THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021





Drug Controller gives approval for phase III trial of Sputnik Light



Tata Sons submits financial bid for



U.S., U.K. and Australia tie-up for Indo-Pacific



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acquiring Air India



announce new security page 12

Lewandowski's brace helps Bayern trounce Barcelona page 13



Many opt out of govt.'s COVID-19 relief scheme

Many people across the city, who are eligible for a comp-

ensation of ₹50.000 and in some cases an extra ₹2,500 per month for death of their family member due to COVID, have refused to apply for it. according to officials and a document seen by The Hindu. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

Keiriwal bans storage and sale of firecrackers

The Delhi government on Wednesday banned storage sale and use of all types of firecrackers with immediate effect in the Capital. The decision was taken in view of the rise in pollution levels seen during Deepavali. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said it was essential for the city government to implement the ban in order to save lives. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

Job package exclusive for Kashmiri Pandits: HC

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has said that the Central government's special job package is exclusive to the non-migrant Kashmiri-speaking Brahmins or 'Kashmiri Pandits' living in

the Valley and other Hindus

cannot be treated the same.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 8

Lifeline for telcos as govt. offers four-year moratorium on dues

Reforms include redefinition of AGR concept; 100% FDI under automatic route

VIKAS DHOOT NEW DELHI

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved several measures to extend a lifeline to the cash-strapped telecom sector, including a redefinition of the much-litigated concept of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) to exclude non-telecom revenue and a four-year moratorium on players' dues to the govern-

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government was keen on ensuring that there were more players in the sector and consumers retained choices when asked about the fears of a duopoly emerging with just two major telecom players - Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio.

In all, Mr. Vaishnaw an-

nounced nine structural reforms and five procedural reforms for the sector, including a fixed calendar for spectrum auctions with an extended tenure of 30 years for future spectrum allocations, and a mechanism to surrender and share spectrum. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector has also been allowed up to 100% under the automatic route, from the existing limit of 49%. Together, these measures would pave the way for largescale investments, including for 5G technology **Respite for telcos** A look at some of the relief measures announced by the Union government for telecom companies ■ Spectrum

■ Four-year moratorium for dues of telecom service providers. However, they will have to ■ 100% foreign direct investment through automatic route in the sector, from the existing

limit of 49% ■ For customers, shifting from prepaid to postpaid and not require fresh KYC

deployment, and generate more jobs, he said.

'Path-breaking reforms'

Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla termed the changes "pathbreaking reforms" that could "unshackle" the industry by addressing its "long-standing" issues, while Vodafone group CEO Nick Read called it a "constructive initiative" after the sector "has struggled for many years".

Experts are, however, not sure the package would be enough to keep their troubled joint venture Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) afloat as the moratorium on AGR dues, spectrum dues and interest payments would only provide temporary relief with these deferred dues to last quarter of every ■ Further measures will be added when the 5G spectrum is auctioned. said Telecom Minister Ashwini

auctions to be

normally held in the

be payable eventually with interest. The tariff regime still needs a reboot for players to sustain operations, they said, echoing Bharti Airtel top brass.

Mr. Read hinted at the need for further measures, seeking the "continued strong support of the Telecom Minister and the Finance Minister" for VIL to continue to contribute to "India's digital ambitions".

"There was a regime of heavy interest, penalty and interest on penalty on payment of licence fees, spectrum user charges and all kinds of charges, which has been rationalised," the Minister said, adding that AGR calculations would exclude all non-telecom revenue from now, and penalties had

Incentive boost for auto, drone manufacturers

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹26,058 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to accelerate domestic manufacturing of high-value advanced automotive technology vehicles as well as components and drones. ▶ PAGE 11

been completely scrapped.

The earlier definition of AGR, backed by the Telecom Department and upheld by the Supreme Court in 2019, had made telcos liable to pay ₹1.6 lakh crore. Last September, the top court granted players 10 years to pay up, starting April 2021. The change in definition that will reduce the burden on telcos, applies only prospectively, so past dues remain payable.

Interest on those dues will now be compounded annually instead of monthly and the Minister said interest would be charged at a 'reasonable' rate of MCLR plus 2%. MCLR refers to the lowest lending rate banks are permitted to offer.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC gives Centre two weeks to fill all tribunal vacancies

Centre 'cherry-picking' names: Bench





KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Wednesday accused the Central government of "cherry-picking" names for appointments to tribunals groaning under backlogs and left almost defunct by long-pending vacancies.

A Special Bench of Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana and Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and L. Nageswara Rao "held its hand" on initiating contempt proceedings against the government, and allowed the latter two weeks to make appoint-

ments to "all the tribunals". The CJI said, "If the government does not act, we will pass orders."

Pitiable, says CJI The CJI termed the state of

tribunals and the thousands of litigants waiting for jus-

tice "pitiable". Cases were adjourned for months. There was no manpower to form Benches. Litigants were made to travel to faraway States where there were at least some tribunal members available to hear cases.

The Bench addressed Attorney General K.K. Venugopal about how the government pulled the rug from underneath the hard work of the search-cum-selection committees, headed by sitting Supreme Court judges, tasked with interviewing and shortlisting suitable candidates for tribunals.

The government picked a few names from the final 'select' list prepared by the committee and then moved on to appoint a few others from the 'wait' list, the CJI

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Govt. begins probe into kidnap of Afghan Hindu

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

The government of India is collecting more information on the alleged kidnapping of Afghan Hindu Bansri Lal Arendeh in Kabul. He was noted for his medicine business in Kabul.

A source in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the matter was being investigated. "We are aware of these reports. We are ascertaining the facts and getting more information," an official stated.

According to Puneet Singh Chandhoke, who worked closely with Mr. Arendeh and the Sikh community, the abduction took place on Tuesday morning near Mr. Arendeh's pharmaceuticals shop.

The Taliban intelligence department has also issued an order signed by its director general, calling for urgent action to trace Mr. Arendeh, aged around 50. It also asked for scanning of CCTV footage.

Kabul has around 200 Sikhs and Hindus, who remain there as flights to evacuate them have not been allowed by the Taliban. Kabul and other cities, like Jalalabad, have witnessed a large number of abductions since the Taliban dislodged the government of President Ashraf Ghani on August 15.

Welcome, Oreo



Vaze holds Oreo, born on May 1 to Humboldt penguins Donald and Daisy, in a special enclosure in Mumbai's Byculla zoo on Wednesday. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

87.89 is cut-off score for JEE (Advanced)

18 students share top rank in JEE (Main)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Students who secured a score of above 87.89 in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Main) will be eligible to apply for the entrance test for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology, the National Testing Agency announced on Wednesday. The Common Rank List cutoff score for general category students is lower than the 90.37 cut-off last year.

Among the 44 who achieved a 100 percentile score, seven each were from Telangana and Delhi. Using the tie-breaker rules, 18 students were determined to share the top rank this year, including four from Andhra Pradesh, the highest among the States. Overall, 9.39 lakh students wrote the exam. It was 10.23 lakh last year.

This year's examination was marred by an alleged



JEE (Main) this year. • v. RAJU

cheating scandal at a centre in Sonipat, where computers were hacked to provide illegal assistance to students who paid up to ₹15 lakh. So far, 11 persons have been arrested, and a CBI probe is on. "On account of using unfair means, 20 candidates have been debarred from future examinations for three years. Their results have also been withheld," said an

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

It seeks quashing of four amended sections of GNCTD Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

moved the Supreme Court seeking the quashing of four amended sections of the 'Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act' and 13 Rules of the 'Transaction of Business of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Rules, 1993'.

The petition was filed on sented by senior advocate

13 before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana.

The Delhi government has contended that the amended Act violates the "basic structure of the Constitution" and that the Centre, through the amendments, has given more power to the Lieutenant-Governor than the elected government of Delhi.

In the petition, the Delhi government has challenged the constitutionality of Sections 21, 24, 33, 44 of the GNCTD Act, 1991 and Rules 3, 6A, 10, 14, 15, 19, 22, 23, 25,

47A, 49, 52 and 57 of Transac-A.M. Singhvi, on September tion of Business of the GNCTD Rules, 1993.

On March 15 this year, the Centre introduced GNCTD Act Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha, which later received the assent of the President. In July, the Transaction of Business of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act came into force.

The city government has argued that the amendments are an attempt to treat the L-G as the "default administering authority" over Delhi.

Charges framed in Dabholkar murder case

STAFF REPORTER

Eight years after he was shot by motorcycle-borne assailants while out for a morning stroll in Pune, a special court on Wednesday framed charges against five of the accused in the murder of eminent rationalist Narendra Dabholkar on August 20, 2013. The framing of the

charges paves the way for the long-delayed trial in the which shook Maharashtra. The accused include Vi-

rendrasinh Tawde, Sachin Andure, Sharad Kalaskar, Sanjeev Punalekar and Vikram Bhave.

DETAILS ▶ PAGE 8

28% jump in filing of cases in 2020: NCRB Trend mainly due Crime file

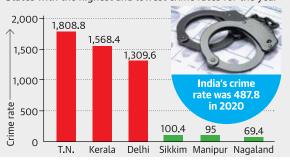
to violation of COVID-19 norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

There was a 28% increase in the registration of cases in 2020 in the country compared to 2019, primarily owing to the violation of CO-VID-19 norms. An almost 21-fold jump was recorded in cases of disobedience to the order duly promulgated by public servant, and over four times in cases involving violations of other State local laws, according to a National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report.

Crimes against Scheduled Castes, with a total of 50,291 cases, showed an increase of 9.4%. Simple hurt with 32.9% (16,543) formed the Among all States and the Union Territory of Delhi,

Tamil Nadu recorded the highest crime rate (crimes per one lakh people) in 2020. The chart shows the three States with the highest and lowest crime rates for the year



largest chunk, followed by cases under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act with 8.5% (4,273) and cases under criminal intimidation with 7.5% (3,788), the report said. In all, 8,272 cases were instituted for offences against the Scheduled Tribe communities: an increase of

9.3% over 2019. Simple hurt (2,247) accounted for 27.2%, followed by rape with 13.7% (1,137) and assault on women with intent to outrage their modesty with 10.7% (885).

Dip in sedition cases The cases of sedition declined from 93 in 2019 to 73 last year, with Manipur reporting 15, Assam 12, Karnataka eight, Uttar Pradesh seven, Haryana six, Delhi five and Kashmir two.

A total of 66,01,285 cognisable crimes, comprising more than 42.54 lakh Indian Penal Code (IPC) offences and over 23.46 lakh Special & Local Laws (SLL) crimes, were registered in 2020, the report noted.

Effectively, there was a decrease in registration of traditional crime by about two "It shows an increase of

14,45,127 (28.0%) in registration of cases over 2019 (51,56,158 cases). Crime rate registered per lakh population has increased from 385.5 in 2019 to 487.8 in 2020," the report disclosed.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

City govt. moves SC on 'powers' of L-G +

The Delhi government has

August 10. It was orally mentioned for early hearing by the AAP government, repre-



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25 July | 1 PM

 JAIPUR
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STAFF REPORTER

One of the organisers of the event at Jantar Mantar, where alleged communal sloganeering took place last month, argued before the Delhi High Court that a demand for "Hindu Rashtra" does not amount to promoting enmity between religious groups.

Preet Singh, currently in judicial custody, argued before Justice Mukta Gupta on Wednesday that he would not press his bail application if the court held a different opinion.

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing Mr. Singh, said: "If the court holds that the demand [of Hindu Rashtral comes under Section 153 [provocation with intent to cause riotl of the IPC, I will not press my bail application. In a democratic set up, if it [the demand] promotes enmity, I will not press my

The advocate also contended that Mr. Singh was not part of the allegedly communal sloganeering.

Counsel Tarang Srivastava, representing the prosecution, opposed the bail plea on the ground that all accused persons acted in concert and Mr. Singh's absence at the time of chanting of alleged communal slogans would not absolve him from any liability.

The Delhi High Court on

Wednesday asked why the

Election Commission was

"shying away" from taking

action against political par-

ties who are in violation of

its guidelines on corrupt

raymond

ऑनलाईन आवेदन की समय सीमा:-

2.

3.

BSES

practices.

for Hindu, Muslim accused

'Persons purportedly acting under 2 different conspiracies'

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has ordered separation of trial of five accused, arrested in connection with a north-east Delhi riots case, based on their religion. Citing a 2002 Godhra riots case precedent, Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav, who has been dealing with a majority of Delhi riots cases, split the "Salman murder case" into separate chargesheets for Kuldeep, Deepak Thakur and Deepak Yadav, and Mohd. Furkan and Mohd. Irshad. This, the judge said, was prompted by a "peculiar situation" arising owing to an "assortment of accused persons from different religions purportedly acting under two different

The segregation, he concluded while observing that there was enough material on record to allow framing of charges, would avoid prejudicing the defence of the accused. While the police say CCTV footage from the scene of crime at Shiv Vihar on February 27, 2020, captured the presence of the five accused indulging in riotous activity, all of them had pleaded "not guilty" and claimed trial.

conspiracies and unlawful

assemblies".

The court directed DCP (Crime Branch) Joy N. Tirkey to furnish a complete set of chargesheets in physical form within two weeks while

A Bench of Chief Justice

D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti

Singh made the remarks

while hearing a petition

seeking to declare offer of

cash transfer in manifestos

"Why are you shying from

taking action? Start taking

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures

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PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
 WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
 JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
 NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
 LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

झारखण्ड सरकार अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग

प्रवेशिकोत्तर पाठयकमों में अध्ययनरत अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति एवं पिछड़ी

जाति के छात्र/छात्राओं के लिए छात्रवृतिं योजना वर्ष-2021-22 हेतु आवेदन से

सब्धित आवश्यक सूचना

(P.R. No.-249939)

आम स्चना

छात्र–छात्राओं को झारखण्ड सरकार के द्वारा शैक्षणिक सँत्र–2021–22 में पूर्व में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन <u>(</u>P.R. No.-

249939) के कम में पूर्व से निर्धारित तिथि को संशोधित करते हुए निम्न प्रकार विस्तारित किया जाता है :-

प्रकियात्मक कार्यवाही

नए शैक्षणिक संस्थानों द्वारा ई—कल्याण पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण

एवं पंजीकृत संस्थानों द्वारा नवीनीकरण हेतु आवेदन।

संबंधित छात्र / छात्रा द्वारा छात्रवृति हेतु आवेदन करने की

प्रक्रिया।

शैक्षणिक संस्थान द्वारा छात्र / छात्राओं के आवेदन का

सत्यापन।

PR 253351 Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department(21-22)#D

Brief Item Description

CMC/BR/21-22/ RATE FINALIZATION FOR ROAD RESTORATION WORKS

RB/AR/AN/954 FOR CABLE LAYING AND CABLE FAULTS IN BRPL

CMC/BR/21-22/ RATE CONTRACT FOR VEHICLE HIRING SERVICES IN

पोस्ट मैट्रिक छात्रवृति योजना के अन्तर्गत अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति एवं पिछड़ी जाति के

ई–कल्याण

पोर्टल खुलने

की तिथि

15.09.2021

26.07.2021

17.08.2021

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

1.90 Lakhs

06.10.2021

15:45 HRS

06.10.2021

GIFT PACKS AVAILABLE
BLAZER • SUIT

corrupt electoral

Declare offering cash in manifestos as corrupt: plea



were torched during riots in Shiv Vihar. • FILE PHOTO

instructing the court staff to treat the existing chargesheet as the one for Kuldeep, Thakur and Yadav. The other one shall be treated as chargesheet for Furkan and

The victim

The case FIR was registered on February 29, 2020 at Karawal Nagar police station after 24-year-old Salman died at the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital a couple of days earlier.

The deceased was admitted at the hospital on February 24 after reportedly suffering physical assault earlier in the day at Shiv Vihar during the north-east Delhi riots.

During investigation, it came to fore that Salman had sustained a gunshot injury. A firearm projectile was extracted from his head during post-mortem and seized as part of the

action. Don't just issue not-

ices and letters. Let us see

what action you are taking.

Proposed actions also, you

after the poll panel's counsel

said it has already issued

guidelines in relation to

"corrupt practices" and sent

0

DAYS

parx

ई–कल्याण

पोर्टल बन्द

होने की तिथि

30.09.2021

25.10.2021

30.10.2021

Date: 16.09.2021

06.10.2021

16:00 HRS

The court's remarks came

can state," the court said.

investigation.

Both Yadav and Thakur were arrested in connection with the FIR on November 5 2020, and have been in judicial custody since. Police say the duo were seen in two videos carrying sticks and actively participating in the riots. Both say there is "no direct evidence" against them pertaining to the murder and they have not been specifically named in the FIR either.

Kuldeep was initially arrested in another case, the Mohd. Anwar murder case, and arrested by the police for Salman's murder on the basis of his disclosure statement. While the police say he could be clearly seen in CCTV footage amid a riotous mob, Kuldeep claims he has nothing to do with the alleged offence. He has been in judicial custody since March 21 last year.

Furkan and Irshad were also arrested in connection with another riots case and charged with the Salman murder on the basis of disclosure statements. The Delhi police say they were captured in CCTV footage from the scene of crime actively participating in the riots.

As in the case of the other three, both Furkan and Irshad claim they have been falsely implicated in the case merely on the basis of suspicion and there is no direct evidence against him.

the same to the political

It was hearing the petition

filed by two advocates, Pa-

rashar Narayan Sharma and

Capt. Gurvinder Singh,

whose contended that offer-

ing of cash without any work

in election manifestos has to

Two arrested in

Trilochan Wazir

Delhi Police has arrested

two persons in connection

with the murder of Jammu &

Kashmir leader Trilochan

Singh Wazir. He was found

dead in a flat in west Delhi

missioner of Police (West)

Prashant Gautam said that

the accused has been identi-

fied as Rajender Chaudhary alias Raju Ganja, a driver by

profession. Crime Branch

made another arrest, the ac-

cused has been identified as

classmate of one of the sus-

pects Harpreet, who was as-

sociated with Wazir for over

During Raju's interroga-

tion, it was revealed that in

1983, a triple murder took

place in Jammu, where one

Kuldeep alias Pappi, mater-

nal uncle of Harpreet, was

killed. Wazir was arrested in

that incident and lodged in

jail. Harpreet allegedly

wanted to avenge the death

of his maternal uncle. He

roped in Raju by assuring

him a job and asked him to

bring Wazir's luggage by

road from Jammu on Sept. 3.

The accused allegedly shot

Police said that Raju is a

Balbir Singh alias Billa.

Additional Deputy Com-

on September 9.

murder case

NEW DELHI

be declared illegal.

parties.

Court orders separate trials Kin of terror accused say he's innocent

Osama Pak.-trained operative: police; family confident 'truth will come out in court'

HEMANI BHANDARI

An eerie silence prevails outside the ground floor residence of Osama, 22, one of six alleged terrorists arrested by Delhi Police's Special Cell.

Inside the house, located in Okhla's Abu Fazal Enclave, five to six women await the return of the men of the family who were taken away by the police on Tuesday.

Osama has been named among the six men – Jaan Mohammad Shaikh alias Sameer, 47, Moolchand, 47, Zeeshan Qamar, 28, Mohd. Abu Bakar, 23, and Mohd. Amir Javed, 31 - allegedly active in the Pakistan-organised terror module busted by Special Cell.

14-day police custody

All the six accused were produced before the court on Wednesday and sent to police custody for 14 days.

Osama's brother, Huzaifa, was also picked up by the police, said the landlord, Jaleel Asghar, 75, who lives on the first floor of the four-storey residential building. There is no information on whether Huzaifa has returned home or not. His family is confident that Osama



Osama •

is being falsely charged and say they believe in the judiciary.

"There is no reality in what's being said about Osama. He is being framed. The truth will come out in court," said an elderly woman from behind the closed door before refusing to speak further.

Mr. Jaleel said Osama and his brother rented the house in March this year and have been living with their wives. "Their father had come with them when they moved in here. The rent contract was made in Osama's name. I usually kept in touch with him for rent," he said.

Both Osama's and Huzaifa's wives are pregnant, said Mr. Jaleel's wife.

According to Mr. Jaleel,

the Delhi police had come to the ground floor flat around 7 a.m. on Tuesday and searched the place all day before leaving in the evening. "The sisters of the wives of the two brothers are here to support them. They came to our house and said the police didn't find anything in the flat. I went to meet the women in the evening and they were very scared. An elderly woman was with them. I was informed that the police have taken both the brothers with them," he said.

Mr. Jaleel said he never suspected anything amiss in the family and they mostly kept to themselves. "Once, a few months ago, I had called Osama for rent but I couldn't reach him. I called his brother who told me that Osama had gone out of the country," he said.

Asked what was Osama's means of livelihood, Mr. Jaleel said, in his knowledge, he, his brother and father were in the business of dates and also had a cold storage.

According to Special Cell, Osama and Qamar are Pakistan-trained terror operatives working under the instructions of Inter-Services Intelli-

'Persecution of **Muslims rises** as polls near'

STAFF REPORTER

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan on Wednesday said that persecution of Muslims in the country increases as elections approach and in the name of terrorism, fake FIRs are filed against innocent people.

"As elections come closer, the persecution of Muslims in the country increases. In the name of terrorism, the game of harassing innocent people by implicating them in fake FIRs has started. In the future, don't know against how many people false FIRs will be filed. May Allah protect!" Mr. Khan said in a tweet in Hindi.

When asked about the context of his tweet, Mr. Khan said, "People will understand the context."

When contacted, the AAP spokesperson did not comment on Mr. Khan's tweet or whether it was the party's stand too.

Low footfall on first day of DU reopening

Colleges check vaccination status, encourage students to take at least one dose

STAFF REPORTER

After several months, the gates of Delhi University reopened for practical classes for final year undergraduate and postgraduate students on Wednesday. However, students didn't rush in, and the attendance was low. A reason for the low turnout could be the absence of outstation students, said principals of several colleges.

Officials said that vaccination status of students was being checked before they were permitted to enter.

Bijaylaxmi Nanda, acting principal of Miranda House, said: "Practical classes for third year students resumed in the college and we had about 10-15 students for each class. We are also checking for the vaccination status of students and are encouraging them to take at least one dose. Right now, the percentage is very low and mostly students who are from Delhi attended college."

Stating that "very few" outstation students had ar-



Final year students arrive to attend classes at Miranda House in the city on Wednesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

rived on the campus, Ms. Nanda said: "Those who already have hostel allotment will be able to access the facilities. Very few outstation students have come as of now. Several of our foreign students, are however, already in the hostels. Once we get to know the exact numbers and a few other details, we will take a call about the

At Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma (ARSD) College, students who did not take a single dose of COVID-19 vaccine were being counselled and

urged to get the jab, officials

Counselling on jab

Gyantosh Jha, principal of ARSD College said, "We are checking for the vaccination status at the gate itself. At least one dose is required otherwise they are being counselled and we are even offering to help students and get them vaccinated. There were about 25-30 students across the three labs on the first day and mostly they were local students."

"Our labs have internet fa-

cilities. So the students who are attending online classes are being able to participate virtually while the offline students continue with their practical classes," Mr. Jha added.

Vaccination must

At Hindu College, students who are not vaccinated will not be permitted to enter, said principal Anju Srivastava. "Some of the science departments witnessed a few students on the first day. We have already taken the vaccination data of students. While two doses are encouraged, those without a single dose will not be permitted to enter campus," said Ms. Sri-

vastava. Delhi University had earlier announced that practical classes and libraries will reopen for final year undergraduate and postgraduate stu

The varsity specified that attendance for offline classes will not be made mandatory for students and that it was

"voluntary."

Crimes against women dip by 24%, cybercrimes see 55% rise: NCRB data

'967 rape cases were reported in 2020 against 1,231 in 2019'

STAFF REPORTER

Crime against women in the Capital has reduced by 24% in 2020 as compared to 2019, shows the data shared by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

According to it, total crime against women reported in 2020 came down to 9,782 incidents from 12,902 in 2019. Assault on women stood at 938 in 2020 as opposed to 1,088 in 2019 and sexual harassment stood at 862 cases in 2020 as compared to 644 in 2020.

A total of 967 rape cases were reported in 2020 as opposed to 1,231 in 2019, leading to a decrease of 21%. Stalking also saw a dip of 40% as 235 cases were reported in 2020 as opposed to 388 in the preceding year.

Across the 19 metropolitan cities, NCRB stated that a total of 35,331 cases of crime against women were registered during 2020, showing a decrease of 21.1% over 2019 (44,783 cases). Majority of crime against women were registered under 'cruelty by husband or his relatives' (30.2%) followed by 'assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty' (19.7%), 'kidnapping and abduction of women' (19.0%) and 'rape'

Cybercrimes reported in the Capital saw an increase of 55% in 2020 as compared to 2019, the data showed. A total of 166 cases were reported in 2020 as compared to 107 in

According to the data, cas-

es pertaining to transmitting of sexually explicit act and material accounted for 19 cases in 2019, which increased to 59 in 2020. Cyber fraud increased to 31 from 11 while cyber stalking came down from 16 to 12. Online bank fraud cases also increased to 19 in 2020 from merely two cases in the year before that.

Across metropolitan cities, a total of 18,657 cases have been registered under cybercrimes, showing an increase of 0.8% over 2019 (18,500 cases). Cyber crime rate also increased from 16.2 in 2019 to 16.4 in 2020. Crime headwise cases revealed that computer-related offences (Section 66 of IT Act) formed the highest number of cybercrimes, accounting for 60.9% (11,356 cases) during 2020.

Give status of NIA cases before special courts: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed its registry officials to file a response detailing the status of NIA cases pending before special courts here, along with reason behind delay in any trial.

Justice Mukta Gupta, hearing a plea by an accused who has been in custody for eight years in an NIA case under UAPA and seeking day-to-day hearing, granted four weeks time to the officials to file the

Counsel for the registry, Gaurav Agarwal, stated that as on July 31, total 37 cases pertaining to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) were pending before the two designated courts in the Patiala House Court complex here. He sought time from the court to ascertain if the NIA cases were not being given "precedence" in these special courts.

"You need to investigate all this and find out why there is delay. A further reply affidavit be filed by the court giving the stage of trial in all NIA cases in courts specifically designated [under the NIA Act] and reason for delay, if any," the court ordered.

Wazir dead after giving him sedatives, the police said. पूर्व में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन के अनुसार शेष दिशा निर्देश Website-ekalyan.cgg.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। आदिवासी कल्याण आयुक्त

"RAW COAL" PRODUCED FROM SULIYARI COAL MINE, Tender No: APMDC/P&C/COAL/SCM/SRC/2021 Dt: 16.09.2021 APMDC invites proposals from Buyers for "Raw Coal" produced from Suliyari Coal Mine in Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh. For more information on the tender, eligibility criteria, tender fees, timelines and other details, please visit the e-procurement portal of GoAP (www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in). The Tender document is available or download from 16.09.2021 and last date for bid submission is 08.10.2021.

Place : Vijayawada Vice Chairman and Managing Director
Date : 16th September 2021 The A.P. Mineral Development Corporation Limited

Hospital construction: HC pulls up Delhi govt.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday remarked that it was a "misfortune" of the public that a 100-bedded hospital in Najafgarh was not completed because of the lethargic approach of the Delhi

government. An HC Bench asked the Delhi government to sub-

mit a timeline within which the permission will be granted. The High Court, which

was hearing a plea seeking a direction to the governments to complete the establishment of the hospital at the site of Rural Health Training Centre in Najafgarh, posted it for further hearing on November 8.

06.10.2021 16:30 HRS 16:00 HRS Cost of each Tender Document except for Insurance: ₹ 1180/- (Non Refundable) For any guery call on 011-49207235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@relianceada.com for details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/ of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)

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The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited
Door No. 294/1D, 100 feet Road, Kanuru, Vijayawada-521137, Andhra Pradesh
Tel: +91-866-2429999 Fax: +91-866-2429977 Email: gm-marketing@apmdc.ir NOTICE INVITING TENDER REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF BUYER FOR

Timings DELHI

THURSDAY, SEP. 16 RISE 06:07 SET 18:25 RISE 15:38 SET 01:03

FRIDAY, SEP. 17 RISE 06:07 SET 18:24

RISE 06:08 SET 18:23 RISE 17:09 SET 03:11

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City 25

Delhi Palam Today 31°C Few spell of light to moderate rain and thunder

storm may occur with cloudy sky and moderate winds.

likely at some places. Warm and humid day with light to

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019

IN BRIEF



virus cases, no deaths

NEW DELHI Wednesday. Also, 57 new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14,38,345. A total of 74,199 tests were

'Delhi will treat waste water from Haryana, U.P.' NEW DELHI

which can solve water problems of any city when handled properly. The Delhi Jal Board has already taken few initiatives in this direction," Mr. Jain said. Recycled water from this project will be diverted to lakes and green areas.

STAFF REPORTER

Deputy Chief Minister Man-

ish Sisodia on Wednesday

said the Delhi government is

likely to earn an additional

revenue of ₹3,500 crore

from the Excise Department

during the current financial

year as the government has

revised the excise policy and

plugged leaks in the revenue

Under the new excise pol-

icy, which was announced

earlier this year, the legal

age for liquor consumption

was reduced to 21 years from

25. Mr. Sisodia said the new

policy was needed as Delhi

had a large number of excise

evaders. "Under the new

policy, the biggest change

was that the excise duty and

STAFF REPORTER

Accredited Social Health Ac-

tivists (ASHA) workers, affi-

liated to the AIUTUC, prot-

ested near Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal's house on

fixed incentive of ₹15,000 a

month and social security

they will protest again on

September 24 and will go on

indefinite strike if their de-

mands are not met even af-

The workers said that

demanding

NEW DELHI

Wednesday

benefits.

ASHA workers warn of

going on indefinite strike

They demand social security benefits

flow.

Many opt out of Delhi govt.'s COVID-19 compensation scheme

Most of them belong to affluent families; relief available irrespective of background

NIKHIL M BABU NEW DELHI

Many people across the city, who are eligible for a compensation of ₹50,000 and in some cases an extra ₹2,500 per month for death of their family member due to CO-VID-19, have refused to apply for it, as per officials and a document seen by The Hindu.

Most of the people who have opted out are from affluent families, according to officials. The scheme is available to people irrespective of their economic background.

Reasons cited

'Don't require any help', 'not interested', 'all government job employees', and 'don't want to take money' were some of the reasons cited by people, who did not wish to take the relief, as per the document.

A list from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which has names of people who died due to CO-VID-19, has been shared by



The family of a COVID-19 victim prepares for last rites at the Ghazipur cremation ground. • FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

the government with all 11 districts and officials are contacting family members of people on the list to tell them about the scheme.

Many people are also directly applying for the scheme after coming to know about it through other

Some remarks on the document are interesting too. Against the name of a person who had occupied a top government post, the remarks on the document read "warned not to call this number"

An official said that in

amount each one gets will be even lesser. Many don't even talk and are very rude to the staffers who call them over phone," another official said.

Income bar

When asked whether the government should have kept an income bar for the scheme, the official said, "If the government kept an income limit for beneficiaries to avail the scheme, then it will add one more document and make the process more difficult."

But people denying to avail the scheme is increasing the load on lower-rank staffers, as the denial has to be given in writing by the family member.

"When a person says no, but doesn't give it in writing and we submit the list, our supervisor sends it back to us. Then we have to check with the same person again and some people get irritated when we call them again," a lower-rank official

Auction

Swarn Vihar

Sept.-2021 (V) & Oct.-2021

Hathoj Kardhani

Central Spine



COUNSELING MEET

on Sept. 16 & 17, 2021

(11 am - 6 pm)

Contact: New Delhi: North Campus (9873867272); Tagore Garden (9999778423); South Campus (9910737914); Gurgaon (7503022092); Noida (9897100970); Greater Noida (9990064610); Meerut (7500087070); Ghaziabad (8800464004); Bareilly (9997556135); Agra (7409001947).



JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT

New Atish Market Ext.

Sukhalpura, Jaipur

RERA Regi. No. RAJ/P/2018/847

Girdharpura

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RESIDENTIAL PLOTS

RERA Regi. No. RAJ/P/2019/1153

APJ Abdul Kalam Nagar,

Jaisinghpura Bas Bhankrota, Jaipur

NIJI Khatedhari Scheme, Jaipur (Govind Sarover, Govind Nagar, Vastu Nagar, Kings Residency,

Narayan City-D, Vinayak Sanskriti, Riddhi Siddhi Enclave)

Ban on firecrackers in Capital

Decision taken to curb severe pollution levels, says Kejriwal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The storage, sale and use of all types of firecrackers is banned with immediate effect in the Capital, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced here Wednesday.

view of the rising pollution levels seen during Deepavali.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said it was essential for the city government to implement the ban in order to save lives. The decision had been taken at this juncture considering two critical factors. These included the pollution situation possibly proving fatal, considering the trend over the previous years, and to prevent traders from indulging in any kind of stocking and sale or pur-

VAT, which were usually

evaded, were converted into

licence fee. Till now the fee

was very nominal, like ₹8-

₹10 lakh, and then there

were 250-300% excise duty

and VAT. People had many

incentives for evading the

excise," the Minister said.

shops, Mr. Sisodia said.

ment will receive ₹3,500

crore extra revenue in the

next 12 months. This is revo-

ter it. ASHAs do not get fixed

salaries like government em-

ployees and are paid mostly

through incentives. An

ASHA gets ₹100 for distribut-

ing tablets to about 200 chil-

The workers have been

complaining that their in-

centives are low and it

should be increased three

times. We have also submit-

ted 10-point demand to the

CM, Kavita Yadav, State coor-

dinator of Delhi ASHA Work-

ers' Association said.

dren at their houses.

lutionary," he said.

Leaks in revenue flow plugged: Sisodia



the traders that this time, in

view of the complete ban, please do not stock firecrackers," Mr. Kejriwal said. **Environment Minister Go-**

north Delhi, they have ob-

served that most people re-

jecting the scheme are from

Model Town. "Model Town

is the area where people are

affluent compared to rest of

north Delhi. Here many say

they don't want the scheme.

They don't want to go

through the process for

refusing the scheme. Right

now, ₹50,000 is not a very

big amount. Also, if a person

died and the spouse is also

not alive, then the compen-

sation has to be divided

among the children, so the

"Mostly rich people are

₹50,000," the official said.

pal Rai said the NGT had directed a complete ban on fiduring recrackers COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Rai said, last year, the Delhi government had decided in favour of the complete ban on November 6 which was just before Deepavali. The police had already issued temporary licences for sale of firecrackers and because of this, traders and dealers suffered losses.

"To avoid any such situation, we decided that the DPCC, like last year, will issue directions for complete ban on sale, use and storage of firecrackers with immediate effect," he said.

'New excise policy to BJP for CVC inquiry into help get more revenue'

Party alleges discrepancies in contract

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Opposition BJP on Wednesday accused the Delhi government of having perpetrated a scam in the mainthe fleet of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC).

Under the new policy, the licence fee has now increased to ₹6.5 crore to ₹7 crore per shop. The government increased that also by 10% and then started the bidding process for liquor "We had estimated that we will receive 200% more revenue. Now, the govern-

> memorandum states that since the Aam Aadmi Party government came to power in Delhi, not

a single new bus was purchased in Delhi. Now the situation is that 3.760 buses of DTC's fleet have crossed their age," Mr. Bidhuri said.

DTC buses," he alleged.

If the government had bought 1,000 new non-AC buses, Mr. Bidhuri said, their cost would have come to ₹500 crore, but this amount was being spent only on the maintenance of old buses. He further alleged that preparations were under way to give a contract for the maintenance of the remaining 2,600 buses under the DTC as well.

tenance of older buses on

"The Delhi government has done another act of looting the exchequer: the AMC contract of ₹500 crore has been given in the name of maintenance of 1,000 old

DTC's 'old buses scam'

A delegation of BJP MLAs, led by the Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, met the Chief Vigilance Commission (CVC) chairman Suresh N. Patel and submitted a memorandum demanding an inquiry into the matter. The CVC chairman has assured the delegation of an inquiry, Mr. Bidhuri said.

Ring Road Project

03

Ring Road Project

(Bagrana), Jaipur

Govindpura

Kardhani

Scheme, Jaipur

Hira Lal Shastri Nagar Scheme, Jaipur

RERA Regi. No. RAJ/P/2020/1297



Ring Road Project

(Khedi Gokulpura), Jaipur

02

Central Spine

Jaipur



Scheme, Jaipur



Ring Road Project

(Surajpura Bhatawala), Jaipur



APJ Abdul Kalam Nagai

Jaisinghpura Bas Bhankrota, Jaipur

RERA Regi. No. RAJ/P/2020/1293





01

Ring Road Project



Vidhvadhar Nagai

Scheme, Sector-4, Jaipur

01

Aditya Vihar

Jaipur

02

Ring Road Project





(06)

GODOWN





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Jaipur





05

06 **Auto Shop** Transport Nagar, Sikar Road, Jaipur

Transport Nagar, Sikar Road, Jaipur





INSTITUTIONAL PLOTS



03

Transport Nagar,

CONSTRUCTED SHOPS



Jaipur



Jaipur

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01 Murlipura

01 Vaishali Naga Block-D, Jaipur

Vidhvadhar Nagar

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nstitute website – <u>www.nitpy.ac.in</u> Last date for submission of Soft Copy of the Application: 11.10.2021 (Monday), 05.00 P.M •Last date for submission of Hard Copy of the Application: 18.10.2021 (Monday), 05.00 P.M. Sd/-Registrar (i/c)

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RISE 16:26 SET 02:07 SATURDAY, SEP. 18

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 31°C Light rain and thunderstorm with short spell shower



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

done in a day and the test positivity rate was 0.08%

Water Minister Satyendar Jain on Wednesday said that the Delhi government will treat 155 million gallons per day (MGD) of waste water flowing into the city from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana through

different drains. Wastewater is a resource



Arvind Kejriwal appealed to traders not to stock up

Last year, a complete ban on firecrackers was imposed late after assessing the seriousness of the situation. This had caused losses to the traders. "It is an appeal to all

chase preemptively.

Rajasthan Assembly adjourned

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Amid high drama after a constant ruckus over different issues, Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi on Wednesday abruptly adjourned the ongoing session sine die, while observing that neither the treasury bench nor the Opposition could dictate their terms to the presiding offic-

The session began last week in continuation of the Budget session, which was not prorogued.

Affairs Parliamentary Minister Shanti Dhariwal clashed with the Speaker while insisting on speaking about the behaviour of Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members earlier in the day. Mr. Joshi said the House, which had witnessed repeated adjournments amid the pandemonium, should conduct the rest of its business in proper order.

When Mr. Dhariwal continued to speak, the Speaker said the Assembly "could not be run like this", and announced the sine die adjournment. The sudden adjournment left all the members shocked and bewildered.

Farmers' plea puts parties in election-bound Punjab in a fix

Last week, SKM asked them not to campaign until EC announces the poll schedule

VIKAS VASUDEVA CHANDIGARH

Punjab-based farmer outfits agitating against the Centre's farm laws have urged the political parties in Punjab not to campaign in the run-up to Assembly polls until the Election Commission announced the schedule for the election. This request has left the key parties in a fix surrounding their electioneering as none can afford to lose the farmer vote bank.

Unions associated with the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) last week convened a meeting of non-BJP parties, asking them not to campaign until the EC announced the poll schedule, citing that the ongoing political campaign is affecting the farmers' agitation. They announced that those who violate the appeal will be considered anti-farmer, and the agriculturists will protest against them as well in addition to the BJP and its

While the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the ruling Congress have extended their support for the ongoing farmers' movement, yet

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Farmers shout slogans as they make their way to Delhi, on the outskirts of Amritsar on Wednesday. • AFP

questioned the stance of the

SKM, asking it to explain why

it was not objecting to politi-

cal functions being held by

the Congress and the AAP.

"The Congress has held polit-

ical functions at Khemkaran

and Batala recently and even

two Congress Ministers held

functions. The AAP has ear-

lier held a political rally," said

senior Akali Dal leader Bik-

ram Singh Majithia, adding

that it was now being re-

vealed that the SKM itself

was not on one platform on

On the other hand, to gar-

its directive.

questions are being raised by the parties on the "unfair" decision of the SKM.

Yatra put on hold

To ensure that the farmers are not annoyed, the SAD has already put on hold the "100 days yatra" across 100 constituencies, started by its president Sukhbir Singh Badal last month. The party has also announced to observe September 17, the day marking one year of the passage of the three farm laws, as a 'Black Day' and decided to hold an 'ardas' on the occasion at Rakabganj Sahib Gurdwara in Delhi, besides taking a prot-

ner farmers' support ahead of the Assembly polls, the est march to Parliament. AAP has been forcefully rais-The party, however, has ing the farmers' issue on the

ground and has even demanded an Assembly session, with at least two days set aside for discussion on farmers' issues. At the same time, the AAP has also pointed out that the Congress was carrying out election programmes by going against the directives of the farmers under the guise of its government, which, the party said, was "unfair".

AAP's national executive member and MLA Aman Arora appealed to the SKM to tighten the reins of the Congress or reconsider their directives to the political parties regarding not to hold election events.

Cong. support

The Congress is also leaving no stone unturned to earn the support of farmers. Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu recently wrote to Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, seeking cancellation of unfair FIRs registered against the farmers during their agitation.

The Chief Minister himself is making all out efforts to ensure that the farmers do not stray away from the party.

It's 'change your symbol' talk time in battleground U.P. now

War of words between BJP and arch-rival SP escalates

OMAR RASHID

BJP Rajya Sabha member and former Uttar Pradesh DGP Brij Lal on Wednesday suggested that the Samajwadi Party (SP) change its election symbol to an LMG (light machine gun), as the war of words between the two parties over demolition of property of alleged criminals escalated.

The SP should change its election symbol from the cycle to LMG, which is "appropriate" for it, said Mr. Lal, sharing a picture of an LMG on Twitter.

"This LMG was ordered by Mukhtar Ansari for the murder of Krishnanand Rai [BJP MLA] and which was caught by the STF in January 2004. Your pitashreee [father Mulavam Singh who was then Chief Minister] had saved Mukhtar from the PO-TA," Mr. Lal said in an attack on SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

In 2019, a special CBI court in Delhi acquitted Mr. Ansari, jailed MLA from Mau, and seven others in the 2005 Rai murder case.

Mr. Ansari's brother and former two-time MLA from Ghazipur, Sigbatullah Ansa-



CM Yogi Adityanath

ri, joined the SP recently quitting the BSP, following which BSP chief Mayawati said they would keep away from tainted elements in 2022 polls and even announced that Mr. Mukhtar would not be fielded by her.

Maurya's demand

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya also asked the SP to change its symbol to an AK-47 rifle after Mr. Yadav, taking a dig at the Yogi Adityanath government's showcasing of demolition of properties of alleged criminals and opponents, said the BJP should change its

Mr. Yadav told reporters on Tuesday, "The 'sarkar' should change its election symbol to bulldozer".



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav

The Adityanath government has regularly flaunted that it has demolished or seized property worth over ₹1,500 crore of alleged mafia dons and criminals as part of its drive against organised crime.

And action against the Ansaris has been on the top of the list of the police.

The SP has often accused the BJP government of misusing authority and targetopponents bulldozers.

Mr. Yadav said, "The government's biggest accomplishment is that it has a bulldozer". In a veiled threat, he stated, "A bulldozer comes with a steering. Today it is moving in one direction, tomorrow it can move in another direction.'

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Supply of 2000 No. of pushcarts for collection of Municipal Solid Waste from slum households as per approved drawing.

Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website https://eproc.karnatka.gov.in (2) Last date for uploading queries: 22.09.2021 upto 4:00 p.m. (3) Prebid meeting on: 23.09.2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the under signed office. (4) Last date for receipt of tenders: 01.10.2021 upto 4:00 p.m. (5) Date of opening of Technical Bids are on 04.10.2021 by 4:00 p.m. or next working day. (6) Opening of Financial bids will be intimated to Technically qualified bidders. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer-3. Solid Waste Management, BBMP

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE



CENTRAL RAILWAY

Corrigendum 2 dated 14.09.2021 No. : CR-NGP-M-02-DT-06-09-2021

Name of the work: "Mechanised cleaning f coaches during Primary Maintenance nterior cleaning of coaches of RBP0 rains, cleaning Depot premises rovision of On Board Housekeepin Coaching Depot Nagpur and Aini." The vww.ireps.gov.in and newspapers or ated 06.09.2021 has been cancelled due technical reason

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Enginee ANJ/06/100 RailMadad Helpline No.: 139

CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No.: DRMWNGP-38-2021 OF 13.09.2021

Sr. No. 1: 1) Proposal for fixing land boundary post, cess repair work under ADEN KATOL sub-division. 2) Proposal / for repairs of sand hump (15 nos) and dead end (8 nos.) in between NAGPUR-NARKHER section under ADEN KATOL sub-division. (i) Approximate cost: Rs. 9460643.34 Sr. No. 2: 1) Proposal for fixing land boundary post, cess repair work under ADEN (S) NAGPUR subdivision. 2) Proposal for repairs of sand hump (7 nos) and dead end (10 nos.) in between NAGPUR-SEWAGRAM section under ADEN (S) NAGPUR subdivision. (i) Approximate cost: Rs. 7187313.41 Date & time of closing of tender: 06.10.2021 at 15:00 hrs. Complete details and instructions for e-tendering and online participation for the above work is available on Railway's vebsite www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) RailMadad Helpline No.: 139

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MADURAI DIVISION Tender Notice No. U/C.206/VPH/ Leasing/2021-22/I Dt: 13.09.2021 easing of Parcel Space in LVPH of 24 Tonne Capacity by Train No.06155/06156 MDU-NZM-MDU SF Special on round trip basis for a period of 5 years. e-Tender No. 06155-56-LVPH2 &

Details of reserve price, cost of ender form, EMD etc., can be viewed in he website: www.ireps.gov.in

(Commercial), Madurai-625016 Follow us on : 🛐 twitter.com/GMSRailway

THEMAHINDU

THE HINDU

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EASTERN RAILWAY E- Open Tender is invited by Sr. Divisiona mercial Manager, Eastern Railway Malda from the Reputed Organization Individuals for licensing out right for displa of advertisement by vinyl wrapping stickers/painting on the entire surface of exterior surfaces (debarring windows) o coaches of Mail/Express/ Superfast Passenger including DMU on the trains primary maintained by Malda Division fo calling Open Tenders for 05 (Five) years (according to RDSO specification) Tenderers are to bid online only through the below mentioned Website. No tende document in hard copy will be sold agains this tender no. Sl. No., Tender Notice No. Train Number & Train Name are a follows: (1). C_P_T_V_FB_M EX03413_21,03413/14 03483/84 Farakka EXPRESS (2). C_P_T_V_FB_M_EX03415_21, 03415/16 MLDT-PNBE Intercity (3). C_P_T_V_FB_M_EX03421_21, 03421/22 MLDT-NDAE Express (4).C_P_T_V_FB_M_EX03425_21, 03417/18 MLDT-DIGHA MLOREM, EXPRESS (4).C_P_T_V_FB_M_EX03425_21, 03417/18 MLDT-DIGHA MLOREM, EXPRESS (4).C_P_T_V_FB_M_EX03425_21, 03417/18 MLDT-DIGHA MLOREM, EXPRESS (4).C_P_T_V_FB_M_EX03425_21, 03417/18 MLDT-ST Weekly Express/ 03425/26 MLDT-ST Weekly Express (5). C_P_T_V_FB_M EX03409_21, 03409/10 MLDT-JMF Intercity Express (6). C_P_T_V_FB_M EX03465_21, 03465/66 MLDT-HWH EX03465_21, 03465/66 MLDT-HWH Intercity Express (7), C_P_T V_FB_M EX03429_21, 03429/30 MLDT-ANVT Weekly Express (8), C_P_T V_FB_M EX03403_21, 03403/04 VANANCHAL Express (9), C_P_T_V_FB_M EX03419_21, 03419/20 BGP-MFP Express (10), C_P_T V_FB_M EX03401_21, 03401/02 BGP-DNR Intercity Express (11), C_P_T V_FB_M EX03401_21, 03401/02 BGP-DNR Intercity Express (11), C_P_T V_FB_M EX03467_21 (11). C_P_T_V_FB_M_ EX02367_21.
02367/68 Vikramshila Express (BGP-ANVT) (12). C_P_T_V_FB_M_ EX03432_21, 03423/24 BGP-All Express (13). C_P_T_V_FB_M_ EX02349_21, 03429/50 GODDA-NDLS Weekly Express, 12307_2444_A

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a female namely Unknown, W/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found in unconscious condition on 10.09.2021 at Platform No.3, Hazart Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi. She was admitted in AIIMS Trauma Center Hospital on MLC No. 500284540/21. In this

regard **D.D. No. 02A dated 10.09.2021** has been lodged at Police Station, Hazart Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi, Doctors declared her dead. Identification of unidentified

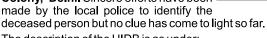
Name: Unknown, Age: 50-55 Years, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Fat, Hair: Bald, Wearing: Red Colour Sari, Paticout & Blouze.

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

Police Station Hazart Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-24356743, 8750871311 DP/260/RLY/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an | unidentified person 45-50 years of age whose name, residence and family is unknown has been found dead at 05:00 p.m. at Sapna Cinema Park, Garhi Village, Amar Colony, Delhi. In this regard a vide has been registered with DD No. 69-A dated 10.09.2021 at P.S. Amar Colony, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the



The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Male, Age: 45-50 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Check Shirt and Khadi Pant.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Amar Colony, Delhi,

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/228/SE/2021

P.S. Amar Colony, Delhi Ph. No. 8448971823

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown Age: 30 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'6" Complexion: Whatish, ID Mark: Tattoo of OM on Right hand, Wearing: White blue checked shirt and Cream colour pant, was found dead by Train Accident at K.M. Pole No. 10/27 to 10/29 Upline Adarsh Nagar, Delhi, on 12.09.2021 at

In this regard a DD No. 13 A, dated 12.09.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Railway Station, Delhi. The Dead Body has been

preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours for Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi

DP/261/RLY/2021 Ph.: 011-23692455, 7011994394

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male Namely: unknown, **S/o**: unknown, **R/o**: unknown. Age: about 20-21 years, Height: 5'5", Wearing: Blue colour Shorts Light Green T-shirt, who was found dead at 7/30-7/32 North Railway Line,

No. 36-A dated 10.09.2021 has been registered at P. S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

> P. S: Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Tel. No. 011-23961522

HC sets aside rustication of Visva-Bharati students

'Institutions being misused by parties'

BISHWANATH GHOSH

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday set aside the rustication of three Visva-Bharati students who were punished for taking part in a demonstration in January 2020, and came down heavily on "outsiders and political parties" for what it called the misuse of educational institutions.

The three students - Somnath Sow and Falguni Pan, of Economics; and Rupa Chakraborty of Hindustani classical music - were expelled on August 23 for three years on grounds of "gross indiscipline and misconduct" but their rustication had been placed in abeyance by the court last week.

September 15th's order would be seen as a victory for them and for the detractors of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof.

Bidyut Chakrabarty. ...in the interest of and for

the ends of justice, as a special case, without creating any precedent, the orders of rustication are set aside. This order is passed in the very peculiar facts and circumstances of the case on the undertaking of the three students that there shall be peace and order in the University henceforth," Justice Rajasekhar Mantha said in his order.

He said the three students could not have caused the mayhem at the University but for the "support of influential outsiders". "It is sad to note that the noble cause of education has been slaughtered at the altar of politics and a political slugfest. Educational in stitutions are being misused as breeding grounds by political parties," Justice Mantha

Assam track realignment through wetland opposed

further said.

It will spell doom for forest, say villagers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Villagers living near Deepar Beel, a Ramsar Site wetland and Important Bird Area under stress, have opposed the proposed realignment of a railway track skirting its southern edge.

The project would be catastrophic for the ecology of the Rani-Garbhanga Reserve Forest, affect a prime elephant corridor and uproot the indigenous people, they

On September 13, a memorandum containing 600 signatures of villagers around Deepar Beel was submitted to W. Longvah, Inspector-General of Forest, at the integrated regional office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in Guwahati.

The villagers listed the reasons for opposing the realignment of the railway track that has in three decades killed 14 elephants.

Senior environment scientist Hemanta Hazarika and green activist Arghadeep Baruah, who accompanied the representatives of the villagers, said the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had proposed realigning the track to the north of the wetland through human habitations.

The realignment further south to accommodate another track - both to be electrified - would be much closer to the Rani-Garbhanga



Egrets at Deepar Beel near Guwahati. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

Reserve Forest and uproot the indigenous people of Mikirpara Chakardeo who have been coexisting with nature for ages.

Tunnel plan A proposed tunnel in the hil-

ly stretch of the Rani Garbhanga Reserve Forest between two railway barriers would also spell doom for the ecology of the area "in the name of preventive measures", the memorandum said.

The track realignment will

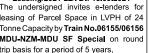
not only go against the views of the NGT but would also undermine the recommendations of the Wildlife Institute of India, the memorandum said. The issue of the garbage dumping ground on the edge of Deepar Beel was also taken up with Mr. Longvah. Seepages from the dump and sewers from Guwahati have made the Deepar Beel toxic, threatening aquatic life and waterfowls.



A GREETING TO REMEMBER

Be it an anniversary, a birthday, an academic accomplishment or even a promotion. Now you can surprise your loved ones by wishing them on

CLASSIFIEDS



No. 06155-56-LVPH3.

Divisional Railway Manager

02307 (14). C _P _T _V _FB_M_ EX02335 _21,02335/36 BGP-LTT Express (15). C _P _T _V _M _D73442_21, 73442/43 73449/50, 73401/02, 73444/45, 03476 03479 Passenger DEMU Trains (6 Trains) Uploading Date: 13.09.2021 [For SI, No 15]. Date & time for closing o E-Tender: 22.10.2021 (15.00 hrs. For SI No. 1 to 151. Website Particular & Notice Board: www.ireps.gov.ii Sr.DCM/MLDT/ ER MLD-48/2021-22

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.ir

Delhi. In this regard a case DD

Sd/- SHO DP/256/RLY/2021(UIDB)



Drugs case: Mumaith Khan appears before ED

HYDERABAD Film actor Mumaith Khan on Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as part of an ongoing probe into a money laundering case in connection with a high-end drugs racket that was busted in Hyderabad

in July 2017. Kerala govt. forays into caravan tourism

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM The Kerala government has announced a caravan tourism policy, promising safe, customised, and close-to-nature travel experience for visitors in tune with the preferences of tourists in the post-pandemic period. Tourism Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas unveiled the

Temporary doctors take to the streets in A.P.

policy on Wednesday.

VIJAYAWADA Irked by the denial of salaries in the last five months, the General Duty Medical Officers, inducted temporarily in a special recruitment drive for a period of six months on contract basis to work in special COVID hospitals, government hospitals and area hospitals in Andhra Pradesh, launched an indefinite strike from Wednesday. They demanded immediate payment of salary

Prepare action plan to handle third wave: HC

HYDERABAD Hearing a batch of PIL pleas on COVID-19 related matters, the Telangana High Court told Director of Public Health Dr. Srinivasa Rao that preparedness of the State was crucial in the event of a possible third wave. "Anticipate possible problems, prepare an action plan and implement it." the

Another leader quits Congress

Kerala PCC general secy. Rathi Kumar joins CPI(M)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Another Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) general secretary, G. Rathi Kumar, broke ranks with his party on Wednesday and shifted his political allegiance to the CPI(M).

The division in the KPCC leadership over the disputed appointment of District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents seemed to be on full display again for the second consecutive day.

On Monday, expelled KPCC general secretary K.P. Anil Kumar had joined the

CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Kodiyeri Balakrishnan and other senior leaders feted Mr. Kumar at AKG Centre here. The CPI(M) extended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Kerala Chief Minister Pina-

rayi Vijayan on Wednesday

said creating enmity bet-

ween communities was not

the purpose of Bishop of Pa-

la Mar Joseph Kallarangatt's

controversial sermon on

clarified that the Bishop's

aim was to caution believers

under his pastoral care

about the criminal networks

that pushed narcotic drugs

to impressionable youth for

The Bishop delivered the

speech from the pulpit to

believers. He had not made

a public statement. Hence,

the government believed

The diocese had since

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

'narcotic jihad.'

Bishop had no aim to

create disharmony: CM

It was not a public statement: Pinarayi



Mr. Kumar the same courtesy it had shown to Mr. Anil Kumar and KPCC secretary P.S. Prasanth. Mr. Prasanth had defected to the CPI(M) on September 3.

Seemingly after the fashion of his predecessors, Mr. Kumar rebuked the KPCC leadership for promoting "servile sycophancy" over merit in party appoint-

CSI Bishop, Muslim

body call for peace

off by Bishop of Pala

Amidst the raging debate set

(Syro-Malabar Church) Mar

sermon on "jihad by way of

love and narcotics", the

Kerala Muslim Youth

on Wednesday.

Federation have made a

unanimous call for peace.

there was no legal ground

for any case against the pre-

late, Mr. Vijayan said here

'narcotic jihad' was a mis-

nomer for drug abuse and

allied criminal activity.

The Chief Minister said

Joseph Kallarangatt with his

Central Kerala diocese of the

Church of South India and

Next phase of KPCC reorganisation soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT The KPCC on Wednesday reportedly edged towards the next phase of party reorganisation. Top leaders, including KPCC president K. Sudhakaran, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan,

Ramesh Chennithala, and Oommen Chandy, had held preliminary discussions to ensure the process was rancour-free. The leaders would

nominate new persons for the posts of KPCC and DCC general secretaries.

Nevertheless, the Congress appeared unfazed. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said a few deserters would not dent the party's prospects. The Congress had resurged after K. Karunakaran left the party in

However, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared that the trickle of leaders deserting the Congress party would soon turn into a tide. He said secular and progressive Congress workers disillusioned with the party's leadership saw the CPI(M) and not the BJP as a safe harbour.

"Today, another KPCC leader agreed to work in cooperation with the CPI(M). We have to see who will come tomorrow. I am sure there will be more," he said

Report on BJP's Kerala poll funds sent to ECI

₹40 crore illegal money trail alleged

K.S. SUDHI косні

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Kerala, has forwarded to the Election Commission of India (ECI) a police report that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) disbursed illegal funds to the tune of ₹40 crore in various constituencies during the last Assembly election.

"The police report was referred to the commission for instructions as the alleged acts relate to an offence under the Representation of the People Act," said Sanjay Kaul, CEO, here on Wednesday. A report from the State police chief in this regard was also forwarded to the ECI, he said.

BJP Kerala chief to be questioned today

KASARAGOD BJP State president K. Surendran will appear for questioning at the Crime Branch office in Kasaragod on Thursday in the Manjeswaram election bribery case. The case is based on a complaint that BSP candidate K. Sundara was bribed and threatened to withdraw his candidature from Manjeswaram.

The police had earlier also reported that ₹40 crore, brought to Kerala from Karnataka between March 5, 2021 and April 5, 2021 through a hawala racket, was handed over to various BIP leaders in the State.

Hunt on for accused in rape, murder of 6-year-old

ABHINAY DESHPANDE

Nearly a week after the brutal rape and murder of a six-year-old girl in the city, the Hyderabad police is yet to apprehend the accused.

have

Police

launched a massive manhunt to nab Pallakonda Raju, 30. On Tuesday, they announced a reward of ₹10 lakh for information leading to the arrest of Raju. The minor girl went missing on September 9 from her home in Saidabad, and hours later, her semi-naked body, wrapped in a bed sheet, was recovered from Raju's house. He was her neighbour. The girl also had several injury marks on her body.

The victim's mother suspected Raju to be the culprit as he was missing from his house. Police suspect that Raju, father of a oneyear-old, sexually assaulted the girl and later strangled her to death. Police alreleased photograph. They provided a description of the accused, and pointed out that both his hands had tattoos, which read 'Mounika'. He is about 5 feet 9 inches tall, has long hair which is tied at the back, they said. He is habituated to consuming alcohol and sleeping on pavements, the police said.

The heinous incident has triggered widespread outrage in Telangana, with political parties staging protests demanding justice for the minor girl.

A senior officer told *The Hindu* that the police had no clue about Raju's movements as he was not carrying a mobile phone, and was barely captured in CCTV cameras.

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places likely over Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Haryana, Chandigarh, east Rajasthan, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

Agartala	2	34.126.	2	Kozhikode	8	32.0	24.5		
Ahmedabad	–	31.125.	2	Kurnool	1	.33.4	24.8		
Aizawl	–	28.417.	7	Lucknow	–	.29.6	27.1		
Allahabad	–	27.025.	2	Madurai	–	.38.8	26.5		
Bengaluru	–	28.720.	5	Mangaluru	5.9	.29.4	24.0		
Bhopal	1.6	29.324.	2	Mumbai	3	.31.1	24.8		
Bhubaneswar	0.1	32.425.	6	Mysuru	–	.29.7	22.0		
Chandigarh	7.2	35.225.	3	New Delhi	–	.35.3	25.2		
Chennai	–	36.628.	5	Patna	14	.27.2	25.0		
Coimbatore	–	33.123.	2	Port Blair	19	.28.4	24.3		
Dehradun	4	32.122.	1	Puducherry	–	.37.0	25.6		
Gangtok	0.9	23.017.	2	Pune	–	.29.0	22.3		
Goa	5	31.225.	5	Raipur	. 22.4	.29.0	24.6		
Guwahati	–	35.325.	6	Ranchi	58	.25.7	22.3		
Hubballi	–	28.021.	0	Shillong	11	.25.1	17.9		
Hyderabad	–	31.523.	0	Shimla	4	.26.4	19.3		
Imphal	–	27.020.	8	Srinagar	–	.30.5	15.7		
Jaipur	3	32.624.	6	Thiruvananthapuram		.31.4	25.2		
Kochi	4	30.225.	0	Tiruchi	–	.37.6	26.0		
Kohima	–	31.818.	2	Vijayawada	9	.34.4	25.0		
Kolkata	. 159	31.324.	4	Visakhapatnam		.34.6	27.2		
Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)									

4.00 p.m., Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 196 (AQI) score of 196 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) 502: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by

....44

reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

Maharashtra's active cases dip to nearly 49,000

State adds 3,783 new cases, 56 deaths



Under Bappa's watch: A health worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine dose to a beneficiary at a special camp held inside a Ganapati pandal in Mumbai on Wednesday. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

STAFF REPORTER

Maharashtra's active case tally continued to drop with the State reporting 4,364 recoveries on Wednesday as against 3,783 new COVID-19 cases. The active cases now stand at 49,034.

ties to 1,38,277. The case fatality rate remains constant at 2.12%. The total cases now stand

at 65,07,930 while the State's cumulative recoveries have risen to 63,17,070 with the recovery rate at

Dr. Pradeep Awate said.

Pune reported a big surge clined to around 7,400.

Despite the rise in cases, Pune district, which was the worst-hit in the country at one point during the lethal second wave, has shown a marked improvement in the last few days. Cases in urban pockets, particularly, have shown a consistent decline, with the district's overall active tally reducing by more than 25% of the peak which was somewhere around 10,000 cases.

Mumbai recorded a higher-than-usual spike of 515 fresh cases to take its total tally to 7,36,282, while the active count went up to 5,488. Four deaths took the city's fatality figure to

Ahmednagar registered 725 new cases and 17 deaths, taking its total cases to 3,21,322 of whom 6,586 are active. The district's death toll climbed to 6,700.

Satara added 227 new cases and six deaths to take the total case tally to 2,44,686 of whom 4,302 are active, while the fatality toll rose to 6.173.

Neighbouring Sangli logged 154 fresh cases and two fatalities. The total tally stands at 2,05,896.

Maharashtra to issue ordinance for OBC quota in local body bypolls

Will ensure 27% reservation for OBCs without violating 50% limit

STAFF REPORTER

In the wake of the controversy over the political reservation for the OBCs in local civic bodies, the Maharashtra Cabinet on Wednesday decided to issue an ordinance to ensure 50% reservation cap is not violated while keeping 27% reservation for the OBCs intact.

The Cabinet cleared the amendment to be introduced in the Maharashtra Grampanchayat Act which will state that while keeping the 27% OBC reservation, it will be ensured that the reservation of all including the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs will not cross 50% limit. The decision comes two days after the State Election Commission (SEC) announced bypolls to seats that have become vacant following the Supreme Court's decision to strike down political reservation for the OBCs, which was crossing the 50% mark.

Review petition declined The bypolls will be held on October 5. The State government's review petition had been declined by the apex

Konkan disaster mitigation plan cleared

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

A special Konkan disaster mitigation programme worth ₹3,200 crore was approved by the State Cabinet on Wednesday. The decision to imple-

ment the project was taken in the wake of successive natural calamities, including the recent Cyclone Tauktae, which caused large-scale destruction across the region's

While the all-party meet-

ing has decided to not hold

the bypolls until the OBC re-

servation issues is sorted

out, the court last week di-

rected that it was only the

SEC which can decide on

coastline.

While ₹2,000 crore will be spent through the State disaster mitigation fund, the rest will be spent over the next four years through the State funds. A special plan will be prepared for capacity building and preparedness which will also target adequate and comprehen-

sive use of the fund. A special Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) and ad-

tral government led by the 50% limit.

postponement of the polls. The Opposition BJP on Wednesday held protests throughout the State claiming that the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government was acting against the interests of the OBCs. The Congress, which is part of the government, slammed the BJP saying it was the Cen-

BJP which is responsible for jeopardising the OBC reservation as it did not raise the

"The ordinance, however, will not impact the upcoming bypolls, as the programme has already been announced. It will certainly be applicable for the next year's mini-Assembly polls where a number of municipal corporations and zilla parishads are set to go to polls," said Hari Narke, a scholar on OBC reservation.

He said the State govern-

ment must immediately start working on other factors of collecting empirical data through OBC census from the State Backward Classes Commission and proving backwardness and representation of the OBCs as per the directions of the apex court. He accepted that the 50% limit might reduce some OBC seats

and added that the proce-

dure laid down by the court

visers will be appointed

for the effective implemen-

ing a number of natural

disasters in the last few

years. There is a need to

come up with a compre-

hensive plan to prepare for

the calamity and reduce

the impact on financial

and human cost. This spe-

cial programme is aimed

at doing the same," said an

official.

"Konkan has been fac-

tation of the project.

BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis said the State government has finally acted but

must be followed as well.

Chargesheet filed against Raj Kundra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Wednesday filed a supplementary chargesheet in a pornographic content case naming jailed businessman Raj Kundra.

The nearly 1,500-page chargesheet was against Mr. Kundra and his associate Ryan Thorpe.

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3 months after kidnap, M.P. girl rescued from Ghansoli

RAINA ASSAINAR NAVI MUMBAI

A 13-year-old girl, who was abducted from Madhya Pradesh around three months ago, was rescued from Ghansoli early this week by Yuva Child Line activists and the Rabale police, along with a police team from that State. The girl and a 24-year-old man, who had kidnapped her, were handed over to

the Madhya Pradesh police.

Senior police inspector Yogesh Gawade from Rabale police station said a case of kidnapping was registered in Madhya Pradesh. "The police team traced the location here and informed us. We helped them rescue the girl," he said.

In June, the accused had lured the girl, a Class VII student, to accompany him to Navi Mumbai

with the promise to marry her. Vijay Kharat, centre coordina-

tor, Yuva Child Line, said, "The Madhya Pradesh police contacted us with information which we traced and informed the Rabale police about it. The accused did odd jobs to survive. The Madhya Pradesh police will further conduct medical tests on her to verify if there was any sexual abuse."

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
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As many as 56 deaths took the cumulative fatali-

"Of a total 5,63,61,089 laboratory samples tested thus far, 65,07,930 (with the average case positivity falling incrementally to 11.55%) have returned positive with over 1.35 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," State Surveillance Officer

of nearly 1,000 new cases, taking its total case tally to 11,32,215, while six deaths pushed the toll to 18,810. As per district authorities, the active case count has de-





Transient easing

Cutting fuel taxes is a sure-shot way to address a major component of price pressures

The latest retail inflation data suggest, at first flush, that price pressures have begun to moderate in the economy, with the August print for CPI showing inflation having slowed for a second straight month to a 5.3% pace, after July's 5.59%. Price trends among the constituents of the Consumer Price Index and the latest Wholesale Price Index-based inflation, however, show that it would be premature to drop the guard on price gains. For one, the year-earlier inflation reading was elevated thus imparting a favourable base effect. Month-on-month, however, the CPI nudged up 0.25% from July, belying the inference of softening inflation. And the pace of price gains in at least three essential food components speeded up from the preceding month, with meat and fish, dairy and oils and fats posting significant accelerations. Edible oils have been on a tear for months now - the August print was 33% after July's 32.5% – and an earlier round of cuts in import duties have had little impact in cooling their prices, forcing the Centre to announce another tranche of duty reductions this month. Inflation in two other vital protein sources, eggs and pulses, also continued to remain a cause for concern. While inflation in eggs remained in the high teens at 16.3%, price increase in pulses was 8.81% after slowing 23 basis points from July's 9.04% pace. A persistent and wider deflation in vegetable prices was the main positive contributor to the easing in overall food and beverages inflation last month.

The pace of inflation in fuel and light, clothing and footwear, health as well as household goods and services all ratcheted up last month. Transport and communication, which includes pump prices of the main automotive fuels of petrol and diesel, stayed stuck in double digits at 10.2% albeit after a 30 basis points easing from July's 10.5% pace. And the WPI data show higher transportation costs combined with input price pressures fanned faster inflation in manufactured products as well, sending the segment's pace to 11.4%, a fourth straight month of double-digit price gains. The outlook for inflation is far from sanguine if one considers that IHS Markit's PMI survey for services revealed input costs rose in August at the fastest rate in four months, and a recent CII poll of CEOs showed a majority 67% expect average retail inflation this year to hover close to or exceed the RBI's mandated monetary policy upper threshold of 6%. Policymakers are only too well aware that ultimately, inflation is not just about a point reading but far more about consumers' and businesses' expectations of the trend in prices. Fears of future high inflation dampen sentiment and thus retard economic activity. Cutting fuel taxes is a sure-shot way to address a major component of price pressures and it is time the Government bites the bullet and acts to provide a more abiding solution.

TN's case against NEET

The odds are against TN, but it is time to ask whether the test has met its objectives

The Bill passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly to exempt aspirants for its undergraduate medical courses from the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) is no magic wand that will dramatically alter the status quo. There seems to be no tangible basis for the hope and optimism behind its intent to deliver its rural and urban poor from what it perceives to be an inequitable admission system that favours the rich and the elite. It hopes to receive Presidential assent, even though similar Bills passed by the erstwhile AIADMK regime had been denied the favour in 2017. Such assent is required as the proposed State law is in conflict with the parliamentary legislation regulating medical admissions. The key element the DMK has brought to the table now to fulfil its electoral promise of abolishing NEET is a report by the Justice (retd.) A.K. Rajan Committee on the adverse impact of NEET on students and health-care delivery in the State. The committee's view that NEET would adversely affect the rural and urban poor, and consequently, the State's future manpower availability to run its network of primary health centres, has many takers, as well as some truth behind it. The moot question, however, is whether the mere inclusion of these elements from the report in the Bill's preamble and its Statement of Objects and Reasons is sufficient incentive for the Centre to grant the exemption that Tamil Nadu wants.

NEET has become crystallised as the only means of gaining admission to medical institutions, including private colleges, after the Supreme Court's categorical view that such a test alone could help maintain standards. It will be quite difficult for the Union government to grant relief to one State alone in the face of this strong and inflexible judicial opinion. However, what is possible is for the rest of the country not to dismiss the anti-NEET narrative in Tamil Nadu as a product of Tamil exclusivism; rather, there is a case to examine it dispassionately. The State has invested heavily in medical education infrastructure and aimed to afford easy access to all sections: this has so far preserved the efficiency of its health-care system. The time may also have come to examine whether NEET has met its purposes of improving standards and curbing commercialisation and profiteering. Under current norms, one quite low on the merit rank can still buy a medical seat in a private college, while those ranked higher but only good enough to get a government quota seat in a private institution can be priced out of the system. The Centre should do something other than consider an exemption to Tamil Nadu. It has to conceive a better system that will allow a fair admission process while preserving inter se merit and preventing rampant commercialisation.

Hardly the India-China century Deng envisioned

For the current Chinese leadership, the 21st century is destined to be China's alone, with India to be shown its place



SHASHI THAROOR

lifteen months after the clashes between Chinese and Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley, India-China relations are at their lowest ebb in living memory.

To be sure, there have always been political tensions even before, both over each country's territorial claims over land controlled by the other, and over such longterm problems as China's "allweather" alliance with our hostile separated sibling, Pakistan, and our hospitality to the Dalai Lama, who was granted refuge when he fled Tibet in 1959. But neither country had allowed these tensions to overwhelm them: China had declared that the border dispute could be left to "future generations" to resolve, and India had endorsed the "One China" policy, refusing to support Tibetan secessionism while limiting official reverence for the Dalai Lama to his status as a spiritual leader.

The line is no provocation

India has usually shown no desire to rock the boat. Its actions and statements have usually been designed not to provoke our northern neighbour, but to relegate the border problem to the back burner while enabling trade relations with China (now worth close to \$100 billion) to flourish. India made it clear that it was unwilling to join in any United States-led "containment" of China; its traditional obsession with preserving its "strategic autonomy" after two centuries of colonial rule made it wary of the blandishments of the

Ironically, before Galwan, 2020 was supposed to be a landmark year for the two countries' bilateral relations. In October 2019 in Mahabalipuram, at their 18th meeting in nine years, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister

Narendra Modi had grandly pledged to take relations between their two countries to "greater heights". To mark the 70th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries, they announced they would conduct 70 joint activities, including further improving their burgeoning trade, supporting scholarly research into their ancient civilizational links, and even exchanging military delegations, in a grand show of Sino-Indian cooperation.

There is much connect

This wasn't just fluff. The two countries had indeed developed multiple avenues of engagement. From negligible levels till 1991, trade with China had grown to become one of India's largest trading relationships. Prime Minister Modi, an early enthusiast, had lifted residual restrictions on bilateral Chinese investment in strategic sectors of the Indian economy (notably ports, airports, power generation and telecoms technology), so that by 2020, Chinese investment (current and planned) stood at about \$26 billion with infrastructure projects accounting for about half the total. India engages with China diplomatically in the BRICS (an association of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), as well as conducting annual summits of RIC (Russia-India-China). India is an enthusiastic partner in the Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank.

But it has become increasingly apparent that the policy of sidestepping contentious issues and encouraging bilateral economic relations has played into Chinese hands. The People's Liberation Army has used the seemingly benign situation to repeatedly undertake "minor" military incursions, inflict small-scale military setbacks on India, take a few square kilometres of territory along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) for local tactical purposes, and then declare peace. Mutual disengagements are duly announced, both



sides claim the crisis is over, but China establishes and fortifies its new deployment. These mini-crises always end with the Chinese in a better position on the ground than before. Each incident establishes a new "normal" on the

The Chinese strategy

In the Galwan clash, the Chinese troops seem to have been engaged in a tactical move to advance their positions along areas of the LAC that it covets, in order to threaten Indian positions and interdict patrols. After the recent incursions. the Chinese now reportedly control over 900 square kilometres of area in Ladakh along the LAC. They are threatening India's construction of roads, bridges and similar infrastructure on undisputed Indian territory, a belated effort to mirror similar Chinese efforts near the LAC in Tibet. Rather than merely patrolling, they have established a fixed presence in these areas well beyond China's own 'Claim Line', occupied the "Finger Heights" near Pangong Tso Lake, pitched hundreds of tents, constructed concrete structures and built additional kilometres of road along the LAC. The objective seems to be to extend Chinese troop presence to the intersection of the Galwan river and the Shyok river, which would make the Galwan Valley off bounds to India. The Chinese have constructed permanent structures in the area of their intrusion and issued statements claiming that sovereignty over the Galwan valley has "always belonged" to China.

China's strategy seems to be to consolidate the LAC where it

wants it, so that an eventual border settlement - that takes these new realities into account – will be in its favour. That is the longerterm plan: Beijing keeps saying the border should be left to future generations to settle, knowing full well that each passing year increases China's relative economic, military and geopolitical strength vis-à-vis India, while shifting the LAC in its

In the meantime, border incidents keep the Indians off balance and demonstrate to the world that India is not capable of challenging China, let alone offering security to other nations. Whereas Deng Xiaoping had told then-Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1988 (picture) that the 21st century would be "India and China's century", the current Chinese leadership has no patience for such pablum. They believe - indeed believe they know – that it is destined to be China's century alone, and are all too happy to show India its subsidiary place in the pecking

India's options India's tactical options are unenviable: it has reinforced its military assets on the LAC to prevent deeper incursions for now, and hopes to press the Chinese to restore the status quo ante through either diplomatic or military means. Chinese and Indian officials are currently engaged in diplomatic and military-to-military dialogue to ease tensions, but de-escalation has been stalled for months, with China behaving as if their disen-

gagement is already complete. India has responded with largely symbolic acts of economic retaliation, banning Chinese apps in India on grounds of data security. It is likely that Chinese companies will be barred from various lucrative opportunities in the vast Indian market, as two of them, Huawei and ZTE, have been from the ongoing trials to be picked to build India's 5G telecoms infrastructure. India has also reimposed tighter limits on Chinese investment in projects such as railways, motorways, public-sector construction projects, and telecoms, a reversal of the openness to China that the Modi administration had initially

The economic angle

Yet, India is far too dependent on China for other vital imports such as pharmaceuticals, and even the active ingredients to make them, automotive parts and microchips, all needed by Indian manufacturers - that many in New Delhi fear it would be shooting itself in the foot if it acted too strongly against China. Today, India's dependence on China for its non-consumption economy remains high; what is more, imports from China have become indispensable for India's exports to the rest of the world. Various manufacturing inputs, industrial equipment and components, and even some technological know-how from China; eliminating them could have a seriously negative effect on India's economic growth at a time when, thanks mainly to the COVID-19 crisis, our GDP is estimated to have shrunk dramatically. And there are limits to the effectiveness of any Indian retaliation: trade with China may seem substantial from an Indian perspective, but it only represents 3% of China's exports (https:// bit.ly/2VHsmWD). Drastically reducing it would not be enough to deter Beijing or cause it to change its behaviour.

This range of considerations seems to leave only two strategic options for New Delhi: reconciling itself to playing second fiddle to an assertive China in the region, or seeking strength and leverage by aligning itself with a broader international coalition against Chinese ambitions. Since the first is indigestible for any democracy, is China de facto pushing India into doing something it has always resisted allying with the West?

Shashi Tharoor is a third-term Member of Thiruvananthapuram and an award-winning author of 22 books,

'Know the enemy, know self' is sound professional advice +

It can be achieved if the national leadership and military education system have access to full-time domain specialists



MANMOHAN BAHADUR

🦳 un Tzu, Chinese general, military strategist, writer, and philosopher, famously said, "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles... if you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle." Considering the recent events in military circles, this needs examination, and certain facets of Professional Military Education (PME) in the Indian armed forces

A structured process

Knowing the adversary and yourself is a three-step process. First, gathering information (the adversary's and your own), its distillation into knowledge and finally reoptions decision-makers; the third step is critical for national leadership.

Pragmatic leadership seeks advice from knowledgeable people. Thus, the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and NITI Aayog advise the Government and offer options on key issues. Each body must have domain specialists from important fields and when one considers the

NSCS and the NSAB, the three arms of the armed forces should be represented at the senior advisory level. Unfortunately, this has not been the case for many years now; it would be instructive to see how other nations fare in such apex bodies since the members need to be both, academics and professionals, rolled into one.

Apex institutions abroad

I had the good fortune of doing two specialist courses abroad. In the test pilots school (EPNER) in France that I attended in 1987, the Chief Ground Instructor, who taught us theory of test flying, was a civilian aerodynamicist. The school's commandant had earlier been the Air Force's Mirage-2000 project pilot with the aviation company M/s Dassault; he was seconded to EPNER to teach test flying. Can we replicate such intermixing in PME institutions so that personnel benefit from expertise available within ourselves? Incidentally, the examiner for my final examination was the chief test pilot of Aerospatiale, i.e., a civilian working in the French aviation industry.

The EPNER example, one from the tactical level, illustrates how theorists and practitioners from different fields can be dovetailed to holistically train junior professionals who later hold appointments at the operational and strategic realm. The United States Air Force has its air university with a faculty of civilian academics who,



ing just one particular field, are the last word in their area of expertise. Their teachings are co-related with real life experiences by uniformed service instructors. When was doing my course there, Colonel John Warden came as the Commandant of the Staff College – an air power strategist, the Colonel had designed the brilliant air campaign in Operation Desert Storm against Iraq in 1991; post the successful air campaign, it would be remembered, ground forces had a free run. After his successful operational tour, he turned an academician and enriched the staff college syllabus with his operational experiences.

The situation in India

How are we doing in India? It would be safe to say that in our PME institutions most, if not all, instructors are service officers posted-in from field/staff appointments who do their two/threeyear tenure and move on; there is no time to become an 'expert'. Having guest lectures is no substitute to having subject matter experts on staff doing full-time teach-

ing. Luckily, we see a whiff of India Institutes of Medical Sciencchange in some institutions. The Naval War College in Goa invites culty of tri-Service retired officers acting as mentors in specialised areas of learning. It is also heartening to see the National Defence College at Delhi set-up a President's Chair of Excellence teneted by a retired scholar warrior; and, this is how it should be elsewhere

IDU project languishes

The Defence Services Staff College should be the starting point with permanent chairs for subject matter experts teaching military history, strategy, geo-politics et al.; service officers would be the links to field realities. It is a joint institution and hence the Commandant should be a reputed scholar warrior from any of the three services, and not just from the Army as has been till now. The Army War College, College of Air Warfare, College of Defence Management, etc. should take similar action. And as one moves up the hierarchy of learning, one wonders where the Indian Defence University (IDU) project (earlier INDU – Indian National Defence University) is languishing after its foundation stone was laid in 2013 near Gurgaon. In times when road infrastructure and the setting up of additional Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, All

es, etc. are being fast-tracked, the silence on the IDU, which would an eminent academic from abroad be the capstone institution to to run capsules on operational art. guide PME architecture in India, is The college also has an adjunct fa- unfathomable. While the Ministry of Home Affairs has set up the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Gujarat (whose head is a member of the NSAB too), one wonders why the Ministry of Defence is procrastinating with IDU that is planned to have all tri-Service institutions, including the National Defence College, under its tutelage. Incidentally, the website of RRU states that it will have schools for Air and Space, Navy, Army, et al.; but, one thought that the charter for such schools of higher strategic learning was to be for IDU.

Which brings us to the topmost policy advisory tier, the NSAB and NSCS. These apex bodies conduct long-term analyses and provide perspectives on issues of national importance to India's political leadership; if there was ever a case of sound academic presence and military professionals from all three services populating them, it is here. The national leadership, both civil and military, in these times of galloping technology in the military sphere and re-hashing of international relationships, will gain immensely in knowing the enemy – and 'itself'.

Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur VM (retired), is a former Additional Director General, Centre for Air Power Studies. The views expressed are personal

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

Achieving 'net zero' Notwithstanding the fact that the pressing need is for all nations to cooperate to combat global warming on a war-footing, given India's abysmal social indicators, it is certainly asking too much to expect a developing nation to announce a timeline for net-zero emissions today. The veritable truth is that global climate action has lost precious momentum due to the lackadaisical attitude of two U.S. Presidents, George Bush and Donald Trump, towards climate change as they were evidently

prompted by the powerful U.S. oil companies. Had the U.S.'s helping hand come earlier, India would have been better placed to announce a timeline for net-zero emissions today. As far as climate action is concerned, the U.S. must put its house in order. Its investment in large-scale gas infrastructure could lead importing countries onto a fossil-dependent pathway that will not be compatible with the Paris Agreement's temperature

NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,

The RE

The Readers' Editor's columns do strike a chord; I have been an avid reader of *The Hindu* from the 1960s. These columns have been couched with pragmatism, dynamism, and $for thrightness\ while$ discussing a range of issues. Mr. A.S. Panneerselvan's observation that an ombudsman is an active listener is right. R. SAMPATH,

■ In *The Hindu*, Mr. Panneerselvan's columns added radiance to one's

reading pleasure. His perspectives and vistas on journalism were interesting. The Open House sessions he conducted further strengthened the bonds between *The Hindu* and its readers over the years. R. SIVAKUMAR,

■ I was fortunate to participate in two Open Houses – one in person and the other virtual. When I joined issue with the Editor on one subject, it was handled well. The RE's services as a bridge between readers and the daily upheld the responsibilities of the ombudsman. J.P. REDDY,

Nalgonda, Telangana

■ In Mr. Panneerselvan's case, whatever be the battles of perception he has fought, he has done an exemplary job as the ombudsman of the newspaper: always listening and caring about readers' views, and taking criticism in his stride, even if toxic. Kosaraju Chandramouli,

Youngsters shine The grand victories of 18-year-old Emma Raducanu

To read more letters online, scan the QR code and 25-year-old Daniil

Medvedev in the US Open women's and men's singles, proves that the masters need to watch out for determined, dedicated and hard-working youngsters. The Grand Slam victories of Novak Djokovic this year and the absence of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal had almost made Diokovic an obvious winner. but there was to be change. The final match that ensured a break in the line was a treat in every sense. AKSHI GOYAL, Gurugram, Haryana

THE HINDU DELHI THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

T.N.'s unending dilemma with NEET

The courts will have to come up with a solution to the question of medical admissions by next year



K. CHANDRU

The latest Bill passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly exempting the State from the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate (UG) medical courses and also to prescribe its own admission method for MBBS seats is in no way different from the efforts taken by the previous government in 2017. The Bills sent by the State were returned by the President of India without getting his assent.

Before passing the Bill, the Tamil Nadu government had appointed a committee of experts under Justice A.K. Rajan, a retired judge of the Madras High Court, to look into the question of the desirability of having the examination as a prerequisite for MBBS admissions. When the committee started its hearing, it was generally stated that it would advise the government to exempt itself from the requirement of the examination. However, when a public interest litigation (PIL) petition was filed in the High Court challenging the appointment of the committee on the ground that it violated the orders of the Supreme Court regarding NEET, the stand taken was that the committee would only look into the effects of the examination on the students in the State.

Views of all stakeholders

The committee said it had ascertained the views of all the stakeholders and that a majority were not in favour of the NEET requirement. It did not recommend any legislation. The committee was of the opinion that the examination had not provided any special mechanism for testing the knowledge and aptitude of the students. It suggested that the higher secondary examination of the State board itself was an ample basis for the selection of students for MBBS seats. NEET only worked against underprivileged government school students, and had profited coaching centres and affluent students.

The present Bill proceeds on the assumption that medical college ad-



under this Act, in respect of the State

government seats (whether in go-

vernment medical college or in a

private medical college) where such

State has not opted for such

Though this amendment was to

come into force from the academic

year 2016-2017 onwards, due to op-

position from many quarters, the Un-

ion government issued an Ordinance

on May 24, 2016, postponing the in-

troduction of NEET to the next aca-

issued an order in 2017 providing for

the reservation of 85% of the seats for

students passed out from the State

board and 15% for students from oth-

er boards, it was struck down by the

Madras High Court. An appeal by the

State to the Division Bench was also

It was then the Tamil Nadu Assembly

passed a Bill seeking the exemption

of the State from NEET, which the

President refused to give his assent

to. The present move to pass a fresh

Bill on the same lines is most likely to

It is significant that no other State

in India has sought an exemption

from NEET and, therefore, exempt-

ing Tamil Nadu alone may not be

possible. Even among the seats allot-

ted to the State, there is no bar for

students from other States from com-

peting or selecting colleges in Tamil

Nadu. Also, if exempted, what will be

the fate of the all-India quota of 15%,

which will be filled up by students

who write NEET, and what will hap-

pen to Tamil Nadu students who do

When the Tamil Nadu government

examination."

rejected.

Same fate

meet the same fate.

missions will come under the Concurrent List (Entry 25 of List III) and, therefore, the State can also enact a law regarding admission and amend any Central law on admission procedures.

This thinking of the State may be due to the observation made by the Supreme Court in the selection process of postgraduate (PG) courses in medicine, where the Medical Council of India (MCI) had prescribed certain regulations providing reservation for in-service candidates. The Supreme Court struck down regulation 9(c) made by the MCI on the ground of the exercise of power beyond its sta-

It must be remembered that the Supreme Court was only dealing with a regulation framed by the MCI, whereas the requirement of NEET being a basic requirement for PG and UG medical courses has now been statutorily incorporated under Section 10D of the Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, which states, "There shall be conducted a uniform entrance examination to all medical educational institutions at the undergraduate level and postgraduate level through such designated authority in Hindi, English and such other languages and in such manner as may be prescribed and the designated authority shall ensure the conduct of uniform entrance examination in the aforesaid manner: Provided that notwithstanding any judgment or order of any court, the provisions of this section shall not apply, in relation to the uniform entrance examination at the undergraduate level for the academic year 2016-17 conducted in accordance with any regulations made not write the examination, thus not availing this quota? As a sop for government school

students, the State government had brought in a law providing 7.5% reservation in medical seats, but with NEET as a criterion. The same situation continues even for the admission for this academic year.

The introduction of internal reservation for government school students is under challenge before the Madras High Court. Similarly, NEET as a requirement is also pending in the Supreme Court. Unless these two issues are decided, NEET cannot be removed by a State amendment.

However, certain legal pundits had said the State could amend a Central law falling under the Concurrent List and had given examples of the amendments made to to the Hindu Marriage Act, the Industrial Disputes Act, etc.

The question is not whether the State government can amend a law falling under the Concurrent List. The question is whether the State government can exempt Section 10D of the IMC Act, which is a parliamentary law that falls under the Central List (Entry 66). Moreover, the Supreme Court has also upheld NEET as a requirement.

Mere statistics highlighting that a majority of the stakeholders do not want NEET in Tamil Nadu is not an answer for exempting the examination that was introduced by a Central law. Data is necessary only when there is power to legislate on the subject concerned.

If the committee's findings that government school students are edged out from entering medical colleges due to competitive examinations are accepted, it will be difficult to explain the 7.5% reservation exclusively meant for these students.

Since the Bill, which will become an Act after the President's nod, will come into effect only from the next academic year, the battle for and against the NEET requirement will continue in courts. Hopefully, the courts will determine the legality and have a definite solution to the question of medical admissions within the next year. Till such time, students who wrote NEET will fill the seats under the State quota.

Justice K. Chandru is a retired judge of the Madras High Court

NEP schools: the future

COVID-19 brought the online model sooner than we imagined



ANITA KARWAL RAINISH KUMAR

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the greatest disruptor in the education sector. It has brought the future to us sooner than we ever imagined. Had there been no pandemic, the use of digital technologies in education would not have been so rampant. Learners would not have been exposed to a huge variety of innovative content or digital formats of education in their own languages. The engagement of parents and communities in their child's education would have been a distant dream. The essential role of schools and teachers in caretaking and the mental/ physical/cognitive development of a child would not have been so permanently established. The need for foundational literacy and preventing dropouts would not have been so intensely realised. And the need to overcome the digital divide would not have been felt so acutely.

The schools of the future and the future of schooling are now both subject to intense debate, especially with the coming in of the National Education Policy 2020. But certain broad understandings have emerged that most agree upon. Firstly, there is already a discernible shift in the focus from physical infrastructure towards digital and virtual requirements. Secondly, it is not edtech as much as it is the traditional face-to-face modes of learning in schools that will continue to be the greatest equaliser in education. Thirdly, skill-building for the requirements of the 21st century has assumed great significance. Fourth, accelerated and even differentiated instructional interventions will be required to overcome and reverse the impact of the pandemic. Lastly, it is likely that there will be more pressure on the government schooling system to expand its intake.

Four qualities

In this scenario, for schools to emerge as strong, inclusive and professional educational systems, it is essential to imagine what the schools of the future will be like. We believe that the following four qualities will define the schools of the future, both public and Firstly, schools will encourage extended

networks rather than remain as closed classroom communities. Over the last couple of centuries, our education systems have shifted towards methods that may help indivi-

duals acquire knowledge, but may not equip them with life skills. As a result, we hardly have job creators passing out of the school precincts. We have many day-to-day problems, but very few problem-solvers. Future schools will go beyond the school walls. They will take teaching-learning to informal settings such as topic circles and eco clubs, visits to the neighbourhood, to museums or scientific laboratories, etc. Learners will be green in their approach, tech-savvy, connected to their roots and to the world, and will be able to effectively link their curriculum to their lives.

Secondly, schools will be pro-active innovators. They will adopt innovative pedagogies and differentiated instructions as per the needs of the learners to enable them to become knowledge creators and, eventually, job creators. They will utilise innovative methods of assessment to bring out the unique potential of every child, harness innovative technologies for teaching, learning and administration, and usher in a culture of

Thirdly, the future of jobs also has a direct bearing on the schools of the future. Routine jobs will become scarce. Students of the future will have to struggle with the new set of capabilities needed, hyper-information digressing into disinformation, virtual teams not seeing each other physically, and will constantly experience a swing between super speciality and cross-disciplinary skills. Future schools will be future-oriented and connected to the job market, capable of empowering, and building the skills of learners for jobs that are yet to be created and technologies that are yet to be invented.

Lastly, schools will forge stronger and more trusting engagement with families and communities. The online world of e-parentsteachers meetings (e-PTMs), e-guidance to parents, and social media-based active communication with parents during the pandemic has opened up an entire world of possibilities. Local self-governments, health workers, environmentalists, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the community at large will be actively engaged in future schools in offering services, support, infrastructure, exposure to future jobs, and learning from beyond the school boundaries.

The future depends on the decisions we make in the present, and lest we forget, the future of the country is enrolled in our schools today. Future schools will build the character of the children and set them free to discover the world, shape it and contribute to make it just and equitable.

Anita Karwal is Secretary and Rainish Kumar. Director in the Department of School Education Government of India

A relationship tied to Sharia law

The 'new' Taliban's approach to women is not going to be any different from the 'old' Taliban

SHAIKH MUJIBUR REHMAN

The recent political developments in Kabul are enough to justify that the so-called "new" Taliban's approach to women is not going to be any different from the "old" Taliban that governed Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. It became apparent when Zabiullah Mujahid, its spokesperson, tied the issues of women's freedom in the "new" Afghanistan with Sharia law while addressing the Taliban's first press conference. The international community needs to recognise that the "new" Taliban, like its predecessor, has not occupied power to rebuild Afghanistan as a modern nation state based on core democratic values, but to colour the Afghanistan society with its own extreme version of Islam. The Taliban is an ideological movement. Like all such movements. it is making strategic compromises by manoeuvring through rhetoric.

At the heart of this crisis lies the issue of the relationship between women and religion. Genuine emancipation of women, some argue, lies outside religion because all religions are inherently patriarchal. Others recognise the prevalence of enough moral resources in various religions, including Islam, that could be marshalled for gender rights. Scholars sympathetic to Islam often attribute its anti-women tendencies to flawed interpretations of the women's role in Islamic texts. Feminist movements in various parts of the world, including Egypt, Iran and even in India, often cite various Islamic sources, at times even practices from Prophet Mohammed's life, to make a case for encouraging prospects for gender rights in Muslim societies. Some describe this as Islamic feminism because white feminism that originated in the West has its own share of pro-

Moroccan feminist Fatima Mernissi's book, Women and Islam: An Historical and Theological Inquiry, articulates fascinating perspectives on the relationship between women and Islam. She makes a persuasive case on why the West has been unfair in singling out Islam as "anti-women". By engaging with various classical sources, she blames the misinterpre-

tation of Islamic texts and its intellectual history as the reason behind such biases against Islam. She talks about Aisha, the Prophet's wife, her role in the power struggle, and how she led armed opposition against the Caliph who ruled at the time. This narrative contradicts the Taliban's argument, which denies Muslim women any public role in governance or

The Taliban's resurgence has the potential to sway the global opinion about Muslim societies as being intrinsically "anti-women". However, Muslim-majority societies further present encouraging evidence about the women's pre-eminent roles in various fields, including governance. For instance, Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan or Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh have played seminal roles. Some would attribute class as a factor in their rise, but a majority of clergy and Muslims in general embrace their roles as normal and not a violation of Islamic tradition.

One major failure of the U.S.-led intervention in Afghanistan for 20odd years has been the failure of liberal Islam to gain adequate roots in Afghanistan to counter the Taliban's extreme patriarchal narrative of Islam. Unfortunately, liberal Muslims as champions of liberal Islam often do not find solidarity with liberals from non-Muslim communities for their cause due to the misconception that conservatives and clergies call the shots in Muslim communities. Hence, dominant stakeholders consider it politically incorrect to back liberal Muslims. Such a perception motivated the passage of the Shah Bano Bill in India during the 1980s, and liberal Muslims were abandoned by a dominant fraction of the power-hungry liberals of the majority community and by the Indian state.

The women groups that are active in present Afghanistan need proactive support from the international community. Without such support, they will not be able to smash their new prison.

Dr. Shaikh Mujibur Rehman teaches at Iamia Millia Islamia. He is the author of the upcoming book, Shikwa-e-Hind: The Political Future of Indian Muslims

DATA POINT

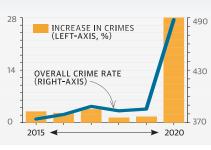
Crime in a pandemic year

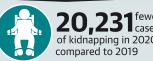
Recorded crimes in India increased by 28% in 2020 compared to 2019, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). This was primarily due to cases registered for flouting COVID-19-related lockdown norms. A sharp increase was recorded in cases reported under the "disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant, Section 188 of the IPC", which lays down the penalties for violating the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, under which the lockdown-related norms were laid. However, violent and severe crimes such as rape, kidnapping and crimes against children declined. The police's chargesheeting rate and courts' conviction rate of cases also improved, possibly due to a drop in new cases.

By Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Sumant Sen and Jasmin Nihalani

21 times increase in crimes related to disobeying public servant orders between 2019 and 2020

1.A ONE-OFF YEAR | The number of registered cognisable crimes increased by 28% in 2020 compared to 2019. The crime rate (crimes per 1 lakh persons) also rose







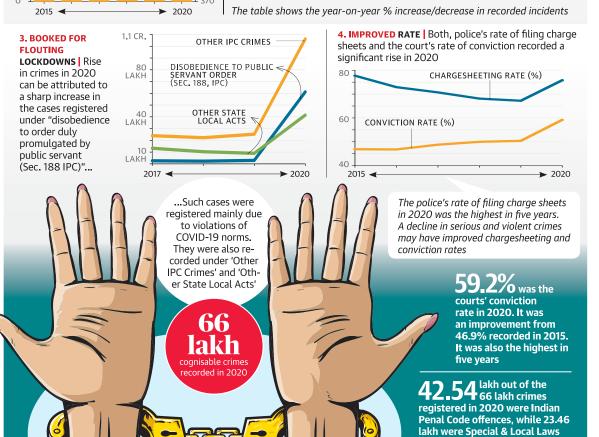
2 FALL IN SERIOUS CRIMES | While the overall crime incidents increased the

SOURCE: NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU CRIME IN INDIA REPORTS (2015-2020)

GRAPHIC: KARTHICK S.T.

number of violent and serious crimes fell across many crime heads in 2020 compared to 2019. Recorded incidents of rape decreased by 12.4%, crimes against children reduced by 19.3% and robberies declined by 22.4%. There was a slight increase in murders

Year	Murder	Rape	Kidnapping & abduction	Crime against children	Robbery
2020	1.0%	-12.4%	-19.3%	-13.2%	-22.4%
2019	-0.4%	-4.0%	-0.7%	4.5%	0.7%
2018	1.3%	2.4%	10.3%	9.9%	0.3%
2017	-5.9%	-16.4%	9.0%	20.6%	-3.6%
2016	-5.2%	12.4%	6.0%	13.6%	-11.8%



The Man Prindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 16, 1971

A.P. CM hands in resignation

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr. K. Brahmananda Reddi, to-day submitted his resignation to the Governor, Mr. Kandhubhai Desai. Mr. Brahmananda Reddi said he wanted to resign on September 13 itself, but it could not be done. "Once I decided, that is the end of the matter," he added. Accompanied by the seniormost member in the Cabinet, Mr. Kakani Venkataratnam, the Chief Minister drove to the Raj Bhavan this morning and handed over his letter of resignation and that of the Council of Ministers to the Governor. The Governor accepted the resignation "with regret" and asked the Chief Minister to continue in office till alternative arrangements were made. The Governor then escorted the Chief Minister to his waiting car and posed for photographs with him. He then shook hands and took leave of the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister said that in the selection of a successor to him, "due consideration and respect should be given to the wishes of the legislators". Mr. Brahmananda Reddi said that the Prime Minister would have to indicate the date for the meeting of the Legislature Party for election of a new leader. He said he would not go to Delhi for participation in the talks, unless the Prime Minister invited him.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 16, 1921

Mahatma Gandhi's tour

Mahatma Gandhi and party are arriving in Tinnevelly in a few days. The District Congress Executive has formed a Reception Committee to receive them. Maulana Sheik Ibrahim of Pettai is the President. Maulana Mahomed Ismail Sahib and P. Thrikoodasundaram Pillai are Vice-Presidents. Mr. R. Mahadevaiyar is the Secretary. All who pay Re 1 each, will be entitled to become members of the Reception Committee. The balance of funds of the committee, after defraying the expenses, will form part of the collections of the district, for the Tilak Swarajya Fund. The Reception Committee members will be given the first seats in the public meetings addressed by the Mahatma. All lovers of the country and the Mahatma are requested to become members of the committee by paying Re 1 to the Secretary or Mr. Thrikoodasundram Pillai and obtaining a reception committee ticket. Secretaries of the All-Congress Sabahs and other public bodies are requested to widely publish this information.

FROM PAGE ONE

Telcos get four-year moratorium on dues

Rating agency ICRA assessed that the moratorium on AGR dues provides an annual cash flow breather of around ₹14,000 crore for the industry while the moratorium on spectrum dues gives another ₹32,000 crore of annual cash flow relief as a whole. "Further, a moratorium of four years gives enough time for industry to carry out fundamental improvements by way of increasing tariffs, which is critical from the industry perspective," said Sabyasachi Majumdar, senior vicepresident at ICRA.

Bharti Airtel Managing Director and CEO for India and South Asia, Gopal Vit-

tal, said these reforms would further boost the firm's efforts to invest in the digital economy.

"The moratorium will immediately ease out the stress on the cash flows of the telcos to a great extent, especially Vodafone Idea Ltd [VIL]," reckoned Vipula Kumar, director of ratings and head of infrastructure at Brickwork Ratings.

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh D. Ambani called the telecom sector one of the prime movers of the economy and said the measures announced by the government would enable the industry to achieve the goals of Digital India.

SC gives govt. 2 weeks to fill all tribunal vacancies

"I have seen the selection list of National Company Law Tribunal. The selection committee recommended nine judicial members and 10 technical members. The appointment letters indicate cherry-picking of three names from the select list and others from the wait list, ignoring others in the select list. In service law, you cannot go to wait list ignoring the select list. What kind of appointment is this?" Chief Justice Ramana asked the Attorney General.

Mr. Venugopal replied, "But doesn't the government have the power to choose someone?

The CJI retorted, "We are a democratic country working under a rule of law... What is the sanctity of these committees if they cannot guarantee appointments?"

Justice Rao joined in saying, "What is the sanctity of the search and selection process if the government has the last word? Selection committees undertake elaborate process to shortlist the

names." Justice Chandra-

chud highlighted the case of Debt Recovery Tribunals that had become almost non-functional under the weight of their vacancies. "When a bank decides to recover debt on a house or a factory, the debtor has no remedy. The High Court refuses to hear his case...

In one of the tribunals, the selection committee interviewed 534 candidates for judicial members and another 400 for technical members. A list was given. But the government picked a few from the select list and some others from the wait

There is no recourse to jus-

tice," he observed.

Chief Justice Ramana referred to how a Supreme Court judge, who headed a selection committee for a tribunal, travelled across the country to conduct interviews for appointments during the COVID-19 pan-

However, no appointments were made by the government. "We wasted so much time," he noted.

87.89 is cut-off score for JEE (Advanced)

JEE (Main) is used as an entrance test for admission to undergraduate engineering programmes at the National Institutes of Technology, and several other Central, State and private institu-

The top 2.5 lakh-ranked candidates are also eligible to appear for JEE (Advanced), which is the admission test for the Indian Institutes of Technology, and will be held on October 3. Registrations for JEE (Advanced) will open on September 15. For students from the economically weaker sections, the cut-off is a score of 66.22. For those from the Other Backward Classes, it is 68.02; for those in the Scheduled Caste category, it is 46.88; and for those from the Scheduled Tribe communities, it is 34.67. The cut-off marks for all these categories are significantly lower than last year. Students can check their scores and the final answer keys at https://jeemain.nta.nic.in/

28% jump in cases registration last year

"During 2020, registration of cases under the IPC has increased by 31.9% whereas SLL crimes have increased by 21.6% over 2019," the re-

port said. A major increase was seen in the cases registered under disobedience to the order duly promulgated by public servant, under Section 188 of the IPC, from 29,469 in 2019 to 6,12,179 cases last year; and under 'other IPC crimes' from 2,52,268 to 10,62,399 cases. Under the SLL category, more cases were filed under "Other State Local Acts", leading to a steep rise from 89,553 to 4,14,589 cases.

In 2020, more than 55.84 lakh cases were under investigation and over 34.47 lakh of them were disposed of.. In nearly 26.12 lakh cases. charge sheets were filed, resulting in a charge-sheeting rate of 75.8%, an increase by 12.50% compared to 2019.

As the country remained under complete lockdown from March 25 to May 31 last year during the first wave of COVID-19, cases of crime against women, children and senior citizens, theft, burglary, robbery and da-

coity declined. A total of 10,47,216 cases of offences affecting the human body were registered, which accounted for 24.6% of the total IPC crimes last year. "Hurt" as an offence accounted for maximum cases (55.3%), followed by causing death by negligence (12.1%) and assault on women with intent to outrage their modesty (8.2%).

Cases of murder showed a marginal increase of 1% to

"Kidnapping and abduction" cases declined by 19.3%. While 14,869 were male, 73,721 were female victims. As per the data, 56,591 were minor and 31,999 adults.

A total of 91,458 kidnapped or abducted persons (22,872 male and 68,867 female) were found alive and recovered, while 281 persons were found dead.

Terror module accused was under watch: Maharashtra ATS

He was among the six arrested by the Delhi Police on Tuesday

STAFF REPORTER

Jaan Mohammed Ali Sheikh, 47, who was arrested by the Delhi Police from the Kota railway station while he was on his way to Delhi, was under the watch of the Maharashtra police, as he had contacts with the Dawood Ibrahim gang, according to the State Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS). He was among the six accused in a terror module case.

No explosives or weapons were brought into Mumbai and both the State and the city were absolutely safe, ATS chief Vineet Agarwal said at press conference on Wednesday.

Sheikh, a resident of Dharavi, had a case registered against him in the Paidhonie police station around 20 years ago for his alleged involvement in a firing incident.

"He had connection with the D-gang around 20 years ago, but recently he had fallen to bad times. He was always on our radar like 1,000 other people. The Central



Breakthrough: One of the terror suspects, left, being escorted to the Special Cell police station (Lodhi Road) after he was produced in a court in New Delhi on Wednesday. • PTI

agencies shared the information about this operation with the Delhi Police and not with us. Therefore, it is the Delhi Police which can give more information," Mr. Agarwal stated.

"On September 9, the accused planned to travel to Delhi, but his ticket was not getting confirmed. On September 13, he booked a ticket in the waiting list on the Golden Express. He left alone from the Mumbai Central after his ticket was confirmed by evening. He was arrested when the train reached Kota," he noted.

"The Delhi Police had all the information. Our team will be going to Delhi to interrogate him and we will share the information available with us to the Delhi Police and take what is available with them and take the case forward," he observed.

Mr. Agarwal added that he had been in contact with the

special cell of the Delhi Pol-

Earlier in the day, Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil held a meeting with top police officials on

The Opposition has alleged that it was a failure of the State police.

BJP MLA Ashish Shelar said, "The Delhi Police arresting a terrorist from Mumbai is an indication of failure of the force."

Amarinder Singh puts Punjab on high alert

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has ordered high alert in the State following the arrest of four more members of an alleged ISIbacked terrorist module involved in a bid to blow up an oil tanker with an IED tiffin

Two Pakistan-based terro-

rists, including an Intelligence Officer, have also been identified and named in the case, in which one person was arrested earlier, Director-General of Police Dinkar Gupta disclosed on Wednes-Taking a serious note of

the increased attempts by terror groups to disturb the State's peace, Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh has directed the police to be on high alert, particularly in view of schools and educational institutions reopening, and the upcoming festival season and Assembly polls. The Chief Minister has asked the DGP to ensure high level of security, especially in busy places such as

markets, as well as at sensi-

tive installations across the

The DGP identified Pakistan-based International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) chief Lakhbir Singh, Qasim, a resident of Pakistan, and Lakhbir Singh Rode alias Baba, a native of village Rode in Punjab's Moga district, currently based in Pakistan, as being behind the module.

Court frames charges in Dabholkar murder

Five will face trial 8 years after crime

Eight years after he was shot by motorcycle-borne assailants while out for a morning stroll in Pune, a special court on Wednesday finally framed charges against five of the accused in the murder of eminent rationalist Narendra Dabholkar.

Dabholkar was shot dead with a 7.65-mm calibre country-made pistol while out for his morning stroll on Omkareshwar Bridge in Pune on August 20, 2013. The framing of the charges paves the way for the longdelayed trial in the case which shook Maharashtra.

The accused include ENT Virendrasinh specialist Tawde, a member of the fringe Sanatan Sanstha, who has been referred by probe agencies as the "mastermind"; Sachin Andure and Sharad Kalaskar, who have been named by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as the shooters; Sanatan Sanstha lawyer Sanjeev Punalekar; and another Sanstha member Vikram Bhave.

All accused replied in the negative when Additional Sessions Judge S.R. Navandar asked each of them whether they pleaded guilty or not guilty. While four are to be tried for murder, criminal conspiracy, and terrorism under Section 16 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and various provisions of the Arms Act, Punalekar, who is out on bail, will be tried for destruction of evidence.

While Tawde appeared for the hearing via video conference from the Yerwada Jail, Andure appeared



Narendra Dabholkar

from the Aurangabad jail and Kalaskar from the Arthur Road prison in Mumbai. Punalekar and Bhave were physically present in the Pune court.

The court directed Andure and Kalaskar to be shifted to the Yerwada prison.

Significant step, says son Hamid Dabholkar, son of the slain rationalist, said though the framing of the charges had come at a very late date, it constituted an important step in the case.

"For many years since the crime, we worried whether the criminals would ever be found and whether they would be brought to trial. The other point is that masterminds still have not been found. So, with the CBI probe being conducted under the supervision of the Bombay High Court, we are hoping that those who plotted the murders of Dr. Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, scholar M.M. Kalburgi and journalist Gauri Lankesh will eventually be brought to justice," he The CBI first arrested

Tawde in 2016 and the chargesheet against him was filed in September 2016.

SC poser on replacement of acting NCLAT chief

It asks A-G to get govt. instructions

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Wednesday requested Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal to get instructions from the government and be present when the court takes up a petition on September 16 regarding the exit of Justice A.I.S. Cheema as Acting Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

Senior advocate Arvind Datar had orally mentioned the issue before the CJI Bench on September 14.

Addressing the Attorney General, Chief Justice Ramana said the case concerned the "premature" replacement of Justice Cheema as Acting Chairperson of the NCLAT days before the end of his tenure on September

The CJI said it appeared as if the government department concerned had acted "hurriedly". "I do not how this is happening..." he observed.

Justice M. Venugopal, a former Madras High Court judge, replaced Justice Cheema as Acting Chairperson of the NCLAT with effect from September 11. Justice Venugopal, a judicial member at Chennai Bench of the NCLAT, is the third Acting Chairperson of the Tribunal since the retirement of the regular NCLAT Chairperson, Justice S.J. Mukhopadhaya, in March last year.

On the draw



Job package exclusive for Pandits

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has said the Central government's special job package was exclusive to the non-migrant Kashmiri-speaking Brahmins or 'Kashmiri Pandits' living in the Valley and other Hindus cannot be treated the same.

"'Kashmiri Pandits' is a separately identifiable community distinct from other Hindus residing in the Valley like Rajputs, Brahmins other than Kashmiri Pandits, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and many others. It is difficult to accept the contention of the petitioners, who are mostly Kshatriyas, Rajputs, Scheduled Caste, non-Kashmiri Brahmins etc., [they] should be treated as 'Kashmiri Pandits'," Justice Sanjeev Kumar observed in a judgement on

Tuesday. "I found no merit in the petition. The same is dismissed," he held.

1,400 arrested for gambling during Euro championship

Interpol operation extends to 28 countries, including India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

An Interpol operation targeting illegal gambling during the 2020 UEFA Euro-Football Championship has led to 1,400 arrests and the seizure of \$7.9 million in cash across Asia and Europe.

The operation involved enforcement agencies of 28 countries, including India. Computers and mobile phones connected to almost \$465 million in bets were also confiscated.

The agencies targeted organised crime gangs looking to make money through illegal gambling by accepting bets during Euro 2020. They also indulged in related money laundering activities.

is often closely associated

with other crimes such as

money laundering and cor-

"Illegal gambling generates significant profits for organised crime networks and



connected to \$465 million in bets were confiscated.

ruption. The operation was coordinated by Interpol's Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption units, with support from the Asia-Pacific Expert Group on Organised Crime (APEG) and the Interpol Match Fixing Task Force (IMFTF)," the Interpol said. In India, the Central Bu-

reau of Investigation is the nodal body for Interpol and shares the required information to its counterparts.

As part of the operation, the Hong Kong police detained more than 800 suspects, including the alleged kingpin of a bookmaking syndicate, seizing about \$2.7 million in cash and records detailing hundreds of millions in bets, making it one of their most successful operations against illegal gambling ever, the Interpol said.

"This year's operation showed a clear shift to online activities, with criminals taking full advantage of financial technology, including the use of international gambling websites and online bank accounts. Additionally, officers saw increased activity in online gaming platforms, forums and social media, where individuals would offer gambling tips or even payment to those willing to open online bank accounts," the In-

terpol added.

Akali Dal, Congress trade charges over farm laws

Sidhu says Badals authored them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Congress leaders on September 15 exchanged sharp words on the three controversial farm laws.

After Puniab Congress president Navjot Sidhu alleged that the Centre's three farm laws had been "authored by the Badals" of the Akali Dal, senior SAD leader and former Minister Daljeet Cheema alleged that the Congress chief was "trying to fool people by raking up old issues", and asked him to "muster courage to repeal the amendments made in the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act by the Congress

government in 2017". "Sidhu's utterances hint that he is keen to play a game of one-upmanship with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and has no intention of doing anything to ensure repeal of the three agriculture Acts. Sidhu has woken up from his slumber

as a sympathiser of the farmers' cause even though he has done nothing to support this cause in the last one year," Mr. Cheema said. Mr. Sidhu alleged at a

and wants to project himself

press conference, "The Centre's farm laws were photostat copies of Badal's Contract Farming Act 2013 that were enacted during the previous SAD-BJP government led by Parkash Singh Badal."

Speaking about the 2013 Act, Mr. Cheema said "Sidhu seems to have forgotten that his wife was a Chief Parliamentary Secretary in the then government. Sidhu had failed to dig up files and detail the Congress's response to the Act." He asked Mr. Sidhu to state if he had ever objected to the 2013 Act as a Minister in the Congress government in 2017 or "even later". "It is only now, with elections months away, that you [Sidhu] are taking up this issue to cover up your failures," he said.



gurdwara in Bhabanipur

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee on Wednesday visited Gurdwara Sant Kutiya in the Bhabanipur Assembly seat, from where she is seeking election, and expressed full support to the farmers who are protesting against the Central farm laws. She demanded the withdrawal of the laws. "I am here to take the blessings from you all," the Trinamool Congress chairperson stated.

Trinamool Rajya Sabha MP Arpita Ghosh resigns

NEW DELHI Trinamool Congress MP Arpita Ghosh resigned from the Rajya Sabha, and her resignation has been accepted by Chairman Venkaiah Naidu with effect from October 15. Ms. Ghosh had won the seat from West Bengal in April 2020 and had another five years of tenure left. The TMC was not forthcoming on the reasons for her resignation, though sources said she acted in accordance with the party's

BJP is a 'fake Hindu' party, says Rahul Gandhi

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of being a "fake" Hindu party, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the ruling party was acting as a "broker of the Hindu religion. Addressing a convention of the All India Mahila Congress on its foundation day, Mr. Gandhi urged women party workers to inform people that the Prime Minister was attacking the power of Goddesses Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati.

Indian troops in Russia as part of SCO exercise

NEW DELHI A team of 200 Army and Air Force personnel are in Russia to participate in Exercise Peaceful Mission, being held between the member-states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) from September 13 to 25 that also includes Pakistan and China. Separately, the 8th edition of the Indian Army Chief's Conclave, a gathering of the serving and former Chiefs of the Army Staff, is scheduled to be organised in the national capital from

September 16 to 18.

India, China avoided open clash over origins of COVID

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a transparent investigation at BRICS last week, while Xi Jinping opposed politicisation in origin tracing

ANANTH KRISHNAN

India and China avoided an open clash at the BRICS summit last week over views on the origins of the COVID-19 virus, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong intervention in favour of a "transparent investigation" into the origins of the pandemic, a subject China has been sensitive about.

Mr. Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet virtually again this week, as part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit hosted by Tajikistan, and Mr. Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, will travel to Dushanbe on Thursday to attend the conference, with the tensions over the virus debate only adding to the 17-month India-China impasse at the Line of Actual Control.

"Today, global governance needs credibility. There must be a transparent investigation into the origins of the virus under the World Health Organization's framework, and this must receive full cooperation from all countries," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his main speech at the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa summit hosted by India and held virtually on September 9.

'Credibility of WHO'

"If this is done, it will reduce the questions over WHO's credibility, and we would be able to prepare better for future pandemics as well," Mr. Modi said, in the presence of Mr. Xi, in comments not released publicly but The Hindu accessed a copy of.

According to officials and diplomats present at the BRICS meeting, Mr. Modi



Amenable terms: BRICS countries noted that cooperation on the study of origins of COVID-19 was important. • AP

spoke 'emphatically' and 'forcefully' on the subject, reiterating India's previous statements calling for China to cooperate with the WHO team which visited the Wuhan Institute of Virology twice, but had complained formally about the lack of

free access to facilities and data, leading to an inconclusive report with "four pathways" to the origin of the virus that has left nearly 4.7 million people worldwide.

Mr. Xi, who spoke directly after Mr. Modi, called on the BRICS countries to "oppose politicisation" in origin

"We need to promote global solidarity against CO-VID-19, join forces to tackle the pandemic, uphold a science-based approach to tracing its origins, and oppose politicisation and stigmatisation," he said. "We need to enhance coordination in COVID prevention and control, and boost the research, production and equitable distribution of vaccines as a global public good."

Pushing back against criticism from the U.S. and its allies of China's failure to prevent the spread of the virus, Beijing has accused the U.S. of "politicising" the WHO inquiry and for pushing the "lab leak" theory. In addition, China has accused the U.S. government of attempting to divert attention from research on viruses in America. In a letter to WHO chief Tedros Ghebreyesus in August, China's Permanent Representative to the U.N. office in Geneva called for a transparent investigation "with full access" to the laboratories of the U.S. military at Fort Detrick and the University of North Carolina (UNC).

Balanced statement

With U.S.-China tensions over the issue threatening to spill over into the BRICS sphere, diplomats reportedly worked to frame the joint statement issued after the summit, taking the comments by both leaders into

According to the statement, all BRICS countries noted "that the cooperation on study of origins of the SARS-CoV-2 is an important aspect of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic". "We support science-based, inclusive of broad expertise, transparent, and timely processes, free from politicisation or interference, to strengthen international capabilities to better understand the emergence of novel pathogens and to help prevent future pandemics."

External Affairs Ministry officials say as per protocol, only the opening statements of the leaders are released publicly, while the remarks on the origin of the virus, which were part of the "closed door" session, were not, and expressed "surprise" at the decision by some members such as China and Brazil to publicise their speeches. The Chinese Embassy in New Delhi did not respond to a question on Mr. Modi's intervention and China's response, and the Brazilian embassy also de-

BJP hopes rest on sugarcane prices

Party seeks to give much-needed push in Jat heartland of western Uttar Pradesh

NISTULA HEBBAR NEW DELH

The BJP is looking at an anticipated rise in sugarcane procurement prices, to be announced by the Uttar Pradesh government as early as this week, to give it a muchneeded push in the Jat heartland of western Uttar Pradesh.

Senior BJP leaders confirmed to The Hindu that a hike in cane prices (State advised price) is expected soon, and will, as hoped by the party, go a long way in assuaging any misgivings farmers in the area especially the dominant lat community may have with regard to the BJP and farmers' issues, despite the large 'mahapanchayat' held by farmers groups last week.

'Western Uttar Pradesh has nothing to do with the farm laws that were passed last year. Here the politics revolves around sugarcane, electricity and stray cattle, and sugarcane dues from mills. Crops here are hardly sold in *mandis*, we have mostly contractual farming here, and also sales through cooperatives," said a senior said the source. Currently BJP leader from western Uttar Pradesh.



Fair share: The BJP believes that an aggrieved feeling among the farmers has led to their solidarity. ■FILE PHOTO

"There are two kinds of price regimes for sugarcane, one is the Centrally mandated Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP), which the Union government hiked a couple of Cabinet meetings ago. That, however, does not apply to Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Uttarakhand. where the State Advised Price (SAP) regime exists, the price in Uttar Pradesh is ₹325 a quintal, whereas in Punjab, the rate is ₹360 and in Haryana ₹362. "We expect that the price point of ₹360 would ease a lot of issues around remunerative prices in the State," he said.

High electricity bills

High electricity bills are also an issue in the countryside, with farmers comparing the free power being given in their point. "The thing about

the farmers' protests is not that the farmers here find common cause over the three farm Bills, but the aggrieved feelings among farmers for one reason or the other can lead to solidarity," said the source.

Internal surveys by the BJP have pointed out that the Samajwadi Party (SP) would be its main rival, and its anticipated tie-up with the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has also rang the alarm bells. Minority consolidation is, according to the survey, stronger this time around than it was in the 2017 polls.

In the 2017 Assembly poll, the BJP won 117 out of the 146 seats in western Uttar Pradesh. "Last time too, there were issues with regard to aggrieved feelings among the Jat voters due to the events in Haryana and questions about Jat reservation, but we managed to persuade voters. We are hopeful we will be successful this time too," said the source.

For the BIP, Jats in the western part and Brahmins in the eastern part are the key demographics who need Punjab and cheap power to be appeased. A hike in suprovided in Haryana to make garcane prices is pointing the way to go.

PM launches *Sansad* TV, calls it voice of the House

New combined channel will bring in synergy, says Venkaiah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Sansad TV, a news channel combining the Lok Sabha TV and the Rajya Sabha TV, was launched on Wednesday at a function presided over by Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Speaker

Calling the Sansad TV the new voice of Parliament, the Prime Minister said this added another important chapter to the parliamentary system. He said Parliament was not only about politics but it was about policv too.

Describing India as the mother of democracy, Mr. Modi also said democracy was not only a constitutional structure for the people of India, but spirit as well.

Mr. Naidu stressed the need for meaningful debates echoing people's aspirations in Parliament and legislashould not drown the voice of citizens, he said. He said



New beginning: RS Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu with PM Modi at the launch of Sansad TV in New Delhi on Wednesday. • PTI

He said a single channel in November 2019.

brainchild of former Speaker Somnath Chatterjee, has been functioning for 15 years and the RSTV for 10 years.

The new combined chantures. Loud disruptive noise nel is expected to bring in debates should amplify conthat Sansad TV's launch been planned.

lecast. But when it is in retelecast.

poor said at least 60 new programmes hosted by the likes of NITI Ayog CEO Amitabh Kant economists Bibek Debroy and Amitav Sanyal, endocrinologist Ambrish

Tender Notice

Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat Krishi Bhavan, Sector - 10 A, CH Road, Gandhinagar Gujarat, India

Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat is inviting online tender through https://nprocure.com from the prospective bidders meeting the basic eligibility criteria as stated in the Tender document for the below mentioned project work

Tender No.	Name of Work	Tender Start Date, Tender End Date and Tender Fee
AWS/2/2021		16-09-2021 (12:00 hrs.)
Prospecti	ve Bidders are	requested to visit

https://nprocure.com for the further details

Date: 15-09-2021

INF/1079/21-22

Directorate of Agriculture

Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat Krishi Bhavan, Sector - 10 A, CH Road, Gandhinagar Gujarat, India

Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat is inviting online bid on GeM Portal from the prospective bidders meeting the basic eligibility criteria as stated in the Tender document for

further details

ate: 16-09-2021

ORMAS

Directorate of Agricultur



INDIA GOVERNMENT MINT ALIPORE, KOLKATA - 700 053 (W.B.) (A Unit of SPMCIL, Wholly owned by Govt. of India) Tel.: (033) 2401-4938, Fax: (033) 2401-0553, e-mail: calmint@spmcil.com | CIN: U22213DL2006GOI144763

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NATIONA	L COMPETITIVE BIDDING)						
Item	Tender No.						
Hiring of Security Services from DGR Empanelled Agency for Security Coverage at Old Mint Complex, Kolkata for 12 Months (Express)	54/PT-105(21-22)/6000016718						
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.

The Chief General Manager

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR-III



ଓଡିଶା ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ଓ ବିପଣନ ସମିତି

ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଓ ପାନୀୟ ଜଳ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର **Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society** ting competence and values in rural Odisha

Panchayati Raj and DW Department, Government of Odisha Date:-15.09.2021 Notice No. 2486 **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** Selection of Agency for Setting up Project Management Unit (PMU) for

Livelihoods promotion and CBBO Programme under "Formation and Promotion of 10000 FPO" in ORMAS Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society (ORMAS), Panchayati Raj & DW Department, Govt. of Odisha invites sealed proposals from eligible bidders to carry out "Selection of Agency for Setting up Project Management Unit (PMU) for Livelihoods promotion and CBBO Programme under "Formation and Promotion of 10000 FPO" in ORMAS". Bidders fulfilling the prescribed eligibility criteria of the RFP can access and download the complete RFP Document and

other details from www.ormas.org The bid calendars under the end to end process are

THE DIE	The bla delendere under the one to one process are.								
SI. No.	List of Key Events	Critical Dates							
1	Date of Issue of RFP	15th September'2021							
2	Last Date for Submission of Bid	22 nd October'2021							
3	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	22 nd October'2021							
4	Date of Opening of Financial Rid	Will be intimated later							

The proposal complete in all respects must reach the undersigned by Speed Post/ Registered Post/Drop in the Tender Box only latest by 22nd October 2021 3 PM in a sealed envelope clearly mentioning on the top of it "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - Selection of Agency for Setting up Project Management Unit (PMU) for Livelihoods promotion and CBBO Programme under "Formation and Promotion of 10000 FPO" in ORMAS". The proposals received beyond the last date and time will be rejected. The authority reserves the right to reject any/ all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Address for Submission of Proposal: Chief Executive Officer

ORMAS, SIRD & PR Campus

Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751012,Odisha. Sd/- Chief Executive Officer SIRD & PR Campus, Unit – VIII, Bhubaneswar, Odisha – 751012 Tel # 0674-2565870/71, E-mail: ormashq@gmail.com, URL: www.ormas.org CAD-1185 OIPR - 19004/11/0009/2122

the below mentioned project work

Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Bid Start Date and Bid End Date
GEM/2021/B/1 508110(Ecost ate/Forecast/R	Enhancement of Digital Agriculture Monitoring and Crop Production System by Using Remote Sensing and Machine Learning technologies for the State of Gujarat	15-09-2021 Bid End Date: 06-10-2021

Prospective Bidders are requested to visit GeM Portal for the

INF/1080/21-22



DELHI JAL BOARD (Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi) OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR.III

Kanhaiya Nagar Delhi-110035 Phone No:011-27394876 Email:eecdr3@gmail.com STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

Press NIT No-02 (2021-22) (Re-invited) Stimated Contract Value | Earr (ECV) / Amount put to Money (EMD) Fee Non time of receip Refundable (Rs.) 1000/-(Rs.) portion of outfall sewer of 2021 DJB 208317 1 upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in. ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र./ SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

सं. शारः सीएमजी सिविलः अनुर्क्षणः ई—निविदा / No: SHAR: CMG CIVIL: MAINT:E-PT-05/21-22 तिथि/ Dt. 14.09.2021 भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "शार अतिथिगृह की रंगाई-पुताई (पेंटिंग)" (टी/सी-21-023, अनुमानित लागत ₹11-78 लाख), "पुलिकट नगर, स्वर्णमुखी नगर एवं पिनाकिनी नगर, सुल्लूरुपेट स्थित आवासों की रंगाई—पुताई (पेंटिंग)" (टी/सी-21-024, अनुमानित लागत ₹73-16 लाख), "पीएचसी में जल आपूर्ति लाईन" (टी/सी-21-025 अनुमानित लागत ₹16-50 लाख), "स्वर्णमुखी नगर के आवासों में जल रिसाव रोकना" (टी/सी-21-026, अनुमानित लागत ₹21-30 लाख) तथा "पुलिकट नगर स्थित विद्यालय एवं आवासों की रंगाई—पुताई (पेंटिंग)" (टी/सी-21-027, अनुमानित लागत ₹44-64 लाख), हेतु मद दर निविदाएं ऑनलाइन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज 01-10-2021 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट <u>www.isro.gov.in</u>or<u>www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO</u> देखें ।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Painting of all SHAR Guest Houses" (T/C-21-023, Est cost ₹ 11.78 Lakhs); "Painting of quarters at PCN, SMN & PNN Sullurpeta" (T/C-21-024, Est cost ₹ 73.16 Lakhs); "Water supply line at PHC" (T/C-21-025, Est cost ₹ 16.50 Lakhs); "Arresting leakages at SMN quarters" (T/C-21-026, Est cost ₹ 21.30 Lakhs); "Painting of school & quarters at PCN" (T/C-21-027, Est cost ₹ 44.64 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded upto 01.10.2021, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

हस्ताक्षरित Sd/- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी, एसडीएससी शार / Group Head, CMG, SDSC SHAR



The LSTV, which was the Sansad TV CEO Ravi Casynergy and economies of Mithal and former Rajya scale, he said. It is significant Sabha MP Karan Singh have

INVITATION FOR AUCTION SALE ON BEHALF OF THE DEBT'S RECOVERY
TRIBUNAL NO.1, AT ERNAKULAM, KERALA
SALE OF INDIAN FLAG VESSEL/CARGO SHIP "GREAT SEA VEMBANAD" PURSUANT TO
THE ORDER OF THE DEBT'S RECOVERY TRIBUNAL NO.1, AT ERNAKULAM
DATED 10/09/2021 IN I.A NO.1332 OF 2020 IN O.A NO.407 OF 2015.
Sealed tenders are invited for the disposal of the Vessel/Cargo Ship
"GREAT SEA VEMBANAD" presently berthed at Munambam Fisheries Harbour,
Munambam, Kerala, India, for recovery of arrears and other charges.

MAIN PARTICULERS OF VESSEL/CARGO SHIP MAIN PARTICULERS OF VESSEL/CARGO SHIP

Name: Great Sea - Vembanad; Port of Registry: Kochi; Official Number: 4069;

Callsign: AVXJ; IMO Number: 9680700; Type of Vessel: River Sea Vessel Type-3-Cargo ship
other than Dredger and Tanker; Length Overall: 590.3 M; Maximum Breadth: 11.40 M;
Moulded Depth: 4.00 M; Design Draft: 2,80 M; Dead Weight: 1036 MT; Light Ship: 441.54 MT

Main Engine: 3 x 148 HP ALM 412, Triple Propeller with Twin rudder;

Generator: 2 x Kirloskar 82 KVA; Measurement of the hatch covers: 7 M x 5 M;
Total number of hatch Covers: 7 Nos; Approximate weight of the each Hatch Covers: 8 MT

Total weight of the Hatch Covers: 56 MT; Hatch Cover is located at Azhikal Port, Kannur

WHEEL HOUSE

Total weight of the Hatch Covers: 56 MT; Hatch Cover is located at Azhikal Port, Kannur WHEEL HOUSE

Standard Magnetic Compass: 1; Radar: 1-9 GHz SAMYUNG SMR 3700;
GPS: 1-SAMYUNG SPR-1400; Rudder Angle Indicator: Provided;
Echosounder: 1-Hondex HE 770; AlS: 1-SAMYUNG; Navtex Receiver: 1-SAMYUNG SNX-300;
VHF Radio: 1-STR 60004; MF/HF Transceiver: 1-SAMYUNG SRG 1150 DN
ENGINE ROOM
Main Engines: 3 x 148 HP Leyland ALM 412 Mark I; Auxilliary Engines: 2 x 82 k VA Kirloskar;
Emergency Generator (Located in the after part): 1 x 35 k VA Kirloskar;
Ballast/GS Pump: 2 x 37.5 k W, 80m3/hr; Air Compressor: 2 x Wood peeker;
Oily Water Separator: 1 x RWO Gmbh; Sewage Treatment Plant: 1 x Jonghap;
Estimated Value: Rs.3,60,000,00.00 (Rupees Three Crores Sixty Lakhs only);
EMD: Rs.30,00,000.00 (Thirty Lakhs only); Costs of Tender Documents: Rs.3,000.00 (Three Thousand only); Last date of receipt of the Tenders: 25-10-2021 up to 4,00 pm
Date and Time of opening the tenders: 27-10-2021 at 11.30 am
The Tender document may be purchased from Adv. Abb Mathew Advocate Commissioner by

Date and Time or opening the tenders: 2/10-2021 at 11.30 am
The Tender document may be purchased from Adv. Abu Mathew Advocate Commissioner by
non refundable Demand Draft of Rs.3,000,00 (Rupees Three Thousand only) drawn in favour
of The Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal No.1, Ernakulam, Kerala payable at Ernakulam
Terms and Conditions: The Sale is "AS IS AND WHERE IS CONDITION ONLY" More details
about the Terms and Conditions are mentioned in the Tender Form.
Adv.Abu Mathew, Advocate Commissioner, C/c/Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal No.1,
Panampilly Nagar, Ernakulam District, Kerala, India, Pin-682 036, Cell: + 91-9633950666
14-09-2021



SECOND INVITATION NOTICE FOR ONLINE E-TENDER OFFER FOR SALE OF URAD WHOLE (BLACK GRAM WHOLE URAD) PROCURED AT SUPPORT PRICE IN KHARIF SEASON 2018-19.

n the Kharif season 2018-19, the procurement of Urad whole (Black Gram Whole Urad) was done by MP State Cooperative Marketing Federation and MP State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited in different districts on support price in the state. The procured urad whole quantity Approx 5,05,000 quintal is stored in godowns run by SWC, CWC, MP Markfed in different districts. Lot wise online offers are invited through e-tendering from the interested buyers for sale of stored urad whole. Lot wise online offers are invited from the interested buyers for sale of stored Urad hole through E-Tender on 21.9.2021 till 12:00 noon.

View of Tender Document on MP MARKFED's website www.mpmarkfed.mp.gov.in. Available for read only. This tender document can be downloaded and purchased online from https://www.mptenders.gov.in. All the amendments, clarifications, corrections etc. of the tender document will be displayed only on the official website of https:// mptenders.gov.in for e-tendering www.mpmarkfed.mp.gov.in website of the Marketing Federation, in this regard in any way. No separate information will be issued for the publication of the notification.

MANAGING DIRECTOR M.P. Madhyam/101954/2021

Sputnik Light gets nod for phase III clinical trial

DCGI expert committee suggests interim analysis too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has recommended that the single-dose version of the Sputnik V vaccine - Sputnik Light - be tested in Indians to establish that it generates a similar immune response observed in trials in Russia.

The Hyderabad-based Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, which is licensed to manufacture the vaccine, had presented updated safety, immunogenicity and efficacy data of Sputnik Light phase III clinical trial conducted in Russia, along with the proposal to conduct a Phase III clinical trial here.

The subject expert committee of the DCGI has permitted the trial with the condition that the vaccine's efficacy also be evaluated on the 42nd, 90th and 180th day. "... Interim analysis can be conducted at day 42 as this data was not generated during the Sputnik V trial in India after the first dose, which was stated to be available up to day 21 only," read the minutes of the meeting made public on Wednesday.

A phase III trial normally involves testing the efficacy of the vaccine in thousands.



Sputnik Light is a single-dose vaccine. • REUTERS

This Sputnik trial, however, is not expected to evaluate efficacy.

The two-dose version of the vaccine was approved for 'emergency use' by the DCGI in April, though few doses have been available in a landscape dominated by Covishield and, to a smaller extent, Covaxin. The former comprises over 85% of the over 75 crore vaccines administered in India.

First component

Sputnik Light is the first dose of the original twodose composition but differs from other two-dose vaccines in that the vector, carrying the spike protein, in the first dose differs from the

vector in the second dose. Trials in Russia show a single dose efficacy of 79%.

In July, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RFID), the promoters of the vaccine developed at the Gamaleya Research Institute, announced a production tie-up with the Serum Institute of India to produce 300 million doses annually

Earlier, it had entered into similar pacts with Hetero, and Gland Pharma, among

Only about 31 lakh doses of the first component of the vaccines and 4.5 lakh doses of the second have been available from RFID, Dr. Reddy's said in a statement in

Fresh start for report on data protection Bill

Joint Parliamentary Committee to work on new draft as the earlier one was not circulated, say sources

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 21 months after the Personal Data Protection Bill was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, sources said that work on the report will have to start afresh under the new chairman and BIP MP P.P. Chaudhary.

In a meeting held on Wednesday, after a gap of more than nine months, many members argued that the committee should not waste any more time and should finalise the draft report it had agreed on after a year-long deliberation.

The Personal Data Protection Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December

2019 and soon after referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which was then headed by BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi. The committee got its fifth extension in the monsoon session in July this year and has now been asked to submit the report by the winter session of Par-

liament that is expected to

be called in the third week of

November.

Ms. Lekhi and four other committee members were inducted into the Council of Ministers in the recent reshuffle, following which Mr. Chaudhary took over as the chairperson. Sources said that Ms. Lekhi had finalised a

draft report but did not cir-

culate it to the members.

"There is no point going through the motions again. We had a 90-minute debate on this, at the end of which it was decided that the deliberations that we have had so far will be recorded but a fresh draft of the report will be prepared," one of the members said.

The call for a data protection Bill in the country has been growing stronger amid growing threat of data breaches due to a sharp increase in cyber crime. In May this year, two major firms – Air India and Jubilant FoodWorks - witnessed "security incidents" that put consumer data at risk.

Cyber privacy

The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2019. It was then sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, which is still to submit its report

■ The Bill deals with the broad guidelines on the collection, storage, and processing of personal data, the consent of individuals, penalties and compensation. and a code of conduct

'Sensitive personal data' includes passwords, financial data, biometric data, health data and other material specified by the government



and specific up of a Data Protection Authority

prevent misuse of data

Quarrel is not abetting suicide, says SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court has held that a person cannot be held guilty of abetting suicide merely because he or she quarrelled with the victim that day.

Having a fight which led to suicide does not necessarily translate into instigating suicide, a Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and Aniruddha Bose said in a judgment.

Active instigation is an essential ingredient under Sec-

a HUA Ministry official said.

Paswan, were still residing

issued a notice of eviction.

leader of the Ianata Dal

(United) Sharad Yadav's

Paswan's uncle, according

Hindu on Wednesday that

notice to leave the house he

disqualified from the Rajya

anti-defection law in 2017.

disqualification and sought

government-allotted house

said: "There is a court case

Ministry] must have made a

SCAN TO PLAY

clerical error [in allotting

the house to Mr. Paras]."

and salary. The Supreme

him to keep the house.

pending. They [HUA

he had challenged the

he had not received any

has lived in since 2000.

After Mr. Yadav was

Sabha under the

to keep his

Display keystrokes of genius.

Type your answers in our online grids.

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

14 Anxious father returns, pondering about rebellious girl (12)

21 Grin happily in exotic Lhasa, an earthly paradise (9)

24 Altaf G. Hanif provides shelter to countryman (7)

26 Hint about commotion in plant (6)

27 Runners using stealth to smuggle drug (8)

23 Frantically pursue rogue primarily escaping in drain (3,2)

1 Excessively wayward Republican replaced by Democrat (6)

2 Hooded cloak son concealed in trunk contains marijuana (6)

4 Throat is sore — it could be medical problem (14)

8 Tangle with many pursuing woman in bar (8)

6 Over-excited, enthralled by wealthy personality (5)

7 Fish, largely excellent, served up in European island (8)

9 What punter might do to celebrate lavishly? (4,3,4,3)

17 Line up in excitement, wanting one more rum (8)

19 Wood in special device hiding curtain rod (6)

20 Spots daughter avoiding fruits (6)

3 Top star involved in accident leaves many fellows crippled (9)

15 Gangster behind revolting criminal act is most active at night (9)

16 Spots a way perhaps to get rid of wife for unfaithfulness (8)

18 Praise group penning articles about century by leading batsman

25 Occasionally love lemon crushed in drink of wine and honey (7)

However, Mr. Yadav told The

to Ministry officials.

Former MP and founding

at the address despite being

said Paswan's family,

including Mr. Chirag

A source in the Ministry

tion 306 (abetment of suicide) under the Indian Penal

'Active instigation'

"Abetment by a person is when a person instigates another to do something. Instigation can be inferred where the accused had, by his acts or omission, created such circumstances that the deceased was left with no other option except to commit suicide," Justice Shah

The case concerns a woman who quarrelled with her husband and committed suicide hours later. The man too tried to poison himself after the fight, but survived.

"The allegation against the appellant [husband] is that there was a quarrel on the day of occurrence. There is no other material on record which indicates abetment. There is no material on record that the appellantaccused played an active role by an act of instigating the deceased to facilitate the commission of suicide. On the contrary, in the present case, the appellant-accused also tried to commit suicide and consumed pesticide," the court reasoned.

The lower courts had erred in finding the husband guilty of abetment, the top court noted, as it quashed the charges against the man under Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code and the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act

Liquor seized in Bihar from ambulance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In dry Bihar, country-made liquor bottles packed in six sacks were seized on September 15 from an ambulance bought with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rajiv Pratap Rudy's Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) fund in Saran district.

Mr. Rudy had donated several ambulances with his MPLADS fund in 2019 to village heads of his constituency for serving people under the 'Sansad Panchayat Ambulance Service' initiative. The ambulance from which the liquor was seized had been given to the *mukhia* of Kotwapatti-Rampur, Jai Prakash Singh. An FIR as been lodged against Mr. Singh and two others, police said.

Bihar was declared a dry State in April 2016.

A professor's long legal battle over sharing a political cartoon

Ambikesh Mahapatra gets some relief but case still pending

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

Almost nine-and-a-half years after he was arrested for forwarding a cartoon of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee, a court in Kolkata has discharged Ambikesh Mahapatra under Section 66A of the Information and Technology Act, 2000, but the professor cannot heave a sigh of relief as the matter is still pending before the

court. An order by Subrata Mukherjee, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Alipore, 24 Parganas (South), on Tuesday has scheduled a hearing on November 17, 2021, to ascertain whether any case under Section 500/509 of the IPC or any other law can be made out against Professor Mahapatra or if he can be discharged from the case. Under the IPC, Section 509 pertains to word, gesture or act meant to insult women) and Section 500 to punishment for defamation).

Mahapatra Professor pointed out that the Supreme Court in 2015 had passed a landmark decision



Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 but he continued to fight the case involving the charge for six long years.

He had forwarded an email containing a cartoon sequence, which made fun of Dinesh Trivedi's removal as Railway Minister and being replaced by Mukul Roy.

"It has been more than nine years that I have been fighting this case for forwarding an innocuous collage or cartoon which was with no evil intention. One of the people charged in the case has already passed away. I do not know how long the case will carry on," Professor Mahapatra said.

The Professor of Chemis-

iversity said the West Bengal government's persistence on continuing the cases against him was an "attempt to intimidate and harass him". **Denied compensation**

try at the city's premier un-

Mr. Mahapatra has been denied compensation awarded by the West Bengal Human Commission Rights (WBHRC) in August 2012 and upheld by the Calcutta High Court in March 2015.

"The WBHRC had directed disciplinary proceedings against police officers for the manner they acted against me, and the High Court increased the compensation from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000 to account for the legal cost. I am yet to receive the amount from the State government," he added.

Professor Mahapatra has formed a group called "Aakraanta Aamraaa" or "We the sufferers" along with other victims who allegedly suffered "injustice at the hands of the State". The collective has more than hundred members now who raise their voice against violation

Rape of minor: + HC rejects bail application

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bombay High Court denied bail to a municipal school teacher charged with sexually harassing and assaulting a minor repeatedly since 2014.

Justice P.D. Naik was hearing the bail application filed by Nihal Ahmed Abdul Majid Ansari.

He had been arrested on April 29, 2019 and his bail was rejected by a special POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) court on November 7, 2019. Subsequently he moved the High Court, which turned down the bail plea after review medical evidence in the case.

Reshuffle in Lutyens' Delhi address book soon

Some of the government bungalows had served as the hubs of political parties

DAMINI NATH

After the Cabinet reshuffle and expansion in July and the passing away of some Members of Parliament due to COVID-19 and other reasons over the past year, the address book for Lutyens' Delhi is set for a

Not only are some of the government-allotted bungalows for MPs and Ministers seeing new occupants, the houses that had become hubs for political parties over the years are likely to see a changing of guard.

Late Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Ahmed Patel's former residence at 23 Mother Teresa Crescent, which had been a hub for Congress leaders and potential allies for decades, is getting ready to welcome new residents soon. The address that had once determined the fate of many a powerful Congress leader and been witness to forging of political alliances stood empty this week, apart from groups of workers taking out plants and bringing in materials to start renovation. The house has



Stately home: The bungalow, earlier occupied by Ahmed Patel, on Mother Teresa Crescent in New Delhi. SANDEEP SAXENA

been allotted to Minister of **State for Communications** Devusinh Chauhan, according to Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry sources.

Following Patel's death in November 2020, a month after he contracted COVID-19, his family moved out this year. On September 6, his son, Faisal Patel, said in a tweet: "We moved out officially! Will miss 23 mother Teresa crescentarguably one of the Most powerful addresses in

modern mad india! (sic)." Other high-profile addresses that have served as hubs for political parties for decades have been

TH CROSSWORD+ 13353

allotted to new residents. but remain occupied by the earlier allottees.

Still occupied At 12 Janpath, which had been the residence of Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party founder Ram Vilas Paswan for over three decades until his death in October 2020, hoardings with images of his son and Lok Sabha MP Chirag Paswan still greet visitors of the late LJP leader has been recently installed by supporters. This is despite the house being allotted to newly inducted Railways

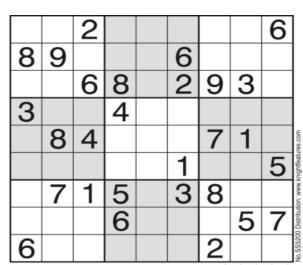
long-term residence, 7 Tughlak Road, had been allotted to newly inducted Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras, who is Mr. Chirag

and passersby. Inside, a bust Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw,

Court had in 2018 allowed Citing the matter, Mr. Yadav

striking down the draconian

SUDOKU



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FAITH

Power of the Lord's Nama

The story of Ajamila, narrated in the Bhagavata Purana, conveys a very important message about salvation to all beings struggling under the sway of vasanas in samsara. It highlights the sanctifying power of the Lord's Nama by which even sinful tendencies are eradicated, pointed out Sri R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal in a discourse. Ajamila had called out to his son named Narayana at the time of death when he was frightened by the appearance of the Yama dhutas. The purana indicates that this act itself was the result of his faint memory of the brief devotional life in his past. So even when he uttered the Narayana Nama without any idea of its inherent greatness, the effect was felt instantly by the appearance of the Vishnu dhutas. They ordered the Yama dhutas to release him. The Yama dhutas then narrated all the sins of Ajamila. But the Vishnu dhutas replied that no punishment can be inflicted when atonement has already been done. Are they not aware about what constitutes atonement?

Srutis and Smritis have laid down the procedures for the conduct of yagas and yagnas, or many vows and observances of worship as a means to absolve one from one's past sins. These are known as prayaschitta karmas and do not eradicate the sinful tendency. But such is the power of the Lord's Nama that uttering it even in ignorance burns up all sins and removes sinful tendencies in people. Even if one has committed sins in the course of countless janmas, one has done atonement by uttering the Narayana Nama. It is like fire burning up fuel or medicines curing disease irrespective of one's knowledge or ignorance concerning their properties. But the object here is not to encourage sin with assurance that it can be absolved easily. Such a light attitude is a great offence and is considered the most despicable of all sins.

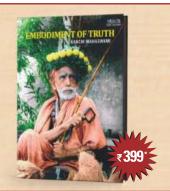
10 Save newspaper opinion piece about model (7)

ACROSS 1 One avoiding Communion perhaps is atypical (8) **5** Hounded by heartless spouse in African country (6)

11 Judges in America tackling politician's rage (7) **12** Bar girl at Chennai arrested (5)

13 Analysing theories about origin of world in a different way (9)

22 Scold about picking up primarily useless old fertiliser (5)



A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

TRANSCENDING TIME





	15-09-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,723	0.82
US Dollar	73.50	0.24
Gold	46,214	0.71
Brent oil	75.76	2.78

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NIFTY 50		
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Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
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Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL		
Britannia Ind		
Cipla		
Coal India		
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech		
HDFC	2815.45	2.60
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco	486.80	8.8
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
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Maruti Suzuki	6909.00	14.5
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NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp	177.90.	3.80
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State Bank		
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Products Ltd		
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TCC	2054 55	60 61

EXCHANGE RA	ΓES	
Indicative direct rat except yen at 4 p.m.		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.29	73.61
Euro	86.66	87.04
British Pound	101.28	101.72
Japanese Yen (100)	67.07	67.37
Chinese Yuan	11.39	11.44
Swiss Franc	79.93	80.29
Singapore Dollar	54.65	54.89
Canadian Dollar	57.77	58.03
Malaysian Ringitt	17.62	17.71

UltraTech Cement





Microsoft to buy back up to \$60 billion in shares

Microsoft Corp. said it would conduct an up to \$60 billion share buy-back programme, raise quarterly dividend by 11%, and appoint President Brad Smith as vice chair. It said the buy-back may conclude at any time, and that it would pay dividend of \$0.62 a share - 6 cents over the previous quarter. REUTERS

M&M unveils FURIO 7 light commercial vehicle

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.'s Truck and Bus Division (MTB) has unveiled the new Mahindra FURIO 7 light commercial vehicle (LCV) in the Indian market. This range will be available across three product platforms: 4-Tyre Cargo, 6-Tyre Cargo HD, and 6-Tyre Tipper, M&M said.

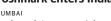
RBL Bank begins issuing Visa credit cards

MUMBAI Two months after the regulatory ban on Mastercard, RBL Bank on Wednesday restarted credit card issuances on Visa's network. The Reserve Bank had banned Mastercard from issuing new cards on July 14 for not complying with data localisation norms. PTI

Social marketplace **Poshmark enters India**

Poshmark Inc., a social marketplace for women, men, children, pets and home announced its foray into India. Founder and CEO Manish Chandra said the firm would focus on expanding its community of sellers and

buyers in the country.



in a blog post.

The journey of an Inimitable Sage traced through lens and letters

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Cabinet clears PLI for auto sector to spur 'green', high-tech

The ₹26,058 cr. scheme will also cover auto component, drone manufacturing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹26,058 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to spur manufacture of advanced technology and green vehicles, auto parts and drones.

The government estimates the scheme will attract ₹42,500 crore in fresh investment into the automobile and auto components industry over five years, spurring incremental production of over ₹2.3 lakh crore and helping create more than 7.5 lakh jobs.



green automotive manufacturing, says the government.

"It will herald a new age in higher technology, more efficient and green automotive manufacturing," the government said in a statement.

With industry struggling to recover from the twin blows of an economic slowdown and the pandemic, the scheme has been devised for

both existing automotive firms and new investors.

The 'sales value linked' scheme includes a 'champion OEM' incentive applicable on battery electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, while a 'component champion' incentive is for advanced automotive technology components.

"Any country which aspires to lead in a particular sector needs government support and this scheme aims to do just that in the future mobility space," said TVS Motor Company Chairman Venu Srinivasan.

Tata Group submits financial bid to acquire Air India

Divestment process moves to final stage: DIPAM Secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Tata Group has submitted a financial bid for acquiring Air India, which the government plans to privatise.

The group's holding company Tata Sons confirmed the bid but declined to divulge details. Tata Sons has an 83.7% stake in AirAsia India and holds 51% in Vistara, a joint venture with Singapore Airlines.

The government confirmed that it had received bids from several parties. Spicejet chairman Ajay Singh is also said to have submitted a financial bid, ac-



reports. Secretary, Department of Investment & Public Asset Management, said in a tweet, "Financial bids for Air India disinvestment received by transaction adviser. Process now moves to concluding stage." E&Y is the

transaction adviser. Wednesday was the last date for submitting financial bids.

According to people familiar with the process, the disinvestment should be completed "towards the end of this financial year". The government had decided to sell 100% stake in Air India along with low-cost subsidiary Air India Express. It also plans to sell its 50% stake in the ground-handling joint venture Air India SATS Airport Services Pvt. Ltd.

Founded in 1932 as Tata Airlines, the carrier was renamed as Air India in 1946 and nationalised in 1953.

'Law firms reluctant to advise govt. on LIC IPO'

'Low fees, complexity are deterrents'

REUTERS MUMBAI

68.65

2119.85

India's plans to list state-run Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) face an unusual problem – domestic law firms are shying away from advising the government, deterred by low fees on offer at the time of a lucrative boom in corporate stock listings.

government is scrambling to list the insurance behemoth by March, in an exercise set to be India's biggest IPO, at a probable \$12 billion. But top law firms that would normally be keen on such big-ticket IPOs to boost their credibility in government circles are

hesitant to advise New Delhi, as their teams are stretched by the corporate IPO boom, five law firm partners told Reuters.

"Most big law firms in India are overburdened with IPO work," said Nitin Potdar, an M&A partner at top Indian law firm J. Sagar Associates. "And the LIC IPO would need real big teams of experienced lawyers."

LIC's massive size and complex business structure andproducts make it a "nightmare" for lawyers to draft the prospectus, he added. Thursday is the deadline for the law firms to

August U.S. factory output slows sharply

REUTERS WASHINGTON

Production at U.S. factories slowed more than expected in August amid disruptions from Hurricane Ida and lingering shortages of raw materials and labour as the pandemic drags on.

Manufacturing output rose 0.2% last month, compared with July's revised 1.6% surge, the Federal Reserve said on Wednesday.

raw materials crunch has been worsened by the latest wave of infections driven by the Delta variant of the coronavirus, primarily in Southeast Asia, as well as by congestion at ports in China.

China's factories, retailers falter on COVID disruptions

Factory output rises at the slowest pace since July 2020

REUTERS

China's factory and retail sectors faltered in August with output and sales growth hitting one-year lows as fresh COVID-19 outbreaks and supply disruptions threatened the country's impressive economic recovery.

Industrial production rose 5.3% in August from a year earlier, narrowing from an increase of 6.4% in July and marking the weakest pace since July 2020, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed on Wednesday. Output growth mis-



sed the 5.8%increase tipped by analysts.

Consumer spending hit Consumer spending also took a big hit from rising local COVID-19 cases and floods with sales rising only 2.5% in August from a year

forecast 7% rise, and the slowest clip since August last year. "Economic

earlier, much lower than the

slowed in August as consumption was hit by the lingering impact of earlier COoutbreaks investment remained weak." said Louis Kuijs, Head of Asia Economics at Oxford Economics. "Meanwhile, a new outbreak which started a few days ago in Fujian is posing downside risk to our forecast of a pick-up in growth in Q4 after a weak Q3," he added.

Telco shares rise on govt. relief package

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Telecom shares were in demand on Wednesday and jumped up to 5% even as the Union Cabinet approved a relief package for the sector.

Bharti Airtel climbed 4.53% and Vodafone Idea rose 2.76% on the BSE. Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) gained 4.94% and Tata Communications, 1.38%. The Cabinet approved a relief package for the sector that includes a four-year moratorium on payment of statutory dues by telecom firms as well as allowing 100% foreign investment via the automatic route.

iPhone 13 to debut in India on Sept. 24, prices start at ₹69,900

Series 12 may see traction in country: Counterpoint's Pathak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Apple's latest line-up of iPhones, including iPhone 13 mini and iPhone 13 Pro Max, will be available in India from September 24 with prices starting at ₹69,900.

Industry watchers said Apple now has an 'aggressive entry point' - starting with iPhone SE 2020 going till iPhone 13 Pro Max - that will help it bolster its position in India, which is among the world's biggest smartphone markets.

Apple said these devices would be available from Sep-



tember 24 for customers in India and many other countries, including Japan and the U.S. "Our Pro lineup pushes the limits with our most advanced technologies for users who want the very best iPhone. Best-in-class performance, best-in-class camera experience, great

durability, larger displays and incredible design. This year, we build on that in a major way," Apple CEO Tim Cook said during the launch event late Tuesday night.

Counterpoint Research Director Tarun Pathak said, "It's the iPhone 12 series that is likely to gain traction in India and take on the baton from iPhone 11 that until last quarter captured around 60% of the overall iPhone sales. Apple is likely to capture a 2.4% share in the coming Q4 2021 and will end the year [at] its highest..., crossing 4 million shipments".

NCLT reserves order on Valli's plea in AIL case

SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Chennai has reserved its orders on an application filed by Valli Arunachalam and her family to withdraw the earlier waiver petition in the case against Ambadi Investments Ltd. (AIL) and its

family members. Ms. Arunachalam had sought to file a fresh waiver plea to rectify the errors and withdraw the previous one. During the hearing on Wednesday, Ambadi and the other family members strongly opposed the plea and argued that the application be dismissed.

Debt of households surged between 2012 and '18: NSO

Borrowings likely doubled in 2021 due to COVID: SBI report

VIKAS DHOOT NEW DELHI

The number of indebted households have risen sharply in rural India, with the average debt shooting up by 84% between 2012 and 2018, and COVID-19 has likely further doubled all households' borrowings by 2021.

Rural households' average debt grew from ₹32,522 in 2012 to ₹59,748 by June 2018, according to the All India Debt & Investment Survey conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) over 2019, while urban households' average debt in-



creased by 42% in the same period to little more than ₹1.20 lakh.

'Urban debt static'

The number of households in debt as measured by the incidence of indebtedness among surveyed households, had risen to 35% in rural India from 31.4% in the previous survey, while it remained static at 22.4% for urban households.

"We project that household debt in rural and urban areas might have doubled in 2021 from the 2018 levels," SBI group chief economic adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh said in a report on Wednesday, estimating that the rural household debt increased to ₹1.16 lakh and urban house-

holds' debt to ₹2.33 lakh. "This indicates that CO-VID impacted households significantly," he said.

Ola commences sale of electric scooter

'Purchase via app; deliveries from Oct.'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ola Electric on Wednesday commenced the sale process of its electric scooter S1. The e-scooter, which comes in two trims – Ola S1 and S1 Pro – is currently available for purchase only on the Ola app, and not on the website. While the sale was to be-

gin on September 8, the company postponed the process by a week to September 15, as it faced "technical difficulties" in making the website for purchases live for customers.

Deliveries will start from October 2021. Buyers will be notified of estimated tentative delivery dates within 72



chase window opens, it will notify them through email, tion. They can visit the updated Ola app (latest version), click on the Ola Scooter banner on the home page, and initiate the purchase process," Ola said

Cabinet clears govt. guarantee for bad bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday cleared a proposal to provide government guarantee to security receipts issued by the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) as part of resolution of bad loans, sources said.

Indian Banks' Association (IBA), entrusted with the task of setting up a bad bank, has pegged the government guarantee to be about ₹31,000 crore.

The proposed bank will pay up to 15% of the agreed value for the loans in cash and the remaining 85% would be government-guaranteed security receipts.

China's Evergrande tries to pay bills with parking spots

Investors spurn troubled firm's offer in lieu of cash payments

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Protests against teetering developer Evergrande spread to more Chinese cities on Wednesday after a company offer of property and parking spaces instead of cash repayments of its debts was rejected by investors.

The troubled property ti-

tan has warned it may not be able to service its colossal debts of more than \$300 billion, seeding panic among property buyers, bond holders and contractors while fanning fears of a default that could ripple through the world's second-biggest



Several dozen protesters returned for a third straight day to the firm's headquarters in the southern city of Shenzhen, where the company began its ascent in

Chanting "Evergrande, give us our money back",

they were met by a heavy police presence but refused to disperse. The fresh demonstration came after an apparent effort overnight by Evergrande to repay debts with promises of property, parking spaces and commercial

units soured the mood. Experts say the Hong Kong-listed firm has more than a million units pre-paid by customers yet to be built, adding to the sense of dread among Chinese investors, many of them first-time buyers trying to get a foot on

the runaway property

market.

'Retail sales touch 88% of Aug. 2019 level'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Helped by festive demand, retail sales improved in August and reached 88% of pre-pandemic levels, a survey showed on Wednesday.

In July, sales were at 72% of levels seen two years earlier, as per the survey by the Retailers Association of India. "Retail businesses in North and South India have indicated sales nearing recovery... with sales at 98% and 97% respectively, of pre-pandemic levels (August 2019), as against 78% (North India) and 82% (South India) sales in July," it said. Sales in West and East were 76% and 81% of that seen in August 2019.



U.S., U.K., Australia form new partnership

The security grouping AUKUS will focus on advancing strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON DC

A week before a meeting of Ouad leaders in Washington DC, the Biden administration, on Wednesday, announced a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific between Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. (AUKUS).

Speaking to reporters ahead of the announcement, senior (Biden) administration officials outlined a trilateral grouping that was security focused, suggesting it was different from - but complementary to – arrangements such as the Quad.

18-month plan

A central feature of the partnership would involve a trilateral 18-month effort to help Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines which are quieter, more capable (than their conventional counterparts) and can be deployed for longer periods, needing to surface less fre-



Naval matters: A key feature of this pact will be to help Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines. • REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

quently. The partnership would also involve a new architecture of meetings and engagements between the three countries and also cooperation across emerging technologies (applied AI, quantum technologies and undersea capabilities).

Australia has felt increasing pressure from an assertive China, like other countries in the region, and has sought to strengthen its partnerships with India, the U.S. and the U.K., including through 'plurilateral' forums. However, as in the case of the Quad, the U.S. officials denied the partner-

"I do want to just underscore very clearly this partnership is not aimed [at] or about any one country. It's

ship was a response to

about advancing our strategic interests, upholding the international rules-based order, and promoting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific," an official said.

Officials suggested that Australia wanted to step up its game with regard to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region, and the partnership was a "down-payment" the U.K. was making on its decision to engage more deeply with the Indo-Pacific.

Peace and stability

Calling the announcement "historic", one of the administration officials on the call said it "reflects the Biden administration's determination to build stronger partnerships to sustain peace and stability across the entire Indo-Pacific region". The official also said there

are "no better allies than the United Kingdom and Australia" and that the partnership was a "fundamental deci-

sion...that binds, decisively, Australia to the United States and Great Britain for generations".

"We undertake this effort as part of a larger constellation of steps, including stronger bilateral partnerships with our traditional security partners in Asia: Japan, South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, and also stronger engagements with new partners like India, Vietnam, and new formations like the Quad," one of the officials

Asked about extensions of this trilateral framework in future, an administration official said AUKUS was "very rare" and a "one-off" and that the U.S. sharing this kind of technology on nuclear submarines had been done only once before with the U.K. and almost 70

"I do not anticipate that this will be undertaken in other circumstances going forward," the official said.

Johnson demotes Foreign Minister in Cabinet rejig

Liz Truss to replace Dominic Raab

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday appointed a new-look Cabinet to revamp his Brexiteer government after controversies over COVID-19, Afghanistan and taxes, demoting his under-fire Secretary.

Dominic Raab was moved to the lesser role of Justice Secretary but will retain the title of Deputy Prime Minis-Downing confirmed. The former lawyer, who

deputised for Mr. Johnson when he was in intensive care with COVID-19 in April last year, has faced sustained criticism for his handling of the Afghan crisis. He was replaced by International Trade Secretary Liz

Truss, who has brokered a series of deals since Britain's full exit from the European Union in January.

She became only the se-



cond women foreign secretary in British history. Among the other leading

offices of state, Finance Minister Rishi Sunak - who has overseen big-spending economic support during the pandemic – and hardline Interior Minister Priti Patel both retained their roles.

Gaffe-prone Education Secretary Gavin Williamson, meanwhile, was sacked, tweeting that it had been a "privilege" to serve in his role since 2019 when Mr. Johnson took office on a vow to "get Brexit done".

Afghan girls' football team flees to Pak.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Members of Afghanistan's national girls' football team have fled across the border into Pakistan, officials said on Wednesday, a month after the hard-line Taliban swept back into power.

The group of junior players and their coaches and families had tried to escape the country last month but a bomb attack at Kabul airport left them stranded, a person close to the team said.

More than 75 people crossed the northern border on Tuesday, before travelling south to the city of Lahore where they were greeted with flower garlands. About 30 more are still hoping to cross into Pakistan.

They will stay in Pakistan for a month before moving on to another country. The girls played for the under-14, under-16 and under-18 teams.

U.S. General was concerned Trump could start a war

He called the PLA chief twice — before the election and after the Capitol attack

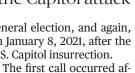
SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON DO

Concerned about then U.S. President Donald Trump's mental state, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, called his Chinese counterpart, twice, to mitigate the risk of a war, according to a new book Peril, by renowned journalist Bob Woodward and Robert Costa of The Washington Post.

According to reporting in The Washington Post, Gen. Milley called the People's Liberation Army's General Li Zuocheng on October 30, 2020 – days before the U.S. general election, and again, on January 8, 2021, after the U.S. Capitol insurrection.

ter a review of military intelas per the *Post's* reporting.

"General Li, I want to as-



ligence by Gen. Milley, which suggested that China was concerned that the U.S. was going to attack it, based on U.S. military exercises in the South China Sea and Mr. Trump's language on China,

sure you that the American government is stable and everything is going to be okay," Gen. Milley, a Trumpappointee, said, as per the



General Mark Milley

report. "We are not going to attack or conduct any kinetic operations against you."

'Everything's fine' Two days after a right-wing

mob attacked the U.S. Capitol on January 6, Gen. Milley reportedly made his second call to Gen. Li and said: "We are 100% steady. Everything's fine. But democracy

can be sloppy sometimes."

Gen. Milley also spoke with U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on that day, as per a CNN review of the book, and assured her that the U.S.'s nuclear weapons were safe. Ms. Pelosi called Mr. Trump "crazy" – a characterisation Gen. Milley agreed with, according to a call transcript obtained by the authors. Gen. Milley then called the service chiefs and CIA Director Gina Haspel and told them to stay alert.

Gen. Milley also, according to The Post's review, called the Admiral in charge of the Indo-Pacific Command and recommended that he postpone military exercises (they were postponed). He also told senior Army officers that while the President alone could order a nuclear strike, he (Milley) would need to be involved.

As the American press published passages from the book, social media was rife with views on whether the General's alleged actions were right or whether he had overstepped his limits.

Republican Senator Marco Rubio wrote to President Joe Biden on Tuesday, asking him to "immediately dismiss" Gen. Milley for his "treasonous leak of information" to China and for undermining the Commander-in-Chief (the President).

Peril is due to be released

Sri Lankan Minister resigns after 'threatening prisoners at gunpoint'

He is accused of asking Tamil prisoners to kneel before him

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Sri Lanka's Prisons Minister resigned on Wednesday, following allegations that he asked Tamil prisoners to kneel, threatening them at gunpoint.

A statement from the Presidential Media Division said: "Lohan Ratwatte, State Minister of Prison Management and Prisoners' Rehabilitation has tendered his resignation, acknowledging his responsibility for the incidents". President Gotabaya Rajapaksa accepted his resignation, it said.

Meanwhile, official sources told The Hindu that Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, currently on a visit to Italy, telephoned the Minister accused of threatening prisoners, to immediately resign, pending investigation. However, Mr. Ratwatte will continue holding his other post, of State Minister of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, effectively continuing to serve as a government Minister, Colombobased The Morning newspaper reported.

The Minister's resignation from the prisons portfolio followed wide condemnation from the political opposition, mainly Tamil political parties, that demanded his

immediate resignation. In a Twitter thread confirming the incident, Jaffna legislator and Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) leader Gajen Ponnambalam said that on September 12, the



State Minister for Prisons went to the prison in Anuradhapura, North Central Province, "summoned the Tamil political prisoners" and got two of them to "kneel" in front of him. The Minister had them pointed his personal firearm at them and had threatened to kill them on the spot, the Tamil MP said.

Tamil prisoners

Inmates at the Anuradhapura prison include dozens of Tamils, arrested under the country's Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) that rights activists deem draconian and want repealed. In some cases, the suspects have spent over a decade in prison, without any evidence produced in court or indictments served. The serious allegations of the Minister's conduct at the prison, along with "drunk" friends according to local media reports, surfaced days after the UN Human Rights Chief raised concern over persisting attacks on human rights in Sri Lanka, at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. "That a Minister can behave

in this manner when

UNHRC's gaze is on Sri Lanka, only shows how unperturbed the state is with regards to the UNHRC," Mr. Ponnambalam said. Following Mr. Ratwatte's

resignation from the prisons portfolio, Jaffna parliamentarian and Tamil National Alliance spokesman M.A. Sumanthiran said in a tweet: "That's not enough. He must be arrested, and a full-scale inquiry must be conducted and he and all responsible must be prosecuted. Prisoners are wards of the State, and their protection cannot be compromised in any way." Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa said he "vehemently condemns the disgraceful & illegal behaviour" of a government Minister. "This disgusting, unlawful act amply exemplifies the anarchical situation that exists in our country," he said in a tweet.

The incident sparked immediate reaction from inter national bodies, including the UN. In a tweet, Resident Coordinator Hanaa Singer-Hamdy reminded the Sri Lankan government that: "It is the duty of the State, as per the #MandelaRules, to protect the rights of prisoners." Amnesty International said: "These dumbfounding reports go to show that our ongoing concerns regarding Sri Lanka's treatment of prisoners, especially the authorities' torture and other inhumane and degrading treatment of PTA detainees are all too valid.'

ELSEWHERE



nuclear negotiator

Iran has demoted its chief nuclear negotiator, replacing him with an opponent of concessions to the West, state media reported on Wednesday, Abbas Araghchi was one of the key negotiators of the 2015 deal, which was abandoned by former U.S. President Donald Trump. His role in the current talks will now be limited to that of a adviser. He will be replaced as Deputy Foreign Minister by Ali Bagheri, a protege of ultraconservative President Ebrahim Raisi, AP

Rival Koreas test missiles hours apart, raise tensions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The powerful sister of North conducted its first subma-Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Wednesday criticised South Korea's President and threatened a "complete destruction" of bilateral relations after both countries tested ballistic missiles hours apart.

The South Korean and Japanese militaries said North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles that flew 800 km before landing in the sea inside Japan's exclusive economic zone - a worrying development even though they did not reach Japan's territorial waters.

Hours after the North Korean launches on Wednes-

day, South Korea's presidential office said the country rine-launched ballistic missile test. President Moon Jae-in said improvements in the country's missile capabilities would serve as "a sure deterrence against North Korean provocation."

In a statement, Kim Yojong berated Mr. Moon for describing North Korean weapons demonstrations as a provocation. "If the President joins in the slander and detraction (against us), this will be followed by counter actions, and the North-South relations will be pushed toward a complete destruction," she said. "We do not want that.'

Chinese court throws out first #MeToo case

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A Chinese court on Tuesday threw out a landmark sexual harassment case on the basis of insufficient evidence, in a blow to the country's fledgling movement.

Zhou Xiaoxuan, now 28, came forward in 2018 to accuse former state TV host Zhu Jun of forcibly kissing and groping her during her 2014 internship at the broadcaster.

Her claims ignited a social media storm and insexual assault publicly.

spired many women to share their experiences of But after a three-year le-

gal battle, the court ruled

there was not enough evidence to proceed.

"The evidence provided by the plaintiff Zhou was insufficient to prove her argu ment that she was sexually harassed by the defendant Zhu," Beijing Haidian District People's Court said in a statement late on Tuesday, adding that the case would not proceed to trial.

Ms. Zhou's case against Mr. Zhu was originally filed under the "personality rights" law – covering rights relating to an individual's health and body – but her lawyers later asked for it to be considered under new sexual harassment legislation that was passed last year.

Parul and Abhishek play the waiting game before winning 5000m

Woman distance runner-steeplechaser keen to do a Sable; Pavithra beats Mariya and Krishna, claims pole vault gold

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN WARANGAL

Training with steeplechaser Avinash Sable, the stunning national record-breaking machine, has made Parul Chaudhary look at life in a new light.

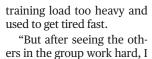
Making the move

The Asian bronze medallist played a smart waiting game, shadowing Maharashtra's Komal Jagadale for a major part of the 5000m before making her move in the final lap for the gold in the 60th National Open athletics championships at the Nehru Stadium here on Wednesday.

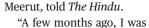
opened up about what's running in her mind. "Training with Olympian

And then the 26-year-old

Avinash has motivated me in a big way. At first, I found the way's Parul, who hails from



felt I could do it too," Rail-



also looking at big goals like Avinash but I was down with coronavirus. Now, I'm getting close to my old form. I

Dominant: Parul (left, No. 400) and Abhishek Pal (457) on the way to women's and men's 5,000m gold on Wednesday. • AFI want to do well like Avinash and now my target is Asian

Parul, who narrowly missed making the cut for the Tokyo Olympics through the

world ranking route, is keen on two events, the 5000m and the 3000m steeplechase. "Both are my favourite events," she said.

Avinash's coach Amrish

Kumar feels Parul has it in her to produce stunning

Capable

'She is capable of improving her personal best by nearly 20 seconds in both the 5000m and the steeplechase. Her chances are better in the 5000m, and she is an Asian medallist in that event, but she wants to do both," said Amrish. "Her running style and speed endurance have improved now, the timings will do too."

Abhishek Pal, also from Railways, won the men's 5000m after watching Services' inter-State National champion Kartik Kumar and a couple of others do much of the early leading from a vantage point before making his crucial strike.

Tamil Nadu's Pavithra Venkatesh took the women's pole vault gold, beating Rail-

ways stars Mariya Jaison and Krishna Rachan.



In the men's section, V. Muhammed Ajmal of Services, who was his making his quartermile debut at the Nationals, was the fastest qualifier to the final with 47.08.

Telangana Sports Minister V. Srinivas Goud inaugurated the five-day meet.

The results (finals): Men, 5000m: 1. Abhishek Pal (Rly) 14:16.35s; 2. Dharmender (Ser) 14:17.20; 3. Ajay Kumar (Ser) 14:20.98. Women, 5000m: 1. Parul Chaudhary (Rly) 15:59.69s; Komal Jagdale (Mah) 16:01.43; 3. Sanjivani Jadhav (Mah) 16:19.18. Pole vault: 1. Pavithra Venkatesh (TN) 3.90m; 2 Mariya Jaison (Rly) 3.80; 3. Krishna Rachan (Rly) 3.60.

Yashaswini, Hansini win



SPORTS BUREAU

India's Yashaswini Deepak Ghorpade and M.R. Hansini clinched the girls' u-17 and u-13 singles titles in the World TT Youth Contender Tunis on Tuesday

The results (final):

Girls: Under-17: Yashaswini Deepak Ghorpade bt Farida Badawy (Egy) 11-6, 14-12, 11-7. Under-13: M.R. Hansini bt Prisla Goel 11-5, 11-8, 11-8.



M.R. Hansini.

Bayern tramples over Barcelona

Lukaku leads Chelsea to victory; Juventus cruises past Malmo; Dortmund beats Besiktas

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was a tale of three strikers as the Champions League group stage started on Tues-Cristiano Ronaldo scored but lost on his return with Manchester United (against Young Boys), then Robert Lewandowski and Romelu Lukaku both led their teams to victory in their opening games on Tuesday.

Lewandowski scored two as Bayern Munich eased to a 3-0 win in Barcelona, and Lukaku's second-half header gave defending champion Chelsea a 1-0 win over Zenit St. Petersburg. Juventus won 3-0 at Malmo.

Thomas Muller scored with a deflected shot in the 33rd minute to ensure Bayern scored for the 23rd consecutive Champions League game, a club record.

Lewandowski got the second in the 56th on a rebound after 18-year-old Jamal Musiala's effort struck the post.

The Poland star scored his second goal in the 85th, again after a teammate -Serge Gnabry – hit the post, though there was plenty for Lewandowski to do as he slotted the ball past a host of

Chelsea had to wait until the 69th minute for Lukaku to make the breakthrough against a stubborn St. Petersburg defence. The Belgium forward towered above a defender to meet Cesar Azpilicueta's cross with a header for his fourth goal in as many games for Chelsea since his return from Inter Milan.

Jude Bellingham shone with a goal and an assist for Erling Haaland as Borussia Dortmund kicked off its campaign with a 2-1 win at Besiktas on Wednesday.

The results: Wednesday: Group C: Besiktas 1 (Montero 90+4) lost to Borussia Dortmund 2 (Bellingham 20, Haaland 45+3). Group D: Sheriff Tiraspol 2 (Traore 16, Yansane 62) bt Shakhtar Donetsk O.

Tuesday: Group E: Barcelona O lost to Bayern 3 (Muller 34, Lewandowski 56, 85); Dynamo Kiev O drew with Benfica O. Group F: Villarreal 2 (Trigueros

39. Daniuma 73) drew with Atalanta 2 (Freuler 6, Gosens 83). Group G: Lille O drew with Wolfsburg O.

Group H: Malmo O lost to Juventus 3 (Alex Sandro 23, Dybala 45-pen, Morata 45+1); Chelsea 1 (Lukaku 69) bt Zenit St. Petersburg O.



Towering header: Romelu Lukaku rises above the Zenit St. Petersburg defence to seal a win

Pele leaves intensive care

ASSOCIATED PRESS SAO PAULO

Retired Brazilian soccer star Pele was moved out of intensive care as he continues to recover from surgery to remove a tumour from his colon.

The 80-year-old Edson Arantes do Nascimento was in good clinical condition and will remain "from now on recovering in his room" at Albert Einstein Hospital, the Sao Paulo facility said in a statement on Tuesday.

Pelé said he is ready "to play 90 minutes, plus extra time" after leaving intensive care.

"Don't think for a minute that I haven't read the thousands of loving messages I've received around here," Pelé wrote on Instagram.



Sangwan begins well in new weight division

Cruises past Prasadula in 86kg

NATL. BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI

Olympian and Asian medallist Sumit Sangwan began his journey in a new weight division on a confident note, winning his first round bout in the 86kg category on the opening day of the National boxing championships at the Inspire Institute of Sports campus in Vijayanagar on Wednesday.

Representing Haryana, Sangwan, who competed in the 91kg in the last National championships in Baddi in 2019 and 81kg in the Asian championships in May last, eased past Harish Prasadula of Andhra Pradesh 5-0 in the newly introduced weight category.

Delhi's Neeraj Swami, another experienced boxer and the 2019 President's Cup gold medallist, also made a winning start. He blanked Haryana's Sagar 5-0 in the 48kg class which was making a comeback after a year's gap.

Punjab's Rajpinder Singh trounced Rahul Niltu of Himachal Pradesh 5-0 in a 54kg bout. Maharashtra's



Nikhil Dubey and Chhattisgarh's Dinesh Kumar Yadav posted contrasting victories in the 75kg section. Nikhil took out Sejad Lilgar of Gujarat in the first round (referee stopped contest) while Dinesh had to work hard against Bengal's Abhishek Shaw to secure a 3-2 win.

Important results: 48kg: Kuldeep Kumar (Chd) bt Suraj Routh (WB) 4-1; Sujat Hussain (Lad) bt Pratik (Bih) k.o. (R2); 54kg: Sanket Goud (Mah) bt Appala Raju Pedda (AP) 5-0.

67kg: Subham Kumar (AIP) bt Zomuansanga (Miz) 3-2; Dinesh (RSPB) bt Vasu Pinapothina (SPSB) 5-0. 75kg: Sumit (SSCB) bt Aditya Maan (Chd) 5-0; 92plus kg: Sagar Singh (Utk) bt Nagesh Patil (Kar) 4-1; Akash (Del) bt Sushil Raj (TN) 4-1.

Holding bids adieu to commentary

ANI LONDON

Former West Indies cricketer Michael Holding has announced his retirement as a cricket commentator on Wednesday, ESPNcricinfo reported. Holding was a member of the Sky Sports panel for more than 20

The West Indian legend had been contemplating his retirement for the past year.

"I am not too sure how much further than 2020 I will going be commentary

"I cannot see myself going much further down the road at my age. I am 66 years old now, I am not 36, 46 or 56," he had said on a BBC radio talk show then.

"I told [Sky] that I could not commit to more than a year at a time. If this year



Michael Holding.

might have to think about 2021 because I can't just walk away from Sky, a company that has done so much good for me," he added.

Holding, who bid adieu to international cricket in 1987, was widely respected for his famous insightful analysis and razor-sharp insights.

The West Indies legend

Limited spectators Tributes for IPL games From the very

first day I met

him, Michael Holding

has always been kind,

understanding and

encouraging to me,

up. I am privileged to

call him friend and

mentor. I will cele-

to the teachings he

brought. — IAN BISHOP

Michael Holding

is a legendary

campaigner... a great

guy who will be sorely

missed around the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Limited spectators will be allowed into stadiums when the much-awaited IPL resumes in the UAE this weekend, the event's organisers announced on Wednesday.

The IPL, which was suspended midway in May due to COVID-19 cases in its bio bubble, will resume on Sunday with Mumbai Indians taking on Chennai Super Kings.

"This match will be a momentous occasion as IPL will welcome the fans back," a statement said.

"Fans can buy tickets from Sept. 16 on the official website www.iplt20.com. team in 60 Tests and 102 Tickets can also be pur-ODIs, has 391 international chased on PlatinumList-

'IPL in UAE will level playing field for T20WC'

Maxwell says the stint will help the Australian players in their preparation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Star Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell believes having the IPL in the UAE will level the playing field "a fair bit" in the T20 World Cup to be held at the same venue next month.

The IPL will resume on September 19 in the UAE after being suspended in May due to the second wave of COVID-19 in India, which led to multiple cases inside the bio-bubble.

It will be followed by the T20 World Cup from October 17. "The tournament being in UAE probably levels the playing field a little bit," Maxwell, who plays for Royal Challenger Bangalore in the IPL, told *icc-cricket.com*.

"Probably makes it a little

much of a home ground advantage. For the IPL to be there, to have a lot of international players who are going to be in that World Cup over there playing, I think it's probably levelled the playing field a fair bit."

Top players will be back

Australia's top players, including Steve Smith, David Warner, Aaron Finch and Pat Cummins, have not competed in the last few months and will be back in action at

Maxwell said the IPL stint will help the Australians in their preparation for the T20 WC. "The fact we've got a lot of guys going over for the IPL as a preparation, get a few games in those conditions, it's going to do wonders for



Innovator: On his day, RCB's Glenn Maxwell can tear apart

Neeraj's next target: Olympic record

ATHLETICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Wednesday said he has set his sights on breaking the Olympic record to go with his gold medal-winning feat at the Tokyo Games.

Neeraj, who has a personal best of 88.07m, clinched a historic gold with an effort of 87.58m. The Olympic record stands at 90.57m, set by Andreas Thorkildsen in Beijing 2008.

Neeraj said it would be great to add another feather to his cap.

"An Olympic gold medal is the ultimate. But in athletics, you can add one more thing to your gold medal an Olympic record," the 23year-old said during his maiden trip to Kolkata after becoming the first Indian to win an Olympic gold in athletics.

"I've the National record

(88.07m), while the Olympic record is 90.57. If I can go a step further, it would be an Olympic gold with a personal best and an Olympic record," he said. Neeraj, who is here on a

two-day visit for a felicitation programme, was honoured by the Kolkata "I'm meeting new people everyday, attending so ma-

ny functions. The biggest change I see is for the Olympic sport. I always knew it would be a different atmosphere when I return home," he said.

ople are now keenly following Olympic sports. I hope Indian sports achieves greater heights," he said. "I will start training soon,

"It's a great thing that pe-

and will focus on my real work then," he said. The javelin champion was earlier felicitated by

West Bengal MOS for sports and youth affairs Manoj Tiw-



Icing on the cake: Neeraj feels that a new Games mark will add sheen to his Tokyo gold. •PTI

Women's tennis heading in right direction: Sania

Raducanu and Fernandez give a glimpse of depth in the field

ASHWIN ACHAL

The women's event of the US Open produced a magical final, between two unheralded teenagers in Emma Raducanu and Leylah Fernandez. With a straightset win over Fernandez, Raducanu stunned the world to become the first qualifier to win a Grand Slam title in the Open Era.

Successors have arrived

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza believes that the fairytale run of Raducanu and Fernandez provided a glimpse of the depth in the women's field. The successors to Serena Williams' era of domination have arrived, Sania stated.

"Women's tennis is heading in the right direction. Look at the two US Open finalists – one was a qualifier (Raducanu) and the other was ranked in the 70s. The depth in the field is incredi-

"Everyone was asking what happens after Serena (Williams) finishes. I guess we have our answer now," Saina said, in an interview arranged by Sony Sports.

Youthful exuberance

Sania added that Raducanu's youthful exuberance worked in her favour. "One of Emma's biggest strengths was that she is so young that she did not fully realise the magnitude of what she was achieving. She was in the zone – she couldn't feel or see anything but the tennis ball. It shows you what pure





Expressing themselves: Sania says that Fernandez and Raducanu are shining examples of the younger generation which plays without fear. • FILE PHOTOS

belief can do," Sania, 34,

In the men's section, Novak Djokovic fell just short in his quest to record a historic Grand Slam.

The occasion got to the Serbian in the final, when he buried his face under a towel and wept during his defeat to Daniil Medvedev.

"Athletes are the most raw, emotional beings. On court, we laugh, we scream, we get angry. You have millions of people watching, it's incredible for people to understand that Djokovic is human.

Everyone has emotions

"No matter how great an athlete you are, you have emotions as a human being. What he was going for (Grand Slam) was incredible. Whether he wins or not, he is one of the greatest of all time," Sania said.

Sania weighed in on the Indian women's cricket team's tour of Australia, which commences with three

"Showing more live women's cricket matches like this is the best way to increase the profile of women's

"A lot of channels show repeats of men's cricket matches; it will be nice to have live women's action instead," Sania said.

(Watch live coverage of India women's tour of Australia on Sony Six channels from September 21).

Mane shoots 65 to take first round lead

J&K OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Udayan Mane, who represented India at the Tokyo Olympics, fired a sublime seven-under 65 in the opening round to take the early lead at the ₹40 lakh J&K Open golf tournament here on Wednesday.

Delhi's Rashid Khan and Honey Baisoya as well as Gurugram's Veer Ahlawat, the runner-up at the PGTI event last week, shot five-under 67 to be tied second. Om Prakash Chouhan of

Mhow, Chandigarh's Akshay Sharma and Patna's Aman Raj returned cards of fourunder 68 to be tied fifth. Delhi-based Kshitij Na-

veed Kaul, who has his origins in J&K, carded a 70 to be tied 14th.

Jyoti Randhawa posted an

even-par 72 to occupy the joint 25th place. Mane got off to a dream

the first 10 holes.

start with eight birdies on

Precision

He struck the ball with precision, landing it within six feet of the pin to set up birdies on the first, third, fourth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth.

On the 10th, Mane sank a 12-footer to move to eightunder for the day. After a terrific start, Udayan slowed down on the back-nine as the putts didn't roll in. He dropped a bogey on the 15th but saved a good par from the bunker on the 16th.

Bengaluru's Chikkarangappa ended the day with a 73 to be tied 39th while PGTI Order of Merit leader Karandeep Kochhar of Chandigarh was two shots back in tied 63rd place.



■ NISSAR AHMAD

TV PICKS

UEFA Europa Conference League: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8 p.m., 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

UEFA Europa League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF

Vihari to turn out for Hyderabad

HYDERABAD India cricketer Hanuma Vihari will play for Hyderabad in the coming season, with all the necessary formalities regarding his move to shift base from Andhra being completed, a senior official of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) said. Vihari moved from Hyderabad to Andhra in 2015. "I am parting ways with Andhra Cricket Association on good terms,"

Manika left out of team

TTFI names squad for Asian championships

TABLE TENNIS

K. KEERTHIVASAN

The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), on Wednesday, announced the team for the ITTF-Asian championships at Doha from September 28 to October 5. As expected, the country's top woman paddler Manika Batra, who didn't attend the

camp, has been left out. Madhurika Patkar, India's third best player, too, has not been included.

The Mumbai-based paddler couldn't attend as TTFI was apparently not able to get the Sports Authority of India's approval.

The coaches will be announced later.

At its Executive Committee meeting last month, the TTFI made it mandatory for all top players to attend National training camps to be considered for selection.

The squad: Men: Team: A. Sharath Kamal, G. Sathiyan, Harmeet Desai, Manav Thakkar, Sanil Shetty; Singles: Sharath, Sathiyan, Harmeet, Manav, Sanil; Doubles: Sharath & Sathiyan; Manav & Harmeet.

Women: Team: Sutirtha Mukherjee, Ayhika Mukherjee, Archana Kamath, Sreeja Akula; Singles: Sutirtha, Avhika, Archana. Sreeia: Doubles: Archana & Sreeja: Sutirtha & Avhika. Mixed doubles: Manav & Archana; Harmeet & Sreeja.



BFC starts with a win over Kerala Blasters

DURAND CUP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Namgyal Bhutia and Leon Augustine struck a goal apiece as Bengaluru FC defeated an eight-man Kerala Blasters 2-0 to start its campaign on a winning note in the 130th Durand Cup football tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Wednesday.

Blasters dominated the Group C contest between the two Indian Super League (ISL) outfits early on and created some good chances.

Alert custodian

However, BFC's alert custodian Lara Sharma brilliantly saved Sreekuttan and Adrian Luna's shots in the 33rd and 38th minutes respectively.

Bhutia's 45th free-kick broke the deadlock.

Three red cards

Madness prevailed on the ground resulting in three red cards for the Blasters in the second half.

R.V. Hormipam was the first to go in the 64th minute, followed by Sandeep Singh and Denechandra Meitei. It practically took away the Blasters' chance for a revival.

In the 71st minute, Augustine scored from Harmanpreet Singh's cross to make it

Lara was adjudged the man-of-the-match for his outstanding effort.

The result:

Group C: Bengaluru FC 2 (Namgyal Bhutia 45, Leon Augustine 71) bt Kerala Blasters FC O.



What a feeling! Augustine is cock-a-hoop after netting BFC's second goal. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dia upsets top seed Samya

PVL formally launched

TENNIS

Vihari said

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Fifth seed Dia Arora outplayed top seed Samya Singh Sikand 6-0, 6-1 in the under-18 girls' quarterfinals of the AITA Championship series junior tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

In the semifinals, Dia will face Sneha Sundaraneedi who beat third seed Sreenid-

VOLLEYBALL

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

The Prime Volleyball League

(PVL) featuring six teams,

sponsored by fantasy game

leader A23 and marketed by

Baseline Ventures, was for-

mally launched here on

Wednesday in the presence

of the owners of respective

Joy Bhattacharya, CEO,

PVL, said the forthcoming

HYDERABAD

hi Balaji in three sets. The other semifinal will

be between fourth seed Durganshi and Sumeira Jaiswal. In the boys' section, top seed Parag Jain was stretched to three sets by Pratyaksh. He will play Ve-

dant Mehta in the semifinals. Aditya Talwar bounced back after losing the first set to beat Ananya Gohri 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, to set up a semifinal against Harsh Fogaat.

edition's auction will be held

played on round-robin for-

mat and features Calicut He-

roes, Kochi Blue Spiders,

Hyderabad Black Hawks, de-

fending champion Chennai

Blitz and new addition Ben-

"More details about the

schedule and prize money

will be announced later. The

auctions will feature foreign

"The league will be

Defenders,

in December.

Ahmedabad

galuru Torpedoes."

The results (quarterfinals):

U-18: Boys: Parag Jain bt Pratyaksh 7-6(2), 4-6, 6-2; Vedant Mehta bt Abhiraj Mohil 6-4, 6-1; Aditya Talwar bt Ananya Gohri 2-6. 6-1. 6-4: Harsh Fogaat bt Namish Sharma 6-3,

Girls: Dia Arora bt Samya Singh Sikand 6-0, 6-1; Sneha Sundaraneedi bt Sreenidhi Balaji 3-6, 6-2. 6-4: Durganshi bt Anva Gupta 6-0, 6-0; Sumeira Jaiswal bt Somya Arya 4-6, 6-3,

players who are already

showing a lot of interest.

PVL will strictly follow the

rule-book with no scope for

Neville Bastawalla, SVP &

Head (Marketing & On Air

Promotions), Sports Chan-

nels at Sony Pictures Net-

works India, said "the

league will be shown live in

most of the regional languag-

tampering at any stage."

Live telecast

es and SonyLIV."

Indian teams qualify for next stage



Talent pool: The Indian boys' and girls' teams, along with that of Pakistan, Nepal and Maldives, in the Asian under-12 tennis championship. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ASIAN TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI

The Indian boys' team lost to Pakistan in the last league match but both teams qualified for the next stage of the Asian under-12 tennis championship in Islamabad on Wednesday.

In the decisive doubles. Aarav Chawla and Ojas Mehlawat led 6-2, 5-0 with two matchpoints on hand, but lost the plot and suffered a 6-2, 5-7, [5-10] loss to Abubakar Talha and Mikheel Shahbaz Ali Baig.

The Indian girls' team won all its matches and qualified on top for the World playoff to be played in Kazakhstan in November.

The results (league): Boys: Pakistan bt India 2-1

(Homza Roman bt Ojas Mehlawat 6-4, 6-4; Abubakar Talha lost to Aarav Chawla 2-6, 0-6; Abubakar Talha & Mikheel Shahbaz Ali Baig bt Aarav Chawla & Ojas Mehlawat 2-6, 7-5, [10-5]).

India bt Nepal 3-0 (Ojas bt Nisad Joshi 6-1, 6-0; Aarav bt Boriss Adhikari 6-1, 6-0; Aarav & Rudra Batham bt Nishad Joshi

& Darsheel Shrestha 6-2, 6-1). Girls: India bt Nepal 3-0 (Janhavi Kaila bt Mansa Kandel 6-1, 6-0; Harithashree Venkatesh bt Shivali Gurang 6-1, 6-2; Maaya Revathi & Harithashree Venkatesh bt Shivali Gurang &

Manssa Kandel 6-0, 6-1). India bt Maldives 3-0 (Harithashree bt Sarah Saamee Mohamed 6-1, 6-0; Maaya bt Naba Nishan 6-3, 6-0; Jahnvi & Harithashree bt Naba Nishan & Imani Moosa Kaleem 6-2, 6-1). India bt Pakistan 2-1 (Harithashree bt Zunaisha Noor 6-1. 6-1; Maaya lost to Haniya Aman 6-3, 2-6, 2-6; Harithashree & Maaya bt Haniya Aman & Zunaisha Noor 6-4, 4-6, [11-9]).

Sasikumar advances

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Sasikumar Mukund beat wild card Luca Staeheli of Switzerland 6-3, 5-7, 6-1 in the first round of the Challenger tennis here.

The results: €66,640 Challenger, Rennes, France: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Bravden Schnur (Can) & Ariun Kadhe bt Toshihide Matsui & Kaito Uesugi (Jpn) 6-1. 7-6(4): Mats Hermans & Gllenn Smits (Ned) bt Davide Pozzi (Ita) & Anirudh Chandrasekar 6-1, 6-3.

\$52,080 Challenger, Cary, US: First round: Sasikumar Mukund bt Luca Staeheli (Sui) 6-3, 5-7, 6-1.

\$25,000 ITF men, Madrid: First round: Louis Wessels (Ger) bt Digvijay Pratap Singh 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; Juan Ignacio Galarza (Arg) bt Manish Suresh-

kumar 6-4, 2-0 (retired). \$15,000 ITF men, Champaign, US: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Emile Hudd (GBR) & Adam Walton (Aus) bt Eric Sock (US) & Parth Aggarwal 6-0, 6-1; Kweisi Kenyatte (USS) & Karlis Ozolins (Lat) bt Henry Barrett (USS) & Suraj Prabodh 6-3, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo: First round: Jakub Wojcik (US) bt Rishab Agarwal 6-4, 6-4; Nathan Seateun (Fra) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-0, 6-7(1), 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: First round: Ajeet Rai (Nzl) bt Paras Dahiya 3-0 (retired); Blake Ellis (Auss) bt Niki Poonacha 6-3, 6-3; Ryota Tanuma (Jpn) bt Ajay Pruthvi Nemakal

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Mattia Bellucci & Giovanni Oradini (Ita) bt Niki Poonacha & Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-2, 6-4; Riccardo Di Nocera & Tommaso Roggero (Ita) bt Vishal Saravanan & Amaan Siddiaui 6-1. 6-1.

Women: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Sharmada Balu & Sravya Shivani bt Mariana Drazic (Cro) & Zeel Desai 6-4,

\$80,000 ITF women, Valencia: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Irina Maria Bara & Andreea Prisacariu (Rou) bt Nicoleta-Catalina Dascalu (Rou) & Prarthana Thombare 6-1, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF women, Melilla, Spain: First round: Maria Jose Zehnder (Arg) bt Sathwika Sama 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.





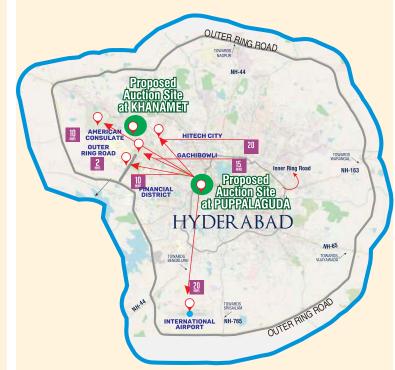
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1	Plot No. 7	2.46								
2	Plot No. 8	3.09								
3	Plot No. 9	3.78								
4	Plot No. 10	3.10								
5	Plot No. 11	2.75								
6	Plot No. 13	2.82								
7	Plot No. 18	1.74								
8	Plot No. 19	2.35								
9	Plot No. 20	0.70								
	Total @ Khanamet 22.79									

	Total @ Kilalianiet	22.17		
TSIIC Plots @ PUPPALAGUDA				
S.No	Plot Details	Area (Acres)		
1	Plot No. 1	6.62		
2	Plot No. 2	5.56		
3	Plot No. 3	4.69		
4	Plot No. 4	2.80		
5	Plot No. 5	2.85		
6	Plot No. 6	283		

	S.No	Plot Details	Area (Acres)
→	7	Plot No. 7	2.97
	8	Plot No. 8	3.24
	9	Plot No. 9	4.28
	10	Plot No. 10	5.57
	11	Plot No. 11	5.49
	12	Plot No.12	5.92
	13	Plot No. 13	6.20
	14	Plot No. 14	6.27
	15	Plot No. 15	2.24
	16	Plot No. 16	2.30
	17	Plot No. 17	2.30
	18	Plot No. 18	2.30
	19	Plot No. 19	2.30
	20	Plot No. 20	2.30
	21	Plot No. 21	2.65
	22	Plot No. 22	3.03
	23	Plot No. 23	1.64
	24	Plot No. 24	2.55
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*https://www.mea.gov.in/images/pdf/acquisition-and-transfer-of-immovable-property-in-india.pdf

KHANAMET Notification 30-8-2021 Pre-Bid Meeting 09-9-2021 @ 11 AM

E-AUCTION SCHEDULE

Last date for Registration 25-9-2021 upto 5 PM 25-9-2021 upto 5 PM Last date for Payment of EMD Date & Time of e-Auction 27-9-2021 For Plots 7 to 10, 9 AM to 12 Noon For Plots 11,13,18 to 20, 2 PM to 5 PM **PUPPALAGUDA** Notification 30-8-2021 Pre-Bid Meeting 09-9-2021 @ 11AM

Last date for Registration

Date & Time of e-Auction

Last date for Payment of EMI



For Plots 1 to 11, 2 PM to 5 PM Site visits from 01.09.2021 to 24.09.2021

25-9-2021 upto 5 PM

25-9-2021 upto 5 PM

For site visit & queries, contact: Mr. Shiva Kumar, Special Deputy Collector (Lands), TSIIC | Mrs. Renu Purushottam, Branch Manager, MSTC +91 95738 14737 | sdc-iic@telangana.gov.in +91 88844 06412 | rpurushottam@mstcindia.co.in

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