to the university as bonafide projects.

We need computer science faculty with good programming skills. They need to be comfortable explaining or teaching computer science concepts using any computer language in the classroom. For example, data structure and algorithms (ds-algo) must be taught along with a programming language, not just as a separate theory. A minimum of three years of software development experience for faculty should be made mandatory. The college management or even the government could step in and incentivise or bear the cost of this experience. If the faculty are well-versed with programming language and coding, the students will pick up these skills easily in the classroom. And then programming will become the default culture and language in computer science classrooms and we will have excellent programmers.

Before the first year of graduation class begins, students can be asked to complete assignments on platforms like 'Scratch' from MIT. A week's crash course in a simple scripting language like Python can be taught before the first semester starts, so that programming can be used while teaching computer science concepts in the classroom. Nowadays, everyone has a laptop. For programming languages and related subjects, the program needs to be written and executed in the classroom on every student's laptop while theory is being taught, not in a separate laboratory. Programming assignments must be given frequently. These should be checked into some cloud repositories like GitHub.

Benefiting both parties

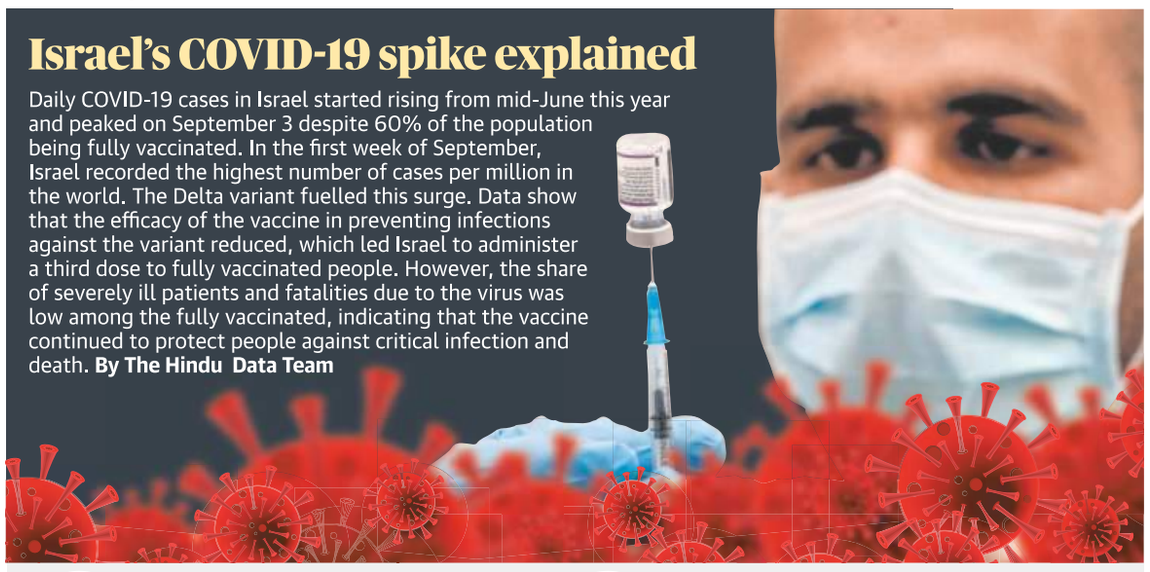
If students are guided this way, companies would be more than happy to take these students as interns. These students can assist their development team. This industry-academic partnership will benefit both parties, as industry funds academic research to solve the latest real-life problems and academia provides employable and productive graduates to industry. Once the right programming culture is inculcated in campuses, it will unleash the huge human technological potential of India and help the country become the technological superpower of the coming decade.

James K. Varkey is an IT Professional (Architect) with more than 20 years of experience in the IT industry

DATA POINT

Israel's COVID-19 spike explained

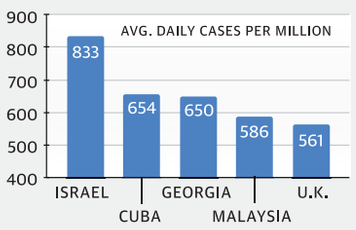
Daily COVID-19 cases in Israel started rising from mid-June this year and peaked on September 3 despite 60% of the population being fully vaccinated. In the first week of September, Israel recorded the highest number of cases per million in the world. The Delta variant fuelled this surge. Data show that the efficacy of the vaccine in preventing infections against the variant reduced, which led Israel to administer a third dose to fully vaccinated people. However, the share of severely ill patients and fatalities due to the virus was low among the fully vaccinated, indicating that the vaccine continued to protect people against critical infection and death. **By The Hindu Data Team**



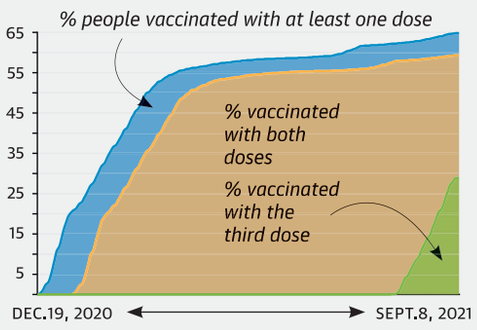
The share of Delta-positive sequences **increased from 13% in the first week of June to 87% in mid-August** indicating that the surge in cases was driven by the variant

The efficacy of both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (used in Israel) in preventing infection was 39% against the Delta variant. However, its efficacy in **preventing severe COVID-19 was 91.4%**

1. GLOBAL HOTSPOT | Between Sept. 1 and 7, Israel recorded 833 cases daily per million people, the most among the 50 countries with the highest case burden



2. BOOSTER JAB | The rise in cases came despite the fact that nearly 60% of the country had received both doses of the vaccine as on September 8. From mid-July, Israel started administering a third dose to people aged over 60 who had received their second shot at least five months before



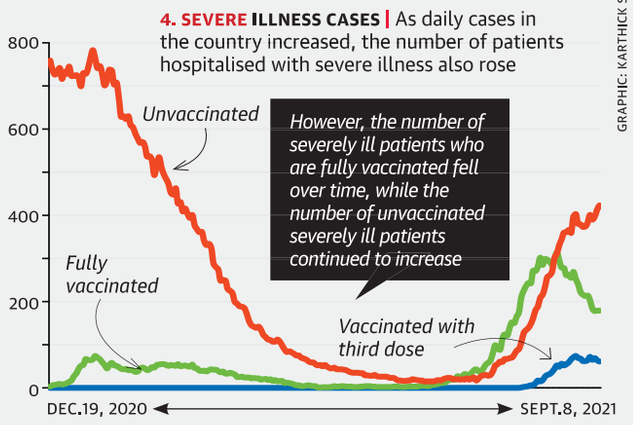
As on Sept. 8, 28.9% of the population had received the booster shot

3. WANING EFFICACY | Pfizer-BioNTech's efficacy against infection reduced, particularly against the Delta variant. However, its efficacy in preventing severe illness remained high

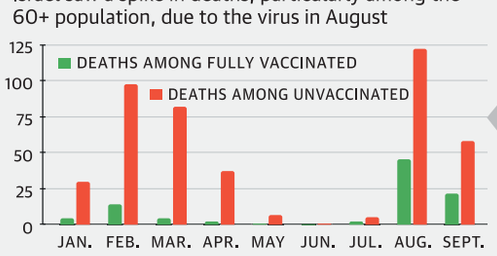
(IN %)

Study published on	Protection against infection	Against hospitalisation	Against severe illness
Feb 13	95.8	98.9	99.2
May 5	94.2	96.7	97.2
June 6*	64	93	93
July 17*	39	88	91.4

4. SEVERE ILLNESS CASES | As daily cases in the country increased, the number of patients hospitalised with severe illness also rose



5. PREVENTING DEATHS | Following a surge in cases, Israel saw a spike in deaths, particularly among the 60+ population, due to the virus in August



However, the majority of deaths occurred among patients who were unvaccinated while fatalities among those who were fully vaccinated remained relatively low. This points to the vaccine's efficacy in preventing COVID-19 deaths too

**Vaccine efficacy studies on the Delta variant*

SOURCE: ISRAEL HEALTH MINISTRY, OUR WORLD IN DATA, THE LANCET, OUTBREAK.INFO

GRAPHIC: KARTHICK S.T.

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 10, 1971

Demand for independence

The Awami League and four other political parties of Bangla Desh have declared that nothing short of total independence would satisfy the fighting people of Bangla Desh. At a two-day meeting which concluded at Mujibnagar last night, the parties also set up a joint consultative committee to advise the Bangla Desh Government on the liberation struggle, according to a Bangla Desh Government press release here to-day [Calcutta, September 9]. The members of the committee are Maulana Bhashani (National Awami Party), Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed (National Awami Party Wali Muzaffar group), Mr. Moni Singh (Communist Party of Bangla Desh), Mr. Manoranjan Dhar (Bangla Desh National Congress), Mr. Tajuddin Ahmed, and Mr. Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister respectively of the Bangla Desh Government, and two other members of the Awami League. The meeting by a resolution expressed indignation and anguish at the illegal detention of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman by the West Pakistan army junta.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 10, 1921

Charka madness

The cult of the Charka which Mahatma Gandhi has been preaching with so much warmth and insistence and the acceptance of which he considers essential to our political regeneration has been a veritable bugaboo to a section of our countrymen. They have been unable to find any justification, political, economic or artistic, for a return to the primitive methods of spinning and weaving consequently fight shy of the whole non-co-operation movement because it imposes what they believe to be an absurd condition. We have before tried to show, in the light of our past history and present conditions, why the charka has had to be given so prominent a place in the non-co-operation programme, and we reproduce below an extract from the current issue of "Capital" in order to convince the sceptics of the practical utility of the Charka as a political weapon. Our contemporary writes: "In this period, the total value of the imports of cotton manufacturers, including twist and yarn, into all India was in 1920, Rs. 36 crores odd; whereas in 1921 it was Rs. 16 crores odd, or less than half. Bengal's share decreased from Rs. 14,73,18,381 in 1920 to Rs. 8,62,60,588; Bombay's share from Rs. 17,15,88,624 to Rs. 5,94,50,913..."

FROM PAGE ONE

BRICS seeks 'inclusive' intra-Afghan dialogue

China on Thursday extended an emergency aid of $31 million to Afghanistan to help the Taliban run the government.

The summit emphasised the importance of the principle of "non-interference" in international affairs and said disputes and conflicts should be resolved by peaceful means.

Explaining India's concerns, Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs Sanjay Bhattacharya said, "There is a very strong consensus. Afghanistan should not become a reason for problems in the neighbourhood."

The summit meeting was also addressed by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, and President Vladimir Putin of Russia, who remarked that Afghanistan has a new crisis.

"The withdrawal of U.S. forces and its allies from Afghanistan has led to a new crisis, and it's still unclear how this will affect global and regional security. It is for good reason that our countries have paid special attention to this issue," said President Putin. Apart from Afghanistan, the BRICS leaders also took up the conflicts in Myanmar, Syria, the tension in the Korean peninsula, Israel-Palestine violence and other territorial disputes.

"We underscore the inadmissibility of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations," stated the New Delhi Declaration.

The summit also discussed the COVID-19 pandemic and the strategy to strengthen counter-pandemic cooperation and multilateral reform.

Amit Shah reviews security, development schemes in J&K

Concern over challenges posed by the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the security arrangements and progress in the implementation of various development programmes in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was held amid serious concern among the security agencies over the challenges in the aftermath of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Army chief Gen. M.M. Naravane, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and top officials of the intelligence agencies, besides senior functionaries of the Ministry of Home Affairs and J&K attended the meeting.

Border Security Force chief Pankaj Singh, Central Reserve Police Force Director General Kuldeep Singh and J&K Director General of Police Dilbag Singh were also present.

Taking stock: Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a review of the security and development situation in Jammu and Kashmir, in New Delhi on Thursday. ▪PTI

During the two-hour deliberations, Mr. Shah appreciated all the development initiatives of the Union Territory (UT)administration. The current security scenario in the UT, threat perceptions and the course of action to be taken by the security agencies were discussed.

Among the challenges faced by the security forces is the use of drones from across the border to carry out terror attacks and smuggle in explosives, weapons and drugs. The government has been exploring various ways to counter this threat, particularly after the June drone attack inside the Jammu Air Force Station.

The agencies are also on high alert to prevent any infiltration attempt. Since January, more than 90 terrorists, including over a dozen Pakistani nationals, have been neutralised.

Judge death: HC unhappy over tardy pace of probe

'No new facts in CBI investigation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RANCHI

Observing that no new fact has been discovered in the investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the death case of Dhanbad judge Uttam Anand, the High Court of Jharkhand on Thursday expressed annoyance over the slow pace of the probe.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan and Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad also expressed unhappiness with the lack of manpower at the Forensic Sciences Laboratory and ordered the State home secretary and the FSL director to appear before it on the next date of hearing.

The investigation has not revealed anything which was not known before, the Bench said while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) initiated to monitor the probe into the 49-year-old additional district judge's death after being hit by an auto-rickshaw in Dhanbad town on July 28.

The footage of the incident clearly shows that the auto-rickshaw driver went out of his lane and hit the judge. Even if the driver was inebriated, his intent is clear from the footage, the Bench said.

CCTV footage showed that the judge was jogging on one side of a fairly wide road at Randhir Verma Chowk near the district court early on July 28 when a heavy auto-rickshaw veered towards him, hit him from behind, and fled the scene.

Some locals found him lying in a pool of blood and took him to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

The State government had handed the probe over to the CBI which started its investigation on August 4.

The central agency on Wednesday doubled its reward to ₹10 lakh for anyone sharing "information of importance" on the death of the judge.

IITs top Centre's rankings for 2021

All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi scored the top rank for medical institutions, followed by Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in Chandigarh, Christian Medical College in Vellore, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences in Bengaluru, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, BHU, Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research in Puducherry, King George's Medical University in Lucknow and Kasturba Medical College in Manipal.

Among institutions teaching law, National Law School of India University in Bengaluru was ranked number one, followed by National Law University in Delhi, NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, West Bengal National University of Juridicial Sciences, IIT-Kharagpur, Gujarat National Law University, Jamia Millia Islamia, National Law University in Jodhpur, Symbiosis Law School in Pune and Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology in Bhubaneswar.

IISc was ranked the best research institution, a category included for the first time. Miranda House in Delhi remained the best college, followed by Lady Shri Ram College for Women and Loyola College.

While releasing the rankings, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said there was need for developing regional ranking frameworks and increasing participation by institutions. The Ministry launched the rankings in 2016 and has added more categories over the years.

4 months on, BJP man's body handed to kin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Four months after the death in poll violence of BJP worker Abhijit Sarkar, the body was handed over to his family on Thursday. Sarkar was killed in post poll violence on May 2 in Kolkata's Kankurgachi area.

The death of Sarkar had triggered a war of words between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress. His family had refused to accept the body from the local police on the grounds that they could not identify it

. A High Court-ordered DNA test confirmed it it be of Sarkar. The family had earlier this week moved the Sealdah court, which directed the hospital to hand over the body.

No sign of joint action by Opposition

Cracks visible in run-up to Bhabanipur bypoll, with Left fielding candidate

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Three weeks after top Opposition leaders at a virtual meet, convened by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on August 20, talked about joint action against the Narendra Modi government, there seems to be little progress on the ground.

There are still no signs of a core committee – a suggestion given by West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee – to plan coordinated action against the Centre's policies.

In fact, the first cracks are visible in the run-up to the September 30 bypoll to the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency of West Bengal, in which Ms. Banerjee herself is a candidate.

Though the Congress had announced that it would not field any candidate against Ms. Banerjee, the Left Front has fielded a youth leader against the Bengal Chief Minister.

No stopping: The Trinamool campaign for Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur has begun in right earnest. ▪PTI

The Bhabanipur seat was originally part of the Congress quota when the party fought the Assembly elections in an alliance with the Left Front this May.

Though the alliance had failed to win any seat in the Assembly polls, the Left Front's compulsion to stay politically relevant in Bengal prompted them to put up a candidate against the West Bengal CM.

"We cannot afford to be on the same side in Bengal and Kerala and that's why joint action or common political programme looks difficult in these two States," a senior Left leader told *The Hindu*.

On August 20, 18 Opposition parties that were part of Ms. Gandhi's meeting had given a call to have protests against the Modi government's policies between September 20 and 30.

Though the respective State units of these parties are likely to work out the details, upcoming polls in States such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab could determine the level of cooperation.

For example, ahead of bypolls to six Assembly constituencies in Assam, the Congress announced its break up with the Badruddin Ajmal-led All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF).

'Take action against govt. in Tripura'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has demanded immediate action against the BJP government in Tripura for the alleged pre-planned attacks on CPI(M) offices across the State, which, according to him, were carried out in connivance with the government.

The CPI(M) would organise a protest in the capital on Friday on the issue. The most brazen attack, Mr. Yechury said, was on the State committee office in Agartala. "They have ransacked the ground and first floors of the office, burnt two office cars and broken the bust of Dasarath Deb, a revered leader," he stated.

Ford to shut production in Chennai, Sanand

The company added that approximately 4,000 employees are expected to be affected by the restructuring.

The sale of the company's current products such as Figo, Aspire, Freestyle, EcoSport and Endeavour will cease once existing dealer inventories are sold. The auto major, however, said it will continue full customer support operations for these vehicles with service, aftermarket parts and warranty coverage.

Anurag Mehrotra, president and managing director of Ford India said the company took these restructuring actions after investigating several options, including partnerships, platform sharing, contract manufacturing with other OEMs, and the possibility of selling its manufacturing plants, which is still under consideration.

"Unfortunately, no matter what we tried or investigated, all our projections show that we will continue to deliver suboptimal returns on shareholder investment. The business change we announced today is designed to create a new, asset-light, business model, which is sustainably profitable long-term," he added.

Ford, which is the latest U.S. automaker to stop manufacturing in India after General Motors and Harley-Davidson, expects to record pre-tax special item charges of about ₹2 billion due to the restructuring.

Byelections to six Rajya Sabha seats on Oct. 4

Puducherry seat too will be filled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The byelections to six Rajya Sabha seats and polling to the Puducherry seat in the Upper House will be conducted on October 4, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced on Thursday.

The Puducherry seat will become vacant after the retirement of N. Gokulakrishnan on October 6.

The bypolls will also be held to one seat each in West Bengal, Assam, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, and two in Tamil Nadu. The vacancies followed the resignation of Manas Ranjan Bhunia (West Bengal), Biswajit Daimary (Assam), K.P. Munusamy and R. Vaithilingam (Tamil Nadu), and Thaawarchand Gehlot (Madhya Pradesh).

The Maharashtra seat fell vacant due to the death of Rajeev Satav on May 16 after contracting COVID-19.

The ECI also announced the bypoll to one seat of the Bihar Legislative Council on October 4.

It fell vacant following the death of Tanveer Akhtar on May 9.

2 still missing in Assam ferry collision

87 persons have either been rescued or traced alive, says Jorhat SP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

All but two of the 90 passengers of a ferry that sank after a mid-river collision with a larger ferry on the Brahmaputra on Wednesday have been rescued, the police said on Thursday.

A woman identified as a 28-year-old teacher had died on the way to the hospital after the collision at 4.15 p.m. off Neamatighat in Jorhat district. eastern Assam.

Officials said the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) had engaged 31 rescue boats and 208 personnel, including 39 deep divers, to locate the missing persons. "We have alerted the police in the districts downstream of the Brahmaputra to try and rescue the missing persons. The Army has also pitched in, helping with rescue operations throughout the night," Director-General of Police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said.

Search on: Rescue operations on the banks of the Brahmaputra in Jorhat district on Thursday. ▪RITU RAJ KONWAR

"Altogether, 87 persons have either been rescued or traced alive," Jorhat Superintendent of Police (SP) Ankur Jain said.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, the NDRF and the SDRF teams did not find any person trapped after cutting through the capsized ferry.

Following the accident, the Inland Water Transport Department suspended three officials. Ferries operate under this Department but are known not to follow safety regulations or issue tickets to passengers for maintaining records.

AIMIM chief booked in U.P. for 'provocative' speech

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh police on Thursday booked All India Majlis-e-Itthehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi for allegedly trying to spoil communal harmony through a "provocative" speech in Barabanki district in which he said that the administration had earlier this year "martyred" a century-old mosque.

Mr. Owaisi allegedly also used indecent language against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the police said. Yamuna Prasad, Superintendent of Police, Barabanki, said Mr. Owaisi was booked under Indian Penal Code Sections 153a, 188, 169 and 170.

Addressing a public meeting in Barabanki, Mr. Owaisi referred to the mosque in Ramsanehi Ghat which was demolished in May by the administration.

"A 100-year-old mosque was martyred in Barabanki..." Mr. Owaisi said as he blamed the administration for not following the law in the demolition and attacked Opposition parties for not speaking out against the incident. The AIMIM leader also termed it a "political demolition".

C-295 induction critical for IAF

It marks culmination of decade-long process by Air Force to replace ageing Avros

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The procurement of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security on Wednesday marks the culmination of a decade-long process by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to replace the ageing Avros, pending signing of a formal contract.

This is the first project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India under technology transfer by a private company and is expected to cost close to $3billion.

"Sixteen aircraft will be delivered in flyaway condition from Spain within 48 months of signing of the contract and 40 will be manufactured in India by Tata Consortium within 10 years of signing of the contract," a Defence Ministry statement said.

EXPLAINER

Scrapping of project

The deal has become even more critical for the IAF as a separate project to co-develop and produce a Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) of 20 tonnes with Russia to replace the An-32s in service was scrapped after initial design discussions.

The IAF has 56 Avros procured in the 1960s and they are in urgent need of replacement.

The Request For Proposal (RFP) was issued to global firms in May 2013 and the sole bid by Airbus and Tata Group with the C-295 aircraft was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in May 2015. However, the final deal has been repeatedly delayed.

The Avros, once inducted, could be deployed on the sea routes replacing the An-32s in those sectors.

The C-295MW is a plane of 5-10 tonne capacity and has a rear ramp door for quick reaction and para dropping of troops and cargo. It is powered by Pratt & Whitney PW127 engines, part of the PW100 family. All 56 aircraft will be installed with indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite.

The project would give a boost to aerospace ecosystem in India wherein several Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises spread over the country would be involved in manufacturing of parts of the aircraft, the Ministry statement said.

On the project spread, the Ministry said that a large number of detail parts, subassemblies and major component assemblies of aero structure were scheduled to be manufactured in India. The programme would act as a catalyst for employment generation.

I-T returns filing deadline extended to December 31

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday extended the deadline till December 31 for filing of income tax returns by individuals for the financial year 2021.

Earlier, the deadline was extended to September 30.

It had extended the ITR filing deadline for companies till February 15, 2022 from November 30, 2021.

The due date for filing the tax audit report and transfer pricing certificate has been extended to January 15, 2022 and January 31, 2022 respectively.

APPEAL

Name of Patient: **Master Anush Dhara,** 2 years.
Hospital Name: Christian Medical College.
Diagnosis: Aplastic Anemia. This is a type of Blood Disorder which is life threatening. The best treatment option for him would be to undergo Allogeneic Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of Haploidentical Transplant at our centre will come to approximately **Rs. 25,00,000/-.**
We request Kind Hearted Philanthropists to save him. Kindly send donation by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** and on the back of Cheque write A/c Anush Dhara. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaipuram Branch, and IFSC Code: SBIN0001855. You can donate Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi which is exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.
Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (ADMIN DIVISION) **Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No.76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Ph: 044-42044165, Mobile: 9884607377,** E-mail: **savepoorlives@gmail.com** Our website: www.savepoorlives.com
Donation sent to various hospital in August month for Rs.2,12,140/-.

R.N. Ravi to be Governor of Tamil Nadu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Governor of Nagaland R.N. Ravi was transferred as the next Governor of Tamil Nadu late on Thursday, in a series of gubernatorial changes.

President Ram Nath Kovind also accepted the resignation of Baby Rani Maurya as the Governor of Uttarakhand, amid speculation of her returning to active politics in Uttar Pradesh where the State Assembly election is due next year.

In other changes, Governor of Tamil Nadu Banwarilal Purohit, who held the additional charge of Punjab, has been appointed as the full-fledged Governor of Punjab. Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (retired), a former Deputy Chief of the Army Staff, has been made the Governor of Uttarakhand.

Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi has now been given the additional charge of Nagaland, until regular arrangements are made.

Explain objections in interfaith marriage case, HC tells Gujarat

Police lodged FIR against husband, parents and priest who solemnised marriage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

In a strong message, the Gujarat High Court has asked the State government to file an affidavit explaining its objections in an interfaith marriage case, in which the police had lodged a first information report (FIR) booking the husband, his parents and the priest for solemnising the marriage under the State's new law that seeks to ban religious conversion through interfaith marriages.

The victim in the case categorically stated that the contents of the FIR that the Vadodara police had lodged were not true and that she wanted to remain married to her husband who had been booked under the amended Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021, for forceful conversion through marriage.

This was the first case the State police had lodged after the Act was notified into a law to stop religious conversion through interfaith marriages using force, allurement or fraudulent means.

On trial: The Gujarat HC has asked the State govt. to file an affidavit by Sept. 20.

Last month, provisions of the amended law dealing with interfaith marriages had been stayed by the High Court. The court held that the provisions of the new law were against the Constitution. The State government announced that it would approach the Supreme Court challenging the interim ruling of the High Court.

According to the details of the case, seven persons were booked, including the husband, the parents and the priest who had solemnised the marriage. All seven had been arrested.

On Wednesday, the woman stated before Justice I.J. Vora in the High Court that she had voluntarily filed a petition seeking to quash the FIR and proceedings against her husband and others. She also told the court that "she wanted to live together as a married couple" with her husband.

In her petition, the woman stated that when she had approached a local police station in Vadodara regarding a petty and trivial matrimonial issue, the police, under the pressure of certain elements, brought in the "love jihad" angle and also registered the FIR under the new law. The police also added the charges of "rape and sodomy" in the FIR, which she categorically denied.

In her petition, she also denied the charges of forceful conversion as mentioned by the police in the FIR and submitted that her affidavit denying such charges was not accepted by the lower court when seeking bails.

The couple had decided to solemnise their marriage as per the Islamic rites. Subsequently, it was registered under the Special Marriage Act. The couple submitted that both families had no issues, but certain "religio-political" groups and an overzealous police communalised their marriage.

The High Court directed the State government to file an affidavit and explain its objections by September 20.

Jharkhand Speaker forms panel to look into namaz room issue

BJP creates ruckus over allotment in Assembly building

PRESS TRUSST OF INDIA
RANCHI

Amid a raging controversy over allotment of a namaz (Islamic prayer) room in the Jharkhand Assembly, Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto on Thursday formed an all party, seven-member panel, on the last day of the monsoon session to look into the issue and come out with a report within 45 days.

The monsoon session that began on September 3 remained stormy and witnessed protests by the main Opposition BJP over the allotment both inside and outside the House.

Amid the ruckus by the Opposition, Speaker Mahto said "disruptions" over the issue impacted the Assembly as well as the State, sending a wrong message to the masses.

"We need to end the standoff in the interests of the State and its people. It is not good for MLAs as well. Under the circumstances, I took a decision to place the matter before an all-party committee and the Chair will support whatever decision is given by it," the Speaker said.

Fixing a deadline of 45 days for the seven-member panel with legislator Stephen Marandi as its convener, the Speaker asked the panel to come out with its report at the earliest.

7-member committee

The seven-member committee besides Mr. Marandi, will have Pradeep Yadav, Neelkanth Singh Munda, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Vinod Singh, Lambodar Mahto and Deepika Pandey Singh as members.

Earlier, ruling party MLA Sarfaraz Ahmad made a proposal that Speaker should form a committee to study whether there is a need for a namaz room.

BJP member and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi objecting to a statement that a namaz room was allotted during his term as CM, said "no such allotment was made while I was CM. Constitution of India does not permit it." BJP legislators, sporting black straps raised slogans like "Lathi, Goli, Wali Sarkar Nahi Chalegi" while protesting 'lathi charge' and use of water cannon on protesters on Wednesday. BJP members also staged a dharna outside the Assembly.

Police had used water cannons and batons on Wednesday to break up protests by the BJP against allotment of the namaz room.

A row broke out in Jharkhand after the Assembly Speaker allotted a room in the Assembly for offering namaz through a notification last week.

The Opposition leaders have been protesting against the decision, calling it "unconstitutional". They are also demanding a separate hall for chanting Hanuman Chalisa (prayers to Lord Hanuman).

Cong. not to join panel to probe Rajya Sabha ruckus

Parliament has had a history of similar protests, says Kharge

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Congress has refused to be part of the special committee that Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu wants to constitute to investigate the proceedings of the last day of the recently concluded monsoon session, which were marred by violent protests and scuffle between the members and the security staff.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, in a letter to Mr. Naidu, said the "inquiry committee on the incident of August 11" seemed to be designed to intimidate MPs into silence. "It will not only suppress the voices of people's representatives but will deliberately brush aside all those that are uncomfortable to the government. I am, therefore, unequivocally against constituting the inquiry committee and the question of our party proposing the name of a member from our party for nomination to this Committee does not arise," he wrote.

"Currently, the House is not in session and we believe this issue can be discussed only at an all-party meeting ahead of the winter session," Mr. Kharge told *The Hindu*.

Mallikarjun Kharge

His letter was in response to the phone call made by Mr. Naidu to him and to the other floor leaders of the Opposition parties. Sources said the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), too, had declined the offer.

The Trinamool Congress was never invited to be part of the committee, the sources added.

'Willing and eager'

Mr. Kharge, in his letter, said the Congress and the rest of the Opposition parties were "willing and eager" to discuss all matters of public importance, and had given notices to debate the economy, farmers' protest, inflation, rise in fuel prices and essential commodities, the Indo-China conflict and the Pegasus spyware issue. "We did so in sincere belief that the government of India is committed to transparency and needed to be forthright to the nation about these issues," he wrote.

Unfortunately, he said, the government not only brushed aside the Opposition parties' demands for discussions but also rushed through crucial Bills, bypassing parliamentary scrutiny of any form.

'Senior Ministers absent'

He also taunted the government over the absence of senior Ministers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi came only once to both Houses to introduce his Council of Ministers. Home Minister Amit Shah did not turn up on any day in the Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Kharge put the onus on the government for creating a conducive environment for healthy discussions. "Parliament has had a history of similar protests, many initiated by the ruling dispensation when it was in the Opposition. As you are well aware that many from the ruling party have in past posited that expressing dissent in this manner is acceptable in a parliamentary democracy," Mr. Kharge wrote.

The monsoon session came to an abrupt end, two days ahead of schedule.

Baghel's rising influence a dilemma for Cong.

Party hoping to persuade him to step down as Chhattisgarh CM in favour of his Cabinet colleague

VARGHESE K. GEORGE
SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel's ability to set the agenda rather than react has been on display since he became the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh in 2018. But that is now turning out to be a dilemma for the Congress's high command, which is hoping to persuade him to step down in favour of his Cabinet colleague T.S. Singh Deo.

With the State police arresting Nand Kumar Baghel, his father, for calling for a "boycott" of Brahmins and describing them as foreigners, the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister has yet again seized the opportunity to remain in the spotlight on his own terms. The senior Baghel refused to plead for bail and is now in judicial custody.

Party insiders say the last word on the leadership tussle in the State has not been said yet. Mr. Deo was reportedly promised the top slot by then party president Rahul Gandhi, who brokered a peace deal between the two in December 2018. But much has changed since.

Major player: Baghel has been at the forefront of the party's strategy in Bihar, Assam and Uttar Pradesh. ▪PTI

Strong OBC leader

In the little less than three years as Chief Minister, Mr. Baghel has built an image of a strong Other Backward Class (OBC) leader, both within the State and outside it. He has been at the forefront of the party's strategy in Bihar, Assam and the now critical Uttar Pradesh. Sources said it was party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's intervention that has bought him time for now. Ms. Vadra is the party's State in-charge of Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Baghel had invited Mr. Gandhi to Chhattisgarh, but has so far not heard from his office on the possible dates.

Those who have known him for long say Mr. Baghel's ability to turn politics into performance holds him in good stead among the masses, whether it is dancing with abandon on the Teeja-Pora festival with women Congress leaders last week or neutralising his father's controversial remarks.

On August 30, the senior Mr. Baghel, a social activist, was in Lucknow to participate in a protest against the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh for reportedly not fulfilling the quota reserved for the OBCs in its 2020 teacher recruitment drive. Giving a sound bite to a local Hindi channel, he said Brahmins should not be allowed entry in villages.

The video clip went viral but it has not stoked enough outrage yet to make headlines. Anticipating trouble, Mr. Baghel, on September 5, tweeted, "As a son, I respect my father, but as a Chief Minister, his mistakes that disturbs the public order can't be ignored. No one is above the law in our government, even if he is the chief minister's father."

NEWS ANALYSIS

The very next day, for a comment made in Lucknow, based on a complaint from the Sarva Brahmin Samaj, a first information report (FIR) was registered against Mr. Nand Kumar Baghel at the DD Nagar police station in Raipur. And on September 7, the Raipur police arrested him from Agra. He did not file for bail and has since been sent to 15-day judicial remand. The Chief Minister may be trying to outgrow his OBC image, or may be just trying to set a new agenda.

Chhattisgarh BJP chief Vishnu Dev Sai, too, had to concede that the action taken against Mr. Baghel's father was satisfactory.

The father's arrest is also to secure his son's future role in Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Baghel's close associate, Rajesh Tiwari, was recently appointed secretary in charge of Uttar Pradesh and has been touring the State, training party cadres.

In less than three years as Chief Minister, Mr. Baghel has solidified his position as a pre-eminent OBC leader in Chhattisgarh. He has flaunted his administrative capacities by publicising various schemes launched by his government.

With OBC politics all set to grow more intense, the Congress cannot overlook Mr. Baghel's stature. But whether it can do so at the cost of the reputation of the Gandhis itself is the big question.

My statement distorted: Mehbooba

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said her statement over Sharia was being deliberately distorted.

"At a time when India has become so polarised, there is increasing Islamophobia and the Afghanistan crisis has only worsened it. Muslims are always expected to prove that they don't stand for violence. I can see why my statement is being used as click-bait to further this impression," she said in a tweet.

Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said he hoped the new regime in Afghanistan would end conflict. "The Hurriyat understands that no two conflict regions are the same and the differences between Afghanistan and Kashmir are well-known. However, we in Kashmir can surely empathise with the common people of the country who have been living in a state of uncertainty for 40 years," he said.

LOOK OUT NOTICE

Vijay Goswami, 17 yrs, S/o. Radhe Goswami, C/o. Govt. Childrens Home Thavanur, Malappuram District (His permanent address is C/o. Radhe Goswami, Badpura P.O, Manikapura Village, Ittawa District, Uttar Pradesh) is a missing boy in Medical College Police Station Crime 11/21 U/S 57 KP Act. On 09.12.2020 at 1430 hrs. and found missing from Ward No. 15 at Thrissur Medical College. This case is investigating by Inspector of Police, Medical College Police Station, Thrissur city. If any information is obtained, please contact to the following phone numbers.

Identification: Height 161 CM.
1. A wound scar on the left cheek. 2. A black mole on the left hand.

Contact Numbers
1. ACP Thrissur city - Office: 0487 2424194, Mob: 9497990087.
2. ISHO Medical College P.S. - Office: 0487 2202434, Mob: 9497980592.

(Sd/-) Asst. Police Commissioner,
1503/F2/2021/I&PRD DCRB, Thrissur City

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Sealed tenders from eligible and qualified bidders are invited by the undersigned for procurement of below mentioned items:

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

Item	Tender No.
Procurement of Special Bearings for Schuler Coining Presses	54/PT-106(21-22)/6000016724
Procurement of Complete Set of Double Gear Pump with Motor	54/PT-103(21-22)/6000016702
Procurement of Spares for Schuler Coining Press	54/PT-100(21-22)/6000016666

For all other details including last date for submission of tender, please visit our website http://igmkolkata.spmcil.com
Any amendment or extension shall be notified on Website only.
Sd-
The Chief General Manager

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEURO SCIENCES, (Institute of National Importance)
BENGALURU-560029

NOTICE

As per the retention policy of Medical Records approved by The Statutory Body, patient's medical records from 1974 to March 2018 will be discarded. If any patient wishes to collect the hard copy, they should register by email to **mrdinfo@nimhans.ac.in** and submit a request to Medical Records Section with copies of the following documents as attachments within 15 days from the date of publication of this notification.
(1) OPD Card/Hospital Document.
(2) Aadhar Card/Voter ID/PAN Card.
Reply communication will be sent by email with instruction about further course of action.
Note: Not applicable to Medico-Legal Case files and Expired Patients` Medical Records. ***For any queries contact Medical Records officer NIMHANS Phone No. 080-26995520 / 22 Time: 9 AM to 4 PM on working days.***
Sd/-, The Director

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION, Ernakulam Junction
TENDER NOTICE NO.08/CE/CN/ERS/2021 (OT) dated 06.09.2021
Name of Work : Construction of bridges in Ernakulam - Turavur section.
Tender Value : Rs.117,59,89,674/-
Completion period : 24 Months.
Date of opening : 30.09.2021
Complete details and tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
Chief Engineer/Construction Ernakulam Jn.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
Roc.No.TTD-83021(31)/53/2020-CMO
NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from **eligible Candidates of Hindu Religion for the posts of Specialist Doctors in Paediatric Cardiology to work at S.V.Paediatric Cardiac Hospital, S.V.Pranadana Trust, TTD, Tirupati.** For details of posts category, application form and instructions, please visit website **http://ttd.tirumala.org.** The application can be down loaded from the web site. The last date to receive the filled-in application along with all necessary documents is **25-09-2021** and shall reach the **Chief Medical Officer, T.T.Devasthanams, Central Hospital, K.T. Road, Tirupati-517501, Chittoor Dist.,A.P.** Contact for any further details Phone Nos. **0877-2264371, 0877-2264681** during office hours.

Roc.No.PR4/13934/Adv.No.157/PRO/2021/Dated:09-09-2021 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

CSIR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Uppal Road, Tarnaka, Hyderabad - 500 007. Telangana, India.
ADDENDUM
Please refer to CSIR-IICT Advt. No. **04/2021** published on **28-07-2021** for Recruitment of Scientific Positions.
It is hereby notified that the last date for receipt of Hard copy of Applications is **extended upto 27.09.2021.**
All other terms & conditions shall remain unaltered.
Please visit our website **https://www.iict.res.in** for updates.
Sd/-
Controller of Administration

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), भुवनेश्वर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR
सिजुआ, डाक : डुमुडुमा, भुवनेश्वर -751019
Sijua, Post : Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar -751019
No. AIIMS/BBSR/RECT/Satellite Centre/2021/2964 Dated:09.09.2021
RECRUITMENT OF SENIOR CONSULTANT (SPECIALIST) & CONSULTANT POSTS FOR AIIMS BHUBANESWAR SATELLITE CENTRE, BALASORE (ABSC, BALASORE) ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS- 2021

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar an Autonomous Institute of National Importance is one of the new AIIMS and apex healthcare Institute being established by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India under the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana(PMSSY)** with the aim of correcting regional imbalance in quality tertiary level healthcare in the country, and attaining self-sufficiency in graduate, postgraduate and higher medical education and training.
Applications in prescribed proforma **(hard copy only)** from Indian citizens are invited for the following post of **Senior Consultants (Specialist) & Consultants on contractual basis** for AIIMS Bhubaneswar Satellite Centre, Balasore (ABSC, Balasore).

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts & Category	Specialization	Monthly Remuneration (Consolidated)	Max. Age Limit
01	Senior Consultant (Specialist)	03 (UR-03)	General Medicine (UR-01) Obstetrics & Gynaecology (UR-01) General Surgery (UR-01)	Rs. 1,00,196/-	65 years
02	Consultant	20 (UR-09, OBC- 05, SC -03, ST-01, EWS- 02)	–	Rs.83,028/-	65 years

- Contractual engagement for all of the above post of Senior Consultant (Specialist) & Consultant will be only for a period of one year.
- For details of advertisement including educational qualifications, age and eligibility criteria etc., kindly visit the Institute's website **https://aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in/. The last date for submission of application is 09.10.2021.**

Sd/-
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Rajiv, S/o. Kunjakkan, Kandamkulathi House, Pazhuvil P.O, Kurumpilavu, Thrissur District - 680 564 is the accused in crime 428/18 u/s 376, 376(2)(n), 506(i), 450 IPC of Mathilakam Police Station, Thrissur District, Kerala. He has been absconding since June 2018 and if any information about him is received kindly inform the phone numbers mentioned below or at nearest Police Station.
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2. Inspector of Police, Mathilakam, Kerala - 09497947212
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2 doses prevent death by 97.5%: ICMR chief

Balram Bhargava says a single dose cuts death risk by 96.6%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An integrated COVID-19 tracker that will provide a week by week update of vaccine doses administered, mortality and breakthrough infections in the country will be available on the Union Health Ministry's website in a few days, Balram Bhargava, Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said here on Thursday.

COVID cases that arise after 14 days of the second dose of the vaccine are known as breakthrough infections.

The tracker has been developed by combining data from the Co-WIN website, the Health Ministry's COVID-19 portal and the Indian Council of Medical Research COVID testing database.

At a press conference of the Ministry on Thursday, Dr. Bhargava advocated low-key celebrations of festivals. Crowding and festival related travel should not be encouraged. On the need to get vaccinated even after getting infected, he said that recommendations were in place specifying that a person should take the vaccination three months after the infection.

As much as 58% of the population in India has got at least one dose so far.

"There is a possibility that infections will occur even after vaccination. However, the severity is reduced. Data collected has shown that vaccine effectiveness in preventing mortality after a single dose is 96.6%, while it is 97.5% after the second dose," he said.

V.K. Paul, member (health) of NITI Aayog, said it was clear that two doses gave a good degree of protection. India had so far given single dose to 58% (above 18 years) of the population. "This has to be pushed up to 100%," he said.

To a query on vaccination of children, he said teachers and parents had to be vaccinated, but vaccinating children to open schools was not required. "It can't be used as a condition. However it's vital not to encourage crowding, ensure staggered classes, etc."

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the public health response to COVID-19 must be guided by the fact that though cases were declining, the second wave was not over. He added that 68.59% of the total cases in the last week were recorded in Kerala.

2+2 meet to discuss Afghanistan

Australia consulting partners for joint approach in engagement with the Taliban

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Canberra is "deeply disappointed" by the Taliban government announcement this week and coordinating joint strategies to deal with the situation in Afghanistan will be discussed during the first "2+2" double ministerial summit between Australian and Indian Foreign and Defence Ministers. This was stated by Australia's High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell.

Australian Foreign and Defence Ministers Marise Payne and Peter Dutton will arrive in India on Friday for a number of meetings aimed at expanding bilateral defence, strategic and trade ties, and will meet External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday.

"Australia is consulting our closest partners, in ensuring a joined-up approach in any engagement with the Taliban, we're focused on ensuring the Taliban allows safe passage, ceases violence, pursues an inclusive government, prevents violent extremism within Afghanistan, prevents outward terrorism from Afghanistan and upholds human rights particularly for women and girls," Mr. O'Farrell told presspersons on Thursday. Mr. O'Farell made a particular mention of the Taliban government's inclusion of the Haqqani Network, which has been listed by the United Nations and the United States as terrorists, as well as the exclusion of women, members of the Hazara community and other minorities and any members of the previous government.

Bilateral summit: In this photo dated August 2, 2019, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar interacts with his Australian counterpart Marise Payne. ▪ AFP

The Indian government has not issued any reaction to the Taliban announcement of a Cabinet of 33 Ministers, more than half of which are designated terrorists, including those who have targeted India in the past. On Wednesday, Mr. Jaishankar called for an "inclusive" government in Afghanistan, and any discussions on the issue during the India-Australia talks will be watched closely.

Asked if the two sides would discuss concerns over China, with which both India and Australia have increasing tensions, Mr. O'Farrell said he "couldn't see" how meetings on strategic issues between two countries of the Indo-Pacific, and members of the Quad would not discuss China.

While officials said trade issues were "not on the agenda" of the talks, it is understood that the Foreign Ministers will take stock of the talks on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

The two Prime Ministers had said the CECA would be restarted last year, but there has not been any visible progress so far due to differences over market access to dairy products and services between trade negotiators.

Mr. O'Farrell said, "We have high ambitions from the relationship, and so does India."

A free trade agreement between the two countries would be a signal of the closer alliance that both countries now seek, he said.

Haryana govt. to investigate Karnal clash

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

As the stand-off between the farmers and the government continued at Karnal in Haryana on Thursday, the State's Home Minister Anil Vij said the government was ready to investigate the clash between protesters and the police on August 28.

It was the farmers' democratic right to protest while government officials had constant dialogue with them but only legitimate demands would be accepted, he stated.

"Dialogue is an integral part of any democracy, but only legitimate demands shall be accepted. The punishment is given according to the fault. To find out the fault, an investigation has to be done and we are ready to get it probed fairly, but we will get all the Karnal episodes investigated. If the farmers or their leaders are found to be at fault, then action will be taken against them too," he told reporters.

High Court dismisses Kangana's plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday dismissed the plea filed by actor Kangana Ranaut seeking quashing of criminal defamation proceedings initiated against her by a court here based on lyricist Javed Akhtar's complaint.

Justice Revati Mohite Dere, who had on September 1 reserved her order on the plea, said the petition "stands dismissed".

Mr. Akhtar's counsel Jay Bharadwaj had told the court that the Magistrate had directed the police inquiry after going through the lyricist's complaint and excerpts of Ms. Ranaut's interview.

Scindia sets target of 50 more UDAN routes

Rationalising VAT on aviation turbine fuel also on agenda for next 100 days, says Civil Aviation Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Inaugurating the Kushinagar airport and starting construction of the Jewar airport, both in Uttar Pradesh; launching 50 new routes under the UDAN scheme (a regional connectivity project); and rationalising the value added tax (VAT) charged on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) were on the agenda of the Civil Aviation Ministry over the next 100 days, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Scindia said the Ministry had set its targets for infrastructure, policy and reforms till November 30 with the aim of increasing accountability towards stakeholders. Mr. Scindia said the Kushinagar airport was ready, while the foundation stone for the Jewar airport would be laid in the next 100 days. Work on new terminal buildings at the Dehradun and Agartala airports, to increase capacity to 1,800 passengers per hour and 1,200 passengers per hour, respectively, would also be started.

Jyotiraditya Sinha

Airports under UDAN at Keshod in Gujarat, Deoghar in Jharkhand, and Gondia and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, as well as heliports at Sanjoli (Shimla), Sase (Manali), Mandi and Baddi in Himachal Pradesh and Haldwani and Almora in Uttarakhand, would also be operationalised before November 30. Of the 50 new routes, 30 UDAN routes would be started by October 30, he said.

Airline refunds

Mr. Scindia said the aviation industry had been one of the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the government was working to "stabilise" it. Asked about refunds to passengers, Mr. Scindia said he believed the "free market" should decide the amounts, rather than the government mandating a certain amount. He said the AirSewa 3.0 portal would be launched by September 30 and that users would be able to escalate their complaints to senior airline officials.

Asked why the government had not brought ATF within the ambit of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), he replied that, ultimately, the responsibility lay with the States, either on their own or through the GST Council.

He said the Civil Aviation Ministry had written to the Chief Ministers and was in the process of "canvassing" with the States and the Ministry of Finance to rationalise VAT on ATF.

Mr. Scindia also announced a new policy for maintenance, repair and operations (MRO), aimed at making India a global hub for MRO. Open tenders, 30-year contracts and rates to be determined by bidding were among the changes proposed.

Kozhikode crash

Asked about the investigation into the Kozhikode plane crash last year, Mr. Scindia said the probe report had been submitted to the Ministry and would be made public in the next few days. He said a group would be created within the Ministry to ensure that the recommendations in the report were implemented.

More emergency landing strips to be developed

Gadkari, Rajnath inaugurate project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said emergency landing facilities will be developed at many places to strengthen security.

Inaugurating the facility on the National Highway 925A in Rajasthan with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, he said this runway will protect strategically important borders.

According to an official statement, Mr. Gadkari said the 19 other places include Phalodi-Jaisalmer road and Barmer-Jaisalmer road in Rajasthan, Kharagpur-Balasore road in West Bengal, Hashimara-Guwahati road in Assam, Bhuj-Naliya road in Gujarat, Leh/Nyoma area in Assam and the Jorhat-Baraghat road.

An IAF plane lands on the emergency strip in Barmer.

"Now, our National Highways will also be of use to the Army, which will make our country more secure and always ready for emergency situations," the statement quoted Mr. Gadkari as saying.

BMS stages protests against price rise

Monetisation Pipeline plan flayed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh on Thursday held national protests against price rise and the National Monetisation Pipeline announced by the government.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-affiliated trade union called upon the government to pass a law declaring cost of production of items, curb price rise of essential commodities and petroleum products and compensate workers for inflation by increasing salaries, a statement by BMS general secretary Binoy Kumar Sinha said. The protesters handed over memoranda to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Ministers of States through the District Magistrates. In Delhi, a protest was staged outside the District Magistrate's office.

Railway Board order announces closure of green fuel wing

IROAF was set up to promote alternative energy

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Ministry of Railways has announced the closure of the Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuels (IROAF), an enterprise headquartered in New Delhi, that was formed exclusively to promote green energy by introducing alternative energy and fuel-efficient and emission-control technologies across the railway network.

"The Ministry of Railways has decided to close down the Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuels with effect from September 7, 2021," a Railway Board order said on Tuesday.

The existing work handled by IROAF – solar power and hydrogen fuel cell projects – was transferred to the Principal Chief Electrical Engineer and Chief Administrative Officer, Northern Railway. Placement and transfer of officers and staff would follow, the order said.

In keeping with its mission towards green railways, the IROAF had invited bids just last month in August for hydrogen fuel cell-based trains to start the concept of hydrogen mobility in the country along the 89-km Sonipat-Jind sector of Northern Railway. Two diesel electric multiple units and two hybrid locos were planned for conversion to hydrogen fuel cell power movement leading to a savings of ₹2.3 crore annually.

The IROAF was also working on research and development of projects relating to use of compressed natural gas (CNG) as a substitute to high-speed diesel to create a clean environment and reduce cost of transportation.

Stir against monetisation

The move to close down IROAF comes at a time when trade unions are protesting the "monetisation" policy of the Union government. The All India Railwaymen Federation president N. Kanniah said the Central government had no moral right to monetise assets of Indian Railways and other public sector undertakings.

The decision of the Centre to monetise railway and other government establishment assets for ₹6 lakh crore by leasing them for 35-99 years had created widespread resentment among the employees. Mr. Kanniah said 400 railway stations across the country, including Chennai Central and Chennai Egmore in Southern Railway, 90 superfast express trains, four hill train services, including the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, and 1,400 km of railway track with overhead electrical equipment were among other infrastructure that were planned for monetisation by way of lease to private sector.

Mr. Kanniah said the concept of "privatisation" that later took shape as "corporatisation" was now being called "monetisation". The move would not only lead to an increase in fares and services but withdrawal of facilities such as travel concessions given to eligible passengers, he said.

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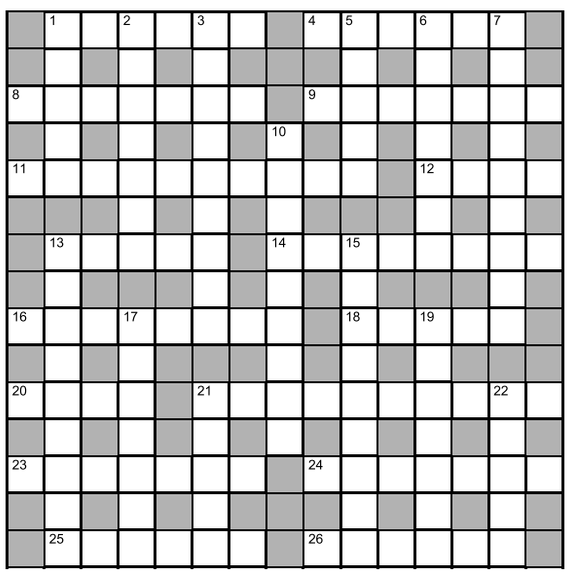

ACROSS

1 Book AC in Australia in summer, perhaps (6)
4 A politician's bill has repercussions (6)
8 Cook's pan gleaming partly with glitter (7)
9 Piece of attire for primarily tough work on shore, not small (7)
11 Dangerous fish – could be between 0 and 90 (matter of degrees) (5,5)
12 Chola king in retreat had a bird (4)
13 Stand against catcall, time to get hard (5)
14 To be more significant, you at the end, with ego should change (8)
16 About Hari's mother's appeal... (8)
18 ... civil rights organisation can potentially take a leading position (5)
20 Good boy is happy (4)
21 Offered to fix scar if kept cooled (10)
23 Return to position after resistance at base (7)
24 Spot a small area near church (7)
25 Son's right, its tense in bar (6)
26 Wish to leave before spring (2,4)

DOWN

1 A famous Indian company makes jelly (5)
2 A military alliance to save tons of tree (7)
3 Sensual? He is mad, lets loose (9)
5 As I say, you are nothing, rat, just another animal (5)
6 A roman catholic group is safe (7)
7 Joining for a drink, gin maybe afternoon to rise (7,2)
10 Can ignore stupidly – will lead to stupidity (9)
13 For the most part, leading West Indian cricketer is covered by commentators (9)
15 Say Mankad (Harsh) is a spinner to play with (6,3)
17 Two communists, one on return goes past east to a Canadian city (3,4)
19 Ida, new model is fat (7)
21 Collapse brings top left-hander to wicket; Virat at one end gets out (5)
22 Be better than some complex celebrity (5)

SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13348

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Nammazhvar's feet

Alavandar, in his Stotra Ratnam, sees Nammazhvar's feet as his mother, father, wife and children, said Valayapet Ramachariar, in a discourse. A mother plays the most important role in the life of a person. The Sastras, therefore, place the mother above everyone else. The father providing for and protecting the child comes next. Kalidasa, in his Raghuvamsa, says King Dileepa was like a father to all his subjects, because he taught them humility. It is a father's duty to inculcate good values in his children. With Dileepa taking care of this, fathers in his kingdom did not have much of a role to play in bringing up their children. A young man is attracted to his wife, and reserves a special place for her in his heart.

Alavandar sees Nammazhvar's feet as taking the place of a wife too. None can be dearer to an individual than his children. In his Devanayaka Panchasat, Vedanta Desika prays that his words must be listened to by Lord Devanatha, in the manner of a father listening joyfully to his child's lisping. But Alavandar sees Nammazhvar's feet as his children too. A man may have doting parents, a loveable wife, and adorable children, but can he enjoy any of this, in the absence of wealth? Alavandar says vibhuti (wealth) too is Nammazhvar's feet. He says the Lord accepts the service of Nityasuris and of others happily. Rama was pleased both with Lakshmana's service and with that of the monkeys. Having said all this,

Alavandar finally says that Nammazhvar's feet are 'sarvam' – everything, for him. Parents, wife and children all pertain to this world. When Alavandar says 'sarvam', after having spoken of all worldly relations, it shows, that to him, even moksha is Nammazhvar's feet. He says it is so not only for him, but for everyone associated with him.

Rallies called off in Kabul after Taliban outlaw demonstrations

Interim govt. says protests will need prior authorisation from the Justice Ministry

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Protest organisers cancelled rallies in Kabul on Thursday after the Taliban effectively banned demonstrations, warning that violators "will face severe legal action".

Earlier this week, armed fighters dispersed hundreds of protesters in cities across Afghanistan, including the capital Kabul, Faizabad in the northeast and in Herat in the west, where two people were shot dead.

Late on Wednesday, the Taliban moved to snuff out any further civil unrest, saying protests would need prior authorisation from the Justice Ministry, adding that "for the time being" no demonstrations were allowed.

There was a noticeably stronger Taliban presence on the streets of Kabul on Thursday morning as armed fighters, including special forces in military fatigues, stood guard on street corners and manned checkpoints. An organiser of a protest outside the Pakistan Embassy – where gunmen sprayed shots into the air on Tuesday to disperse a rally – said on Thursday it had been cancelled because of the overnight ban.

Taking a stand: Afghan women shouting slogans during a protest rally in Kabul on September 7. ▪AFP

At the site of another planned protest in the city, there were no signs of a demonstration.

A Taliban interim government, drawn exclusively from loyalist ranks, formally began work this week with established hardliners in all key posts and no women. All the top positions were handed to key leaders from the movement and in particular the Haqqani Network – the most violent Taliban faction.

The feared Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice – previously responsible for arresting and punishing people for failing to implement the movement's restrictive interpretation of sharia – is being reinstated.

There were other superficial signs of the Taliban tightening their grip. Images on social media showed the country's main airport – previously dubbed Hamid Karzai International, after the first post-Taliban President – had been renamed Kabul International.

A public holiday scheduled for Thursday honouring Ahmad Shah Massoud, the famed anti-Taliban resistance fighter assassinated 20 years ago by an al-Qaeda suicide squad, was also cancelled.

20 years on, an inconclusive war on terror

Instead of one centralised outfit like in 2001, the world now has many al-Qaedas

STANLY JOHNY

"Our war on terror begins with al-Qaeda, but it does not end there," former U.S. President George W. Bush said days after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. "It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated," he told the U.S. Congress.

Afghanistan was the first outpost in what the Bush administration called a "global war on terror". The U.S. invaded Afghanistan to get rid of the Taliban regime, which refused to hand over 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden, and defeat al-Qaeda. Twenty years later, the U.S. exited a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan with al-Qaeda networks spread across many countries.

War on al-Qaeda

When the 9/11 attack was planned and executed, al-Qaeda had a permanent base in the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. The U.S. invasion toppled the Taliban regime and killed many al-Qaeda terrorists and disrupted their network in Afghanistan. It was the heaviest blow to al-Qaeda, which had carried out multiple bombings in the past targeting the U.S., including the Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 and the attack on *USS Cole* off Aden, Yemen, in 2000.

But al-Qaeda would find an opportunity to regroup and rebuild its organisation in Iraq after the 2003 American invasion. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordan-born al-Qaeda leader, established al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), capitalising on the chaos Iraq fell into after the invasion. Zarqawi also exploited the resentment among Iraq's Sunni community towards the political changes in Baghdad (Shias, the country's oppressed majority under Saddam Hussein's rule, rose to power after the invasion) and launched a sectarian civil war.

Grim reminder: A September 11, 2001 photo of a hijacked aircraft approaching the twin towers in New York. ▪AFP

So within a few years of the U.S.'s Afghan invasion, al-Qaeda found a new haven in post-Saddam Iraq.

The rise of IS

Zarqawi was killed in 2006 and AQI suffered setbacks as Iraqi Sunnis, backed by U.S. forces and the central government, formed local militias to take on the terrorists. This calmed Iraq, but it did not last long. When Arab regimes were rocked by protests in 2011, jihadists found a new opportunity amid the chaos that followed. In Syria, regional rivals of President Bashar al-Assad and their allies, including the U.S., offered support to different rebel groups, pulling the country into a deadly civil war. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who was the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq, the new avatar of AQI, sent a group of his militants under the command of Abu Mohammad al-Joulani across the border to Syria. Joulani would set up a new al-Qaeda branch in Syria – Jabhat al-Nusra – which declared war on President Assad's government.

Nusra's brutal tactics and Islamist vigour helped the group capture territories in the chaotic, multi-directional Syrian civil war. An ambitious Baghdadi announced the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), involving his group in Iraq and al-Nusra in

NEWS ANALYSIS

Syria. Joulani, who was backed by the al-Qaeda core led by Ayman al- Zawahiri, bin Laden's successor, fell out with Baghdadi. But the faction of the Nusra that backed Baghdadi's call for an Islamic State joined his new outfit, which would emerge as the most ferocious jihadist group from the Syrian civil war, capturing territories from Syria's Raqqa to Iraq's Mosul and Falluja, practically erasing the border between the two countries.

For a few years, the IS would reign as the world's most dangerous terrorist outfit, but it would be defeated by concerted attempts by several players, including Kurdish and Shia militias and the U.S., Syria. Iraq, Iran and Russia.

Metastasised threat

If al-Qaeda was concentrated in Afghanistan before September 11, they decentralised themselves and spread to different parts of the world during the course of the war on terror. The IS did the same when its 'Caliphate' came under attack in Iraq and Syria. It opened new provinces in other war-torn countries such as Afghanistan, where the civil war was going on, and Libya, which fell into chaos after the NATO invasion of 2011. Boko Haram, a jihadist group that came up in Nigeria, declared its loyalty to the IS, allowing the group to expand its operations in Africa.

Baghdadi is dead, but the man he sent to Syria to open a local branch of al-Qaeda, Abu Mohammad al-Joulani, is now the de facto ruler of Idlib, the province that stays outside the control of Mr. Assad's government. Al-Qaeda has different operational branches now such as al-Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula and al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. In Africa, both al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS Greater Sahara and IS West Africa Province) have set up units, which have carried out brutal attacks in recent years, especially in the Sahel region. In Somalia, al-Shabab still remains strong.

When the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan, its first outpost in the war on terror, after 20 years of fighting, the terror threat, as President Joe Biden said, has "metastasized across the world". Instead of one centralised outfit with a base, the world now has many al-Qaedas.

'They crushed my face against the concrete'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Two Afghan journalists were left with ugly welts and bruises after being beaten and detained for hours by Taliban fighters for covering a protest in Kabul.

The pair were picked up at a demonstration on Wednesday and taken to a police station in the capital, where they say they were punched and beaten with batons, electrical cables and whips after being accused of organising the protest.

"One of the Taliban put his foot on my head, crushed my face against the concrete. They kicked me in the head... I thought they were going to kill me," photographer Nematullah Naqdi said.

Mr. Naqdi and his colleague Taqi Daryabi, a reporter, who both work for *Etilaat Roz* (Information Daily) had been assigned to cover a small protest in front of a police station in Kabul by women demanding the right to work and education.

200 foreigners, including Americans, fly out of Kabul

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUK

An estimated 200 foreigners, including Americans, left Afghanistan on a commercial flight out of Kabul on Thursday, the first such large-scale departure since the U.S. completed its frantic withdrawal over a week ago. The Qatar Airways flight to Doha marked a breakthrough in the bumpy coordination between the U.S. and the Taliban rulers.

A senior U.S. official said two senior Taliban officials helped facilitate the departure – the new Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. Americans, U.S. green card holders and other nationalities, including Germans, Hungarians and Canadians, were aboard, the official said.

Qatari Envoy Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani said another 200 passengers will leave Afghanistan on Friday.

A diplomat said foreigners, including Americans, will depart in the next couple of days.

Al-Qaeda may seek a comeback in Afghanistan: Pentagon chief

U.S. prepared to prevent return of extremist group: Austin

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KUWAIT CITY

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Thursday al-Qaeda may attempt to regenerate in Afghanistan following an American withdrawal that has left the Taliban in power.

Mr. Austin spoke to reporters in Kuwait City at the conclusion of a four-day tour of Gulf states. He said Washington was prepared to prevent a return of the extremist group in Afghanistan that would threaten the U.S.

"The whole community is kind of watching to see what happens and whether or not al-Qaeda has the ability to regenerate in Afghanistan," he said. "The nature of al-Qaeda and (the Islamic State group) is they will always attempt to find space to grow and regenerate, whether it's there, whether it's in Somalia, or whether it's in any other ungoverned space. I think that's the nature of the organisation."

Lloyd Austin

The Taliban had provided al-Qaeda with sanctuary while it ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. The U.S. invaded and overthrew the Taliban after it refused to turn over al-Qaeda leaders following the September 11, 2001 attack on the United States. During the course of the 20-year U.S. war, al-Qaeda was vastly diminished, but questions have arisen about its future prospects with the Taliban back in Kabul.

"We put the Taliban on notice that we expect them to not allow that to happen," Mr. Austin said, referring to the possibility of al-Qaeda using Afghanistan as a staging base in future.

In a February 2020 agreement with the Trump administration, the Taliban leaders pledged not to support al-Qaeda or other extremist groups that would threaten the United States. But U.S. officials believe the Taliban maintain ties to al-Qaeda, and many nations, including the Gulf Arab states, are concerned that the Taliban's return to power could open the door to a resurgence of al-Qaeda influence.

Mr. Austin asserted that the U.S. military is capable of containing al-Qaeda or any other extremist threat to the U.S. emanating from Afghanistan by using surveillance and strike aircraft based elsewhere, including in the Gulf.

Merkel downplays poll ratings

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN

Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday that her party is fighting and was always aware that it wouldn't "automatically" hold on to Germany's top job after her 16 years in power, downplaying alarming poll ratings.

Recent polls have shown Ms. Merkel's Union bloc under would-be successor Armin Laschet in second place behind the centre-left Social Democrats, with very low support of around 20%. It is running short of time to turn things around before the September 26 parliamentary election.

Asked whether she was worried about her record being sullied by her party losing the chancellery, Ms. Merkel said, "We are in the middle of the election campaign and I can see that (it is) really fighting." She added that what happens on election day counts, so she won't speculate.

ELSEWHERE

Slimmed-down Kim enjoys toned-down parade

SEOUL

Military search dogs and goose-stepping trainers. Health workers wearing gas masks and red hazmat suits. And a slimmed down, beaming Kim Jong-un in a business suit. The parade marking North Korea's celebration of its 73rd anniversary was a marked departure from past militaristic displays, with a domestic audience worried about the pandemic likely in mind. The parade on Wednesday centred around paramilitary organisations and public security forces protecting the capital, Pyongyang, instead of the military units that handle the weapons in the North Korean leader's nuclear and missile arsenal. AP

Sri Lanka suggests delaying pregnancy over COVID risks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan women were urged to delay getting pregnant after more than 40 expectant mothers died of COVID-19 in four months, the Health Ministry said on Thursday.

The island nation, which recorded its first maternal coronavirus death in May, is battling a spike in Delta variant infections after travel restrictions were eased for local New Year celebrations in mid-April.

"Usually, we have 90 to 100 maternal deaths a year, but since the start of the third wave we have recorded 41 deaths of pregnant women from COVID alone," said Chitramali de Silva, a director of the government's Health Promotion Bureau.

A pregnant woman being administered the COVID-19 vaccine in Colombo. ▪AFP

Government obstetrician and gynaecologist Harsha Atapattu said he was urging "newly-weds, as well as those who are trying to have a baby, to delay it by at least a year because of the risks of COVID-19".

Mr. De Silva said about 5,500 expectant mothers had been infected. About 70% were fully vaccinated, he added.

'Brexit pact could sink N. Ireland govt.'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

The leader of Northern Ireland's biggest party on Thursday suspended cooperation with Dublin and warned he might collapse the province's devolved government in protest against a protocol between the United Kingdom and the European Union regulating post-Brexit trade.

Democratic Unionist Party leader Jeffrey Donaldson demanded "significant and substantial changes" to the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Mr. Donaldson said it was "a matter of political reality, that our political institutions will not survive a failure to resolve the problems that the protocol has created".

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-II)
MM Building, Old Power House Premises,
Near Ram Mandir, Banipark, Jaipur-302006
Tel. 0141-2202607, E-Mail id:- semm2@jvvnl.org
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
e-tenders are invited for purchase of 5 KVA single phase Aluminium wound Distribution Transformers BIS Level - 2 with ICB (TN-2697, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00224). All the details regarding tenders are available at web site www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. In future, corrigendum/ extension, if any, shall be published only at above web sites.
Raj.samwad/C/21/5843 JPR NO. 2635 (2021) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-II)
For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

TELANGANA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A STATE GOVT. UNDERTAKING)
Regd. Office: "B" Block, # 6-3-655/1/A, Civil Supplies Bhavan, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 082, Telangana
e-Tender Reference No. Mktg/M2/703/TG/2021-22, Date: 09.09.2021
e-TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited for appointment of separate transport contractors for transportation of gunnies from Jute Mills & Godowns located in (1) Vizianagaram / Srikakulam District, AP State (Tender-I) (2) Eluru District, AP State (Tender-II) to various places in the Districts of Telangana State.
1. Technical Bid Opening Date & Time : 20-09-2021 at 12.00 noon.
2. Financial Bid Opening Date & Time 20-09-2021 at 3.30 P.M.
The e-tender notification can be viewed in the e-procurement website of Telangana State at https://tender.telangana.gov.in/ and TSCSCL official site at www.tscscl.telangana.gov.in/. Tenders should be filed online https://tender.telangana.gov.in/
DIPR R.O.No.15851-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22 Dt. 09.09.2021 Sd/- Vice Chairman & Managing Director

सिपेट: पेट्रोकेमिकल्स तकनीकी संस्थान (आई.पी.टी)
(रसायन एवं पैट्रो रसायन विभाग), रसायन एवं उर्वरक मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, गिण्डी , चेन्नै. 600 032
CIPET: INSTITUTE OF PETROCHEMICALS TECHNOLOGY (IPT)
(Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India)
TVK Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600 032
Ph:044-2225 4701-06, Fax: 044-2225 4707
E-mail:chennai@cipet.gov.in website : www.cipet.gov.in
E-Tender No.CIPET/IPT/CHN/CAD-CAM/Design Software/2021-22/03. Dated 08th Sept 2021
CIPET: IPT, Chennai, invites E-tender online Two Bid System (Technical & Commercial Bid) from the OEM /Reputed / Authorized supplier/dealer for supply of CAD-CAM software viz. **NX,CATIA,MOLD FLOW,ANSYS,ALIAS and Autodesk Delcam PowerMill (educational license).** The details of the software viz. qty, no. of users, terms and conditions, etc are available in the tender document hosted at www.tenderwizard.com/CIPET and www.cipet.gov.in.
The last date for submission of bids online is 29/09/2021 by 16.00 hrs. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to apply only through e-tender portal. For more details, please visit the website and queries, if any, contact: Senior Officer (P&A), CIPET: IPT Chennai [9884316250].
प्रधान निदेशक एवं प्रमुख/Principal Director & Head

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO.
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan,
H.B. Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax:- +91-674-2391444
E-mail- mail@watcoodisha.in, md@ watcoodisha.in
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
Bid Identification No. WATCO(W) - 13/2021-22 Dtd.04.09.2021
WATCO No.5997 Date: 04.09.2021
1. Name of the Work :- "SUPPLY OF DRESS FOR SANITATION WORKERS FROM REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS / SUPPLIERS / DEALER OF GARMENTS."
2. Estimated cost :- Rs. 250.00Lakh
3. Period of completion :- 3 (Three) Months.
4. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal :- From 11.00 AM of Dt. 13.09.2021 to 5.00 PM of 27.09.2021
5. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 5.00 PM of 27.09.2021
6. Date & time of opening of technical bids :- 12.30 PM of Dt. 04.10.2021.
7. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid :- Managing Director, WATCO Telefax:- 0674-2391444. E-Mail: mail@watcoodisha.in md@ watcoodisha.in
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd/- (CEO) WATCO
C-941 OIPR- 13083/11/0024/2122

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)
Nigam Bhavan, 1st Floor, Sector-16, Gandhinagar-382016
Request for Proposal
The RFP is invited by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. (TCGL), for the appointment of Architect cum Consultant for **"Holistic Development of Porbandar"** Estimated Cost of the Project Rs.50,00,00,000/-.The interested Architect cum Consultant may download the RFP document form the website: **www.nprocure.com** from 09/09/2021 3:00 pm onward Last dates of submission online: 29/09/2021 up to 3.00pm. Prebid meeting - Dt. 17/09/2021, 3:00 pm. RFP may also be referred on **www.gujarattourism.com.**
Managing Director of TCGL reserves the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
Managing Director

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691 583 Kollam, Kerala, India,
Phone: +91-476-2651215 to 2651217. Fax : +91-0476-2680101.
Email: contact@kmml.com , URL:www.kmml.com
SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE

	Tender ID	Items
1	2021_KMML_437139_1	For the supply of 1,85,000 Nos of Polythene Product Bags

Any Amendment/Corrigendum for the above tenders shall be notified through above web site & Company's website only.
Chavara 09.09.2021 sd/-, HOD(MS), For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

2	2021_KMML_436819_1	For the supply of PTFE Pipe and Fittings

3.Sealed competitive tenders are invited from interested parties for the purchase and removal of Unburned NPF Pet Coke(Waste)-5000 MT on one time basis. Interested parties can quote for entire quantity or part thereof. The sale will be on "as is where is condition." Tender form can be had from the office of the DGM(Mtls).Titanium Dioxide Pigment Unit, Sankaramangalam, Chavara-691583, Kollam. **Last Date of issue of Tender : 27/09/2021 till 03.00 PM. Last Date of Receipt of Tender : 28/09/2021 till 02.00 PM. Tender Opening Date & Time : 28/09/2021 at 03.00 PM. Cost of Tender Form : Rs.28250/-**(GST+ Cess inclusive). Any further details required can be had from the undersigned. Note: Those who download the Tender Documents should enclose a DD for Rs.28250/-(GST&Cess inclusive)as Tender form fee. Tenders submitted without Tender Form fee and EMD will not be considered.
Chavara 09.09.2021 sd/-, DGM(Mtls), For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd
Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium,Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Sillimanite

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department,
Mandya Division, Mandya, Phone: 08232-222363,
email:eerwsmdy@gmail.com
No. EE/RDW&SD/MDY/SWMUTIPPER(Part-2)/2021-22/1197
Dated:07-09-2021.
Short Term Tender Notification NO-13/2021-22
(Two Cover System)
On behalf of Governor of karnataka, The Executive Engineer, RDW&SD, Mandya invited tender for Supply of 39 Three Wheeler Garbage Vehicle in Mandya District from eligible Manufacturer's/Authorised dealers. Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids : **22.09.2021 Time: 05:30 PM,** Pre-Bid Meeting Date : **17.09.2021 Time:11:00 AM (Place:o/o EE, RDWSD, Mandya),** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening : **24.09.2021 Time: 11:00 AM,** Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening : **28.09.2021 Time:11:00 AM.** More details can be obtained through e-procurement portal of Govt of karnataka **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or from this office during working hours. **Phone No: 08232-222363.**
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Mandya
DIPR/AD-MDY/MCA/328/2021-22

MARKET WATCH

	09-09-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,305	0.09
US Dollar	73.50	0.14
Gold	45,952	-0.41
Brent oil	72.33	-0.22

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	749.70	2.85
Asian Paints	3346.35	9.75
Axis Bank	790.15	-4.55
Bajaj Auto	3700.60	-24.75
Bajaj Finserv	16750.50	189.75
Bajaj Finance	7430.65	-32.55
Bharti Airtel	686.15	18.30
BPCL	491.15	1.60
Britannia Ind	4070.80	9.40
Cipla	949.30	-2.50
Coal India	148.65	-0.50
Divis Lab	5054.90	-30.15
Dr Reddys Lab	4912.05	0.75
Eicher Motors	2818.20	18.20
Grasim Ind	1597.90	21.20
HCL Tech	1198.55	9.75
HDFC	2830.10	0.80
HDFC Bank	1568.60	-7.80
HDFC Life	737.35	-6.30
Hero MotoCorp	2796.70	-1.65
Hindalco	463.55	7.25
Hind Unilever	2810.65	9.75
ICICI Bank	720.25	-0.70
IndusInd Bank	999.50	-0.10
Infosys	1691.60	-1.65
Indian OilCorp	112.80	0.20
ITC	212.65	1.40
JSW Steel	688.95	1.90
Kotak Bank	1817.85	2.50
L&T	1670.05	3.50
M&M	750.75	-4.00
Maruti Suzuki	6802.25	21.00
Nestle India Ltd.	20457.20	617.60
NTPC	114.55	0.50
ONGC	122.15	3.20
PowerGrid Corp	173.50	0.65
Reliance Ind	2425.60	-5.75
SBI Life	1173.20	-46.85
State Bank	432.30	0.95
Shree Cement	30671.35	-123.45
Sun Pharma	776.30	-1.15
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	875.60	-4.20
Tata Motors	298.95	3.70
Tata Steel	1447.00	17.15
TCS	3791.40	17.25
Tech Mahindra	1433.25	5.40
Titan	2034.30	-21.65
UltraTech Cement	7939.65	-53.25
UPL	757.90	-4.10
Wipro	662.35	0.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 09

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.30	73.62
Euro	86.73	87.11
British Pound	101.26	101.71
Japanese Yen (100)	66.67	66.99
Chinese Yuan	11.35	11.40
Swiss Franc	79.73	80.08
Singapore Dollar	54.56	54.81
Canadian Dollar	57.77	58.02
Malaysian Ringitt	17.66	17.75

Source:Indian Bank

TAFE helps TN farmers with free rental tractors

CHENNAI

TAFE, through its free tractor rental scheme, enabled about 64,000 small and marginal farmers in Tamil Nadu to continue farming operations during the second wave of the COVID outbreak.

Centre to pay incentive dues of ₹56,000 cr. in relief to exporters

Govt. expects move will spur higher growth after a 67% increase in goods export

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The Centre will release ₹56,027 crore in the current fiscal to disburse all pending export incentives. In a release on Thursday, the government said the benefits will be disbursed to more than 45,000 exporters, of which 98% are MSMEs.

"This amount includes claims relating to MEIS, SEIS, RoSL, RoSCTL, other scrip-based schemes relating to earlier policies and the remission support for RoDTEP and RoSCTL for exports made in the 4th quarter of FY 20-21," it said.

Total disbursements will include ₹33,010 crore for MEIS, ₹10,002 crore for SEIS, ₹5,286 cr for RoSCTL, ₹330 crore for RoSL, ₹2,568 crore for RoDTEP, and ₹4,831 crore for other legacy Schemes like Target Plus. This amount is over and above the duty remission amount of ₹12,454 crore for the RoDTEP scheme and ₹6,946 crore for RoSCTL scheme already announced for exports made in this fiscal.

A leg up: For goods exports, sectors under the MEIS plan may claim benefits for shipments made in earlier years. ▪REUTERS

Merchandise exports for April-August 2021 rose 67% to almost $164 billion from a year earlier, marking a 23% growth over 2019-2020.

Clearing all pending export incentives in this fiscal "will lead to even more rapid export growth in coming months," it said.

For merchandise exports, all sectors covered under MEIS, such as pharma, iron and steel, engineering, chemicals, fisheries, agriculture and allied sectors, auto and auto components will be able to claim benefits for exports made in earlier years.

Service sector exporters may claim SEIS benefits for 2019-2020, for which ₹2,061 crore has been provisioned.

Exporters should file claims relating to earlier years by December 31. An online portal will soon be enabled to accept MEIS and applications, the Centre said.

Das says RBI still wary of cryptocurrency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said the central bank continues to have "serious and major" concerns about cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and has conveyed them to the government.

It is for the government to take a call on what to do in the matter, Mr. Das said at an event, adding that he would like to have "credible explanations and answers" on the value such instruments can get to the Indian economy.

Private cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, which are unregulated, mined through a complex process and have highly volatile prices, are under the regulatory gaze in India despite their proliferation as an asset class.

Not alone: General Motors, Man Trucks and Harley-Davidson preceded Ford in moving out of India. ▪REUTERS

Ford's exit to impact dealers employing 40,000, says FADA

'Franchisee Protection Act long due'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In the wake of Ford Motor Company's announcement that it would stop manufacturing vehicles in India, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on Thursday said the move would severely impact almost 170 dealers across the country, who had invested about ₹2,000 crore and employ 40,000 people.

Renewing its demand for the 'Franchisee Protection Act', the federation pointed out that Ford India had appointed multiple dealers as recently as five months ago. These dealers would be the most hit, it said.

The industry body noted that Ford Motor's was the fifth big exit from India since 2017, after General Motors, Man Trucks, Harley-Davidson and UM Lohia. Besides, several small electric vehicle players had also wound down operations.

'Shocking development'

Terming the announcement as "shocking", FADA President Vinkesh Gulati said Ford India President & MD Anurag Mehrotra had called and assured him that the company would adequately compensate dealers who continue to offer vehicle service to customers.

"Though this is a good beginning, it is not enough as there are about 170 dealers who, in turn, have about 391 outlets and have invested approximately ₹2,000 crore for setting up their dealerships," Mr. Gulati said. He added that while Ford India employed 4,000 people, these dealerships employed about 40,000 people.

The federation also pointed out that Ford India dealers currently hold about 1,000 vehicles worth ₹150 crore via inventory funding from reputed Indian banks, besides hundreds of test-drive vehicles.

"FADA has been requesting the Government of India to roll out a 'Franchisee Protection Act'... due to its unavailability, auto dealers are not adequately compensated like their counterparts in Mexico, Brazil, Russia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Italy, Australia and Sweden, among others," FADA said.

The group also pointed out that a Parliamentary panel had recommended in December 2020 that the Ministry of Heavy Industries should enact the Franchisee Protection Act to help protect the interests of automobile dealers in the country.

SC stays proceedings in Amazon-Future case

Move to ensure 'balance of interests'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed proceedings in the dispute between Future Group and Amazon over a nearly ₹25,000-crore merger deal with Reliance Retail taking into consideration the "balance of interests of both parties".

Notice to authorities

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, while issuing notice, ordered statutory authorities, including the National Company Law Tribunal, the Competition Commission of India, and the Securities and Exchange Board of India to not pass any orders in matters connected to the dispute for the next four weeks. The order was passed after Future Group and Amazon consented.

The court's stay order and subsequent freeze on any action by statutory authorities for the next four weeks comes as a relief for the Future Group, which had moved the apex court to stay an order passed by the Delhi High Court to attach the assets of Future Coupons, Future Retail and Future Group promoter Kishore Biyani.

A Single Judge of the Delhi High Court had ordered the attachment of assets in March. It had directed the Future Group firms and promoters to file their affidavits giving details of their assets for violating an Emergency Arbitrator award.

Sugar exports set to cross 70 lakh tonnes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

Sugar exports during the 11 months of the current sugar season (October 2020 to September 2021) stand at 66.70 lakh tonnes, almost 11 lakh tonnes higher compared with the same period last season, according to the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA).

According to ISMA, the data for the current season includes about 4.49 lakh tonnes of exports done under the Maximum Admissible Export Quota (MAEQ) of the 2019-2020 season.

As on September 6, 2021, another 2.29 lakh tonnes of sugar is at the ports, implying that by the end of this season in another 20 days, total exports will cross 70 lakh tonnes.

SC upholds arbitral award against DMRC

Delhi Metro told to pay RInfra ₹2,782 cr.

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a 2017 Arbitral Tribunal direction to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to make a termination payment of ₹2,782.33 crore to Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt. Ltd. (DAMEPL), promoted by Reliance Infrastructure, in connection with the Airport Metro Express Line (AMEL) project.

The metro line extends 22.7 km from New Delhi Railway Station to Dwarka Sector 21 via Indira Gandhi International Airport.

The Arbitral Tribunal concluded that there were 1,551 cracks in 367 girders, i.e., 72% of the girders were affected by such cracks.

However, when the case

went to the Delhi High Court in appeal, a Division Bench set aside the Tribunal order. Following this, DAMEPL moved the apex court.

The main question before the apex court was whether the Division Bench was 'right' in interfering in the Arbitral Tribunal's order.

Overruling the Division Bench decision, an SC Bench held that High Courts cannot interfere with Arbitral Tribunal awards as a matter of routine.

TV PICKS

Sri Lanka vs South Africa: 1st T20I, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.

US Open 2021: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m. & 4.30 a.m. (Saturday)

WC 2022 Qualifiers: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.15 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF

North Korea suspended for Tokyo no-show

LAUSANNE

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has suspended the North Korean National Olympic Committee until the end of 2022 for its Tokyo Games no-show, IOC chief Thomas Bach announced on Wednesday. The suspension covers the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics. North Korea was the only one of over 200 NOCs not to participate in the delayed 2020 Games in Japan. AFP

BWF cancels Syed Modi tournament

LUCKNOW

The Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament, to be held here from October 12 to 17, was on Thursday cancelled by the Badminton World Federation for the second year in a row. PTI

Ramkumar in quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
CASSIS (FRANCE)

Qualifier Ramkumar Ramanathan beat Frenchman Hugo Grenier 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals of the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament here.

Other results: $15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Pre-quarterfinals: Dane Sweeny (Aus) bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-4, 6-3.

$15,000 ITF men, Cairo, Egypt: Pre-quarterfinals: Santiago De la Fuente (Arg) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-4, 7-6 (6).

England loses perfect record

Italy, Germany, Spain and Belgium pull ahead in their groups

WC QUALIFIERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

England's perfect record in World Cup qualifying vanished after conceding a stoppage-time equaliser in Poland, while Italy, Germany, Spain and Belgium all won to build big leads in their groups on the road to Qatar.

Harry Kane's 41st goal for England – a 30-metre pile driver – was cancelled out when Robert Lewandowski crossed for Damian Szymanski to head home in the second minute of injury time in a 1-1 draw in Warsaw.

England's five-match winning run in qualifying ended, leaving Denmark as the only nation with a 100% record so far.

Four-point advantage

Still, England holds a four-point lead with four games remaining and should have no problem getting to next year's World Cup.

Thunderbolt: Harry Kane scores from 30 metres out for England's opener. ▪REUTERS

The results: Group B: Kosovo 0 lost to Spain 2 (Fornals 32, F. Torres 90); Greece 2 (Bakasetas 62, Pavlidis 78) bt Sweden 1 (Quaison 80).

Group C: Northern Ireland 0 drew with Switzerland 0; Italy 5 (Kean 11, 29, Utkus 14-og, Raspadori 24, Di Lorenzo 54) bt Lithuania 0.

Group E: Belarus 0 lost to Belgium 1 (Praet 33); Wales 0 drew with Estonia 0.

Group I: Hungary 2 (Szalai 9-pen, Botka 18) bt Andorra 1 (Llovera 82); Albania 5 (Manaj 32, Laci 58, Broja 61, Hysaj 68, Uzuni 80) bt San Marino 0; Poland 1 (Swiderski 90+2) drew with England 1 (Kane 72).

Group J: Armenia 1 (Mkhitaryan 45+5-pen) drew with Liechtenstein 1 (Frick 80); North Macedonia 0 drew with Romania 0; Iceland 0 lost to Germany 4 (Gnabry 4, Ruediger 24, Sane 56, Werner 89).

FC Bengaluru United books knockout berth

Beats IAF to record second straight win

DURAND CUP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

FC Bengaluru United (FCBU) downed IAF 4-2 in a preliminary leg Group A match at the Kalyani Stadium on Thursday, becoming the first team to make it to the knockout stage of the Durand Cup.

Spanish forward Pedro Manzi found the target twice and set up Yumnam Gopi Singh for the other two as FCBU registered its second consecutive win. Captain Vivek Kumar scored both goals for IAF.

21st minute penalty

FCBU, which had beaten CRPF by a solitary goal in its opening match, went ahead in the 21st minute when Manzi scored off a penalty.

It doubled the lead seven minutes later through Gopi. Three minutes before the break, Vivek pulled a goal back for the Airmen before nodding home the equaliser off a corner in the 52nd minute.

Vivek had a few chances to put IAF ahead, but failed to do so.

On the other hand, the Manzi-Gopi combination helped FCBU regain the lead in the 72nd minute before the Spaniard made it 4-2 in stoppage time.

Red downs Rifles

At the Salt Lake Stadium, Army Red defeated Assam Rifles 4-1 to begin its campaign in style in Group D.

The results:

Group A: Indian Air Force 2 (Vivek 42, 52) lost to FC Bengaluru United 4 (Pedro Manzi 21-pen, 90+1, Yumnam Gopi Singh 28, 72).

Group D: Assam Rifles 1 (Samujal Rabha 41) lost to Army 4 (Liton Shil 39, Bikash Thapa 66, Sushil Shah 75-pen, Suresh Meitei 82).

TTFI calls for executive committee meeting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) has called its executive committee meeting on Saturday to discuss star player Manika Batra's allegations of match-fixing against national coach Soumyadeep Roy. After Manika's allegation, in response to the TTFI's showcause notice, that the national coach had asked her to throw a match during the Olympic qualifiers in March, the federation had asked Roy for a written response which he has submitted.

"The issue will be discussed in the virtual meeting and I will propose formation of an inquiry panel but the committee will take the final call," TTFI secretary Arun Banerjee said on Thursday. TTFI president Dushyant Chautala is expected to attend.

United States drubs Honduras, revives its campaign

Canada blanks El Salvador; Mexico draws late against Panama

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN PEDRO SULA (HONDURAS)

Antonee Robinson and Ricardo Pepi scored their first international goals after a half-time change in formation, Brenden Aaronson and Sebastian Lletget added late goals and the United States revived its World Cup qualifying campaign with a 4-1 win over Honduras on Wednesday night.

U.S. captain Christian Pulisic joined the lengthy American injured list, limping off in the 60th.

Brayan Maya put Honduras ahead in the 27th minute of a one-sided first half as the Catrachos dominated before a horn-blowing full house at Estadio Olimpico Metropolitano.

Slick pass

Robinson scored in the 48th minute and Pepi, starting in his international debut, in the 75th. Aaronson scored off a slick pass from Pepi in the 86th, and Lletget added his eighth international goal in the third minute of stoppage as Catrachos fans cheers turned to boos and whistles.

"We just fought," Lletget said. "We knew we just had to match their intensity. That was the biggest change in the second half."

Criticised for waiting too long to insert substitutes on Sunday against Canada, U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter injected Robinson, Lletget and Aaronson to start the second half for John Brooks, George Bello and Josh Sargent.

Mexico leads the North and Central American and Caribbean with seven points, followed by Panama, Canada and the U.S. with five each. Honduras and El Salvador have two each, and Jamaica none.

Decent shape

Following draws at El Salvador and at home against Canada, the U.S. is in decent shape after three of the 14 matches. Qualifying resumes in October.

Canada beat visiting El Salvador 3-0 on goals by Atiba Hutchison, Jonathan David and Tajon Buchanan. Mexico got a 76th-minute goal from Jesus Corona in a 1-1 draw at Panama, which went ahead on Rolando Blackburn's 28th-minute goal.

Costa Rica was held to a 1-1 draw by visiting Jamaica. Jimmy Marin scored in the third minute for the hosts and Shamar Nicholson tied the score in the 47th.

The results: Canada 3 (Hutchinson 6, David 11, Buchanan 59) bt El Salvador 0; Panama 1 (Blackburn 28) drew with Mexico 1 (Corona 76); Costa Rica 1 (Marin 3) drew with Jamaica 1 (Nicholson 47); Honduras 1 (Moya 27) lost to United States 4 (Antonee Robinson 48, Pepi 75, Aaronson 86, Lletget 90+3).

Celebration time: Antonee Robinson pulls out a somersault after scoring United States' first goal. ▪AP

India's physio tests positive, but final Test set to go ahead

Parmar's case triggers a discussion between BCCI and ECB on holding the Old Trafford game; Indian squad members returned negative results

INDIA IN ENG

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

After a day of high drama, which saw India's physiotherapist Yogesh Parmar returning a positive test for COVID-19 and the BCCI entering into negotiations with the ECB for calling off the fifth Test, the Indians will take the field for a mouth-watering series finale against England at Old Trafford in Manchester on Friday.

Health risk

Parmar's positive lateral flow test on Wednesday evening came to light on Thursday afternoon. It led to the Indian team expressing reservations about playing the final Test considering the health risks posed to them and their family members.

However, after several hectic rounds of discussions between the two boards, it was agreed to go ahead with the Test. The news was conveyed to the Indian players late on Thursday night, asking them to get ready for the game.

It will be interesting to see if any of the Indian cricketers, apprehensive about playing the match, makes himself unavailable for the contest.

After a conference call with the Indian team management early on Thursday, the BCCI got in touch with the ECB.

With the IPL scheduled to resume in the United Arab Emirates on September 19, the Indian board wasn't keen on risking the health of the players just days before the tournament and also jeopardising the league.

Once the RT-PCR tests of every member of the Indian camp, except Parmar's, returned negative late on Thursday, the ECB insisted that the Old Trafford Test had to go ahead.

Sticking to its stand

While the BCCI wanted the game to be abandoned and the fifth Test rescheduled to next year, the ECB stuck to its stand that the game will have to be forfeited – and not abandoned – by India as the local medical authorities had cleared the players.

The Indian board eventually decided to not strain its relationship with a close ally. With the players asking the BCCI to take the final call, it was agreed that unless any other squad member developed symptoms overnight, the Test will go on as scheduled.

It will mean that the COVID-19 circumstances and weather permitting (it is expected to rain in Manchester on Friday), Rohit Sharma and Cheteshwar Pujara's fitness will be assessed on the morning of the match. The two did not take the field during England's second innings at The Oval after the former hurt his left knee and the latter his left ankle.

Off-spinner R. Ashwin is expected to make his first appearance of the series, with Ravindra Jadeja unlikely to be available for the game owing to a niggle.

No pre-match interaction

With the players confined to their rooms since Wednesday night after undergoing RT-PCR tests following Parmar's positive result, the Indian team management cancelled its customary pre-match media interaction.

Parmar's positive test has taken the number of COVID-19 cases in India's entourage to four, with head coach Ravi Shastri, bowling coach B. Arun and fielding coach R. Sridhar having been diagnosed positive during the fourth Test at The Oval in London last week.

Nitin Patel, the senior physio, was isolated in London after being traced as the trio's close contact.

He is, however, understood to have travelled to Manchester on Thursday after having two negative RT-PCR tests.

The clouds clear: After a day of uncertainty, Kohli and Root will walk out for the toss on Friday. ▪ GETTY IMAGES

India to tour South Africa in December

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JOHANNESBURG

Cricket South Africa director of cricket Graeme Smith announced on Thursday that South Africa will welcome India during the 2020/2021 season in what he described as "a full tour" which will include three Test matches.

Smith was speaking at a televised launch of the forthcoming campaign. Two Tests will be played in Johannesburg, from December 17 to 21 and from January 3 to 7. Centurion will host the second Test from December 26 to 30. They will be part of the World Test championship.

India has never won a Test series in South Africa. The Tests will be followed by three ODIs and four T20Is, which will be held at Cape Town and Paarl.

Test schedule

- **First Test:** Dec. 17 to 21 (Johannesburg)
- **Second Test:** Dec. 26 to 30 (Centurion)

T20 WORLD CUP SQUADS

BANGLADESH
Mahmudullah (Capt.), Mohammed Naim, Soumya Sarkar, Liton Das, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Afif Hossain, Nurul Hasan, Mahedi Hasan, Nasum Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, Taskin Ahmed, Mohammad Saifuddin, and Shamim Hossain. **Reserves:** Rubel Hossain and Aminul Islam.

ENGLAND
Eoin Morgan (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Jonathan Bairstow, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Tymal Mills, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy, David Willey, Chris Woakes, and Mark Wood. **Reserves:** Tom Curran, Liam Dawson, James Vince.

SOUTH AFRICA
Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Keshav Maharaj, Quinton de Kock, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, and Rassie van der Dussen. **Reserves:** Andile Phehlukwayo, George Linde, and Lizaad Williams.

CA threatens to cancel Afghanistan Test

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Cricket Australia (CA) said on Thursday it would have "no alternative" but to cancel the historic Test against Afghanistan unless the Taliban retracts a reported ban on women playing sport. CA said the Test was under threat after the deputy head of the Taliban's cultural commission, Ahmadullah Wasiq, said women would not play cricket or any other sport under new regime.

Jas do it!

Record-breaker: Jaskaran Malhotra hit an unbeaten 173 (124b, 4x4, 16x6) against Papua New Guinea, including six sixes in the 50th over, to register the first ODI century for the United States. ▪ TWITTER/ICC

India joins Hungary at top of the table

Vaishali does the star turn in the sixth round

CHESS OLYMPIAD

RAKESH RAO

Holding her nerve when it mattered, R. Vaishali pulled off a sensational draw against her Belarus rival to complete India's third win of the day for a share of the lead after six rounds of the FIDE Online Chess Olympiad on Thursday.

With three rounds to go, India and Hungary (11 match-points each) led the 10-nation Group B of the top section.

India scored over Shenzhen China (5-1), second seed Azerbaijan (4-2) and Belarus (3.5-2.5) while overnight leader Hungary posted narrow 3.5-2.5 victories over Egypt and France but in between, drew 3-3 with Belarus. This drawn encounter helped India catch up with Hungary after the fifth round.

These leaders, likely quarterfinalists from this group, clash in the seventh round on Friday.

Fresh from beating Azerbaijan, with the victorious duo of K. Humpy and Nihal Sarin providing the decisive difference, India struggled to beat ninth-placed Belarus.

Spearhead Viswanathan Anand shut out 48-year-old Aleksej Aleksandrov in just 23 moves and Bhakti Kulkarni doubled the lead. Tania Sachdev drew but R. Praggnanandhaa suffered his second loss in as many days.

R. Vaishali... holding her own. ▪ FILE PHOTO

The results: Sixth round: Belarus lost to India 2.5-3.5 (Aleksej Aleksandrov lost to Viswanathan Anand, Alexei Fedorov drew with Vidit Gujrathi, Aliaksandra Tarasenka drew with Tania Sachdev, Kseniya Norman lost to Bhakti Kulkarni, Denis Lazavik bt R. Praggnanandhaa, Kseniya Zeliantsova drew with R. Vaishali); Hungary bt France 3.5-2.5; Azerbaijan bt Moldova 5-1; Shenzhen China lost to Slovenia 2.5-3.5; Sweden bt Egypt 5.5-0.5.

Fifth round: India bt Azerbaijan 4-2 (Anand drew with Teimour Radjabov, Vidit drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, K. Humpy bt Gunay Mammadzada, D. Harika drew with Gulnar Mammadova, Nihal Sarin bt Vugar Asadli, Vaishali drew with Khanim Balajayeva); Belarus drew with Hungary 3-3; Moldova lost to Shenzhen China 0.5-5.5; Slovenia bt Sweden 4-2; Egypt lost to France 1.5-4.5.

Fourth round: Shenzhen China lost to India 1-5 (Zeng Chongsheng lost to P. Harikrishna, Yu Ruiyuan lost to B. Adhiban, Zhao Xue bt Humpy, Xu Tong lost to Bhakti, Xue Haowen lost to Nihal, Li Xinyu lost to Vaishali); Hungary bt Egypt 3.5-2.5; Azerbaijan bt Belarus 3.5-2.5; France bt Slovenia 3.5-2.5; Sweden bt Moldova 4-1.

Standings (after six rounds): 1-2. India, Hungary (11 match-points each), 3. France (8), 4. Azerbaijan (7), 5-6. Sweden, Slovenia (6 each), 7. Moldova (4), 8-9. Shenzhen China, Belarus (4 each), 10. Egypt (1).

Djokovic's campaign stays on track

Zverev stands in the way in repeat of semifinals at Tokyo

Top shot: Novak Djokovic once again dropped the opening set but was in firm control of his quarterfinal against Matteo Berrettini. ▪ AFP

U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic moved within two matches of completing the first men's calendar Grand Slam in 52 years, rallying to defeat Italian Matteo Berrettini in a US Open quarterfinal on Wednesday.

Top-ranked Djokovic stretched his Grand Slam win streak to 26 matches by eliminating sixth seed Berrettini 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 at Arthur Ashe Stadium in a rematch of July's Wimbledon final.

The World No. 1 booked a semifinal date against Olympic champion Alexander Zverev, who beat Djokovic in the semifinals in Tokyo.

The 34-year-old Serbian is also seeking his fourth US Open title and men's record 21st career Slam trophy, which would lift him one above the mark he shares with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

German fourth seed Zverev reached his fourth career Slam semifinal eliminating South Africa's 46th-ranked Lloyd Harris 7-6(6), 6-3, 6-4.

Zverev denied Djokovic's bid for a Golden Slam, but Djokovic leads their all-time rivalry 6-3.

Zverev is on a 16-match win streak that includes a title last month at Cincinnati.

Djokovic improved to 4-0 in his rivalry with Berrettini, who was chasing his third Slam semifinal after the 2019 US Open and his career-best Wimbledon runner-up effort.

Berrettini secured the first break with a forehand cross-court winner to seize a 6-5 lead, then squandered three set-points before Djokovic sent a forehand wide to surrender a tension-packed first set after 77 minutes.

After dropping the opening set for a third consecutive match, Djokovic broke for a 3-1 lead in the second when Berrettini sent a backhand long, his power struggling to cope with the all-round finesse of Djokovic's game.

Berrettini netted a backhand to surrender a break and the second set and Djokovic broke again in game two of the third and again in the last to claim the set.

A passing forehand winner to break gave Djokovic a 2-0 lead in the fourth set and he held out from there to win in three hours and 27 minutes.

Sakkari in semis

Also, Greek 17th seed Maria Sakkari advanced to the women's semifinals defeating Czech fourth seed Karolina Pliskova 6-4, 6-4.

THE RESULTS

Quarterfinals: Men: 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt 6-Matteo Berrettini (Ita) 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, 6-3; 4-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt Lloyd Harris (RSA) 7-6(6), 6-3, 6-4. **Women:** 17-Maria Sakkari (Gre) bt 4-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) 6-4, 6-4.

Alcott and de Groot chase the Golden Slam

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

Australia's Dylan Alcott and Diede de Groot of the Netherlands have a chance at tennis history Novak Djokovic can no longer make.

Unlike Djokovic, the wheelchair stars both won gold medals in Tokyo. Having already won the three Majors this year, they arrived at the U.S. Open in position for the Golden Slam. But, both insist they aren't thinking about it.

"If I win everything, amazing. If I don't, the sun will come up tomorrow. I think my girlfriend will still love me, my family won't disown me, so I'll be OK. So I want to do it, but I don't think about it that much," said Alcott said.

"I think it's more of a thing that the media and people around me are very busy with," de Groot said.

The Australian is the No. 1 seed in the eight-man wheelchair quad division, while de Groot is on top of the bracket for the women's singles tournament.

Their biggest challenge might be fatigue. The Paralympics just ended over the weekend before the players had to make their way to New York.

Steffi Graf in 1988 is the only player to win the four Slams and a gold medal in the same year. A Golden Slam wasn't even possible for wheelchair players until recently, as Wimbledon didn't add wheelchair singles until 2016.

Alcott is nearing the end of a stellar sporting career. The 30-year-old quadriplegic won a Paralympic gold medal in basketball in 2008 before switching to tennis.

The 24-year-old de Groot, whose right leg is shorter than her left, already made wheelchair history in 2019 when she became the first women's player to hold all four Grand Slam singles titles at the same time.

History beckons: Dylan Alcott and Diede De Groot are primed to achieve one of the rarest feats in tennis — win the four Majors and Olympic gold in the same year. ▪ AP

Prime Minister felicitates the Paralympic contingent

Athletes present him with an autographed stole

One for the album: The Paralympic team with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. ▪ TWITTER/SAIMEDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's Paralympians presented Prime Minister Narendra Modi with an autographed stole on Thursday during a breakfast hosted by him to felicitate the contingent at his residence here.

The Indian para-athletes returned from Tokyo on the back of a sensational campaign that saw them win an unparalleled 19 medals, including five gold, eight silver and six bronze.

Best-ever campaign

This was the country's best-ever Paralympics campaign as it finished 24th in the overall tally.

The PM was presented with a white stole signed by all the medal winners, which he was seen wearing around his neck.

Modi, who has been the first to congratulate the para-athletes on call after their medal winning feats, was seen talking to shuttlers Suhas Yathiraj, the District Magistrate of Noida, who won a silver, gold medallist Krishna Nagar (badminton) and young Palak Kohli (badminton).

Indian shuttlers bagged four medals including two gold, in para badminton, which made its debut in the Paralympics.

Shooters Avani Lekhara and Singhraj Adana, who both won two medals each in the Tokyo Games, also chatted with the PM.

Lekhara, who was paralysed waist down after being involved in an accident, had scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic gold before adding a bronze to her kitty.

The 39-year-old Adana, who is afflicted with polio, clinched a silver and a bronze.

The PM also interacted with veteran javelin thrower Davendra Jhajharia and high jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu, who won gold medals in 2016 Rio Games. The duo finished on podium again, this time with silver medals.

Also present were table tennis player Bhavina Patel, who won a silver, and bronze medallist recurve archer Harvinder Singh.

IN BRIEF

Harman's spell helps S B Youth

NEW DELHI

Timely strikes by Harman (3/37) helped Sadar Bazar Youth score a narrow three-run victory over Rajnish Gautam Cricket Academy in the Push Academy (u-13) league.

The scores: Sadar Bazar Youth 173/7 in 40 overs (Arjun Chaudhary 65 bt Rajnish Gautam Academy 170/8 in 40 overs (Pratyush Singh 54 n.o., Shivaai Malik 44, Harman 3/37).

Tanvar and Shams shine

NEW DELHI

Aditya Tanvar (5/23) and Asser Shams (57 not out) set up R. K. B. Academy's nine-wicket victory over V. K. Academy in the 11th Ghevra Cup u-16 tournament.

The scores: V. K. Academy 128 in 35.4 overs (Shubham 45, Vipin Kumar 31, Aditya Tanvar 5/23) lost to RKB Academy 130/1 in 21.2 overs (Asseer Shams 57 n.o., Manthan Tanvar 31 n.o.).

It's all about Ronaldo in Premier League

Though it remains to be seen whether he helps or hinders Manchester United in its bid for titles

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

One of the best players in the history of soccer is making an emotional return for a second spell at one of the world's biggest teams, so it's understandable that Cristiano Ronaldo has been the talk of the town since his stunning transfer from Juventus to Manchester United was completed last week.

His first appearance back at United is likely to be against Newcastle on Saturday and it is one of the most anticipated occasions in the history of the Premier League.

Does his presence virtually ensure United will be "closer to winning" trophies?

Certainly, Ronaldo is a still a guarantee of goals. He has a staggering 785 goals in 1,075 appearances for club and country, after all.

Will he deliver? Cristiano Ronaldo is on the poster for United and fans will hope that he can conjure up match-winning moments. ▪REUTERS

The top scorer in Champions League history with 134, Ronaldo has delivered the following number of league goals in his last five seasons at club level: 29 in 33 games (2020-21), 31 in 33 games (2019-20), 21 in 31 games (2018-19), 26 in 27 games (2017-18), and 25 in 29 games (2016-17).

His three years in Turin should perhaps act as a warning for United.

Juve steadily declined with Ronaldo there, to the extent that the team only just scraped a fourth-place finish last season to qualify for the Champions League. In the Champions League, Juve reached the quarterfinals just once with Ronaldo – before he arrived, it got to the final in two of the previous four seasons.

Does Ole Gunnar Solskjaer turn his team into one whose main function is to supply Ronaldo, and is that a wise strategy? If Ronaldo starts as a lone striker, does United have the wingers who can deliver a regular supply of crosses that he lives off?

In Marcus Rashford and Mason Greenwood, who – when fit – might be first choice, that could be a no, given they are inverted wingers who like to cut inside and shoot.

Solskjaer has said he sees Ronaldo as "more of a centre forward for me at the moment." "I want him in the box, scoring goals," he said.

Europe united against biennial WC plans

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

European Leagues, the body representing professional competitions in Europe, said on Thursday it was against FIFA's proposal of staging a World Cup every two years.

On Wednesday, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said the extensive shake-up would cut out "too many meaningless matches".

European Leagues, whose board of directors include members from La Liga, the Premier League, the Bundesliga, Ligue 1 and Serie A, met on Tuesday.

"On this occasion, the Leagues have firmly and unanimously opposed any proposals to organise the FIFA World Cup every two years," the group said in a statement.

"The Leagues will work together with the other stakeholders to prevent football governing bodies to take unilateral decisions that will harm domestic football which is the foundation of our industry and of utmost importance for clubs, players and fans across Europe and the world," it added.

Earlier this week, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin warned hosting the World Cup every two rather than four years would "dilute" the tournament.

Fans from across the globe were also in favour of keeping the World Cup status quo.

Decision soon

Meanwhile, Infantino promised "decisions by the end of the year" on the controversial proposal.

The plan is backed by former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, who is now FIFA director of development.

Ankit strives for international excellence

I believe in quality training rather than quantity, he says

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Coaching comes naturally to Ankit Patel, the founder and director of Tennis Vidyalaya in Gurugram. Son of the late Rajesh Patel, a legendary basketball coach who made Chhattisgarh a remarkably strong team, the 34-year-old Ankit is preparing his trainees to excel at the international level.

"To become a good player one needs to become a better human being. The right attitude and positive approach are important to succeed. It was my father's dream that I should have my own academy," said Ankit, who has a few experts to drive the kids on the right path.

Ankit Patel.

Sayantan Dutta doubles up as fitness trainer and sports psychologist, apart from Vishal Kumar who serves as fitness trainer.

Manav Bajaj is highly qualified in sports nutrition, sports performance analysis and sport and exercise science. After having trained under highly successful coach Aditya Sachdeva, when he was ranked No.3 junior in the country behind Rupesh Roy and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and worked for him at the Team Tennis Centre for more than 11 years, Ankit opened his centre in 2017. Wrist surgery in both his hands had put an end to his playing career.

Sandeepti Rao has been one of his prominent trainees, and he trains a number of bright youngsters like Victor Mohan Ram, Meher Mishra, Raja Sarvagnya Kilaru, Tamanna Tikoria, Param Pratap Singh, Arjun Pandit, Yana Dhamija, among many others.

The trainees not only work on tennis and fitness, but have yoga and meditation in a holistic approach towards development.

"I believe in quality training, rather than quantity," said Ankit, who works in two sessions from 6 a.m. every day.

Ankit believes in sustaining the good work, not worrying about the results. "You don't have to run after success. Do such things that success comes to you automatically. I am confident that my trainees will make a mark at the world level. The journey has just begun," he said.

Ankit's brother Rohit Patel serves as the coach at the Basketball Stadium in Bhilai, named after their father Rajesh, who passed away while travelling from the Federation Cup basketball in Chittoor to the National junior championship in Ludhiana.

Svayam celebrates paralympians

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The contingent of 54 athletes, which returned with 19 medals including five gold from the Tokyo Paralympics, was felicitated at a dinner hosted by accessibility partner Svayam on Thursday.

The athletes were provided specially modified accessible vehicles by Svayam right before their departure for the Games, and for their visit to the Prime Minister's home on Thursday.

"It is possible for every individual to discover the best version of themselves if given the right opportunity. We can do that by making our infrastructure and facilities accessible to everyone. India's triumph at the Paralympics is a clear example. Accessibility for all is what we strive for at Svayam," said Sminu Jindal, founder Svayam.

Moment to cherish: Deepa Malik, president, Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), with Sminu Jindal, founder of Svayam, at the felicitation function. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Deepa Malik, president Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), thanked Svayam for its efforts and stressed the importance of accessibility.

"Accessibility is one of the most important features of Para Games. If we are able to make our grounds and stadiums accessible for our para athletes, we will definitely get champions. "Our association with Svayam has been very fruitful. It also reminds us that there is still so much to do in this field," she said.

Gursharan Singh, secretary general PCI, stressed that accessibility was not restricted to persons of disability.

"Our athletes will inspire the youth and spread awareness about the need for holistic development of infrastructure for the differently abled. It is for everyone," said Gursharan.

In its comprehensive drive towards accessibility, Svayam has made the PCI website accessible and had a social media campaign to cheer the paralympians right through the Games.

Svayam has played a significant role in making the Indira Gandhi International airport in the capital, and many other airports across the country, accessible.

It has been a constant drive by Svayam. A lot has been done to encourage and inspire the Indian athletes to win 19 medals in Tokyo, a big leap from four medals in the last edition in Rio in 2016.

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