

K. Kasturirangan-led committee to develop curriculum framework



600 more workers to be deployed to speed up Central Vista project

Taliban expand interim Cabinet but Tyagi bowls a sensational final over as Royals stun Kings



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fail to appoint women

page 13



Punjab CM heads to Delhi to discuss new Cabinet

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Tuesday headed to Delhi to discuss the Cabinet formation with the Congress's central leadership. Mr. Channi, along with State Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu and Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, took a chartered flight to the national capital.

Kyrgyzstan woman, son found murdered in flat

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

NEW DELHI A 28-year-old pregnant woman, hailing from Kyrgyzstan, and her one-year-old son were found murdered at a house in south-east Delhi's Kalkaji on Tuesday, the police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) R.P. Meena said the victim has been identified as Myskal Zhumabaeva and son Manas.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2



OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 5

India considers 'reciprocal' steps to U.K.'s quarantine rules

Shringla's comments come hours after Jaishankar meets British counterpart

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India could impose "reciprocal measures" on the United Kingdom if London maintained the current quarantine policy that subjected Indian travellers "irrespective of vaccination status" to a quarantine period lasting 10 days, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said here on Tuesday. There was an option of mutual recognition of vaccination certificates, he noted at a press briefing.

The comments came hours after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met his British counterpart Liz Truss in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Mutual recognition

"The External Affairs Minister has raised this issue strongly with his counterpart, the new U.K. Foreign Secretary, and I am told that certain assurances have been given that this issue would be resolved. And as you saw, the Minister has said this issue should be resolved at the earliest to mutual satisfaction. We have also offered some of our partner countries the option of mutual recognition of vaccination certificates or vaccine certification. But these



Addressing concerns: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss in New York. • TWITTER

are reciprocal measures. I

think if obviously, as we go

along, we will have to see

how it goes. If we don't get

satisfaction, we would be

well within our rights to im-

pose reciprocal measures,"

U.K.'s policy to impose 10

days quarantine on people

vaccinated with Covishield

revealed a gap in that coun-

try's policy regarding vac-

cines made in India. "The

basic issue is that here is a

vaccine, Covishield, which is

a licensed product of a U.K.

company, manufactured in

India," he said.

He indicated that the

Mr. Shringla observed.

licensed product of a U.K. company, manufactured in India, of which we have supplied five million doses to the U.K., at the request of the U.K. We understand this has been used in their National Health System and therefore, non-recognition of Covishield is a discriminatory policy HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA,

Covishield is a

Amid AUKUS row, Modi speaks with Macron

SUHASINI HAIDAR KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a telephonic call with French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday, in a show of solidarity with France that has protested against the U.S.-U.K.-Australia tripartite security alliance (AUKUS) that effectively killed Paris-Canberra cooperation on submarines.

"Mr. Modi and Mr. Ma-**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8 cron reviewed the increas-

ing bilateral collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, and the important role that the India-France partnership plays in promoting stability and security in the region," an MEA statement said. "Spoke with my friend President @EmmanuelMacron on the situation in Afghanistan. We also discussed closer collaboration in the Indo-

NO LINK BETWEEN AUKUS AND **QUAD, SAYS GOVT.** ▶ PAGE 9

Pacific," the PM tweeted.

Process to induct women into NDA by May 2022: govt.

UPSC will add women in notification

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The government has informed the Supreme Court that it proposes to have the 'mechanism' to induct women cadets into the National Defence Academy (NDA) for entry into the armed forces to be ready in May

The Ministry of Defence told the court in an affidavit that the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) would include women in its NDA exam notification expected to be published in May 2022.

"The government hereby places on record the clear and categorical stand that the women candidates shall be considered for entry in the three defence services, in the existing streams, through the National Defence Academy... Entrance examinations for entry into NDA are held twice a year. The government proposes to have the necessary mechanism in place by May 2022, i.e., the time by which UPSC is required to publish the first notification of 2022 for entrance exam for entry to NDA," a short affidavit by the Ministry said.

With this, the path is clear for women to train

Any dilution of physical training and service subjects like parameters of firing, endurance training, field craft and living off the land for women cadets will battle worthiness of the armed forces

along with men at the NDA, considered a male bastion.

After the Supreme Court judgment last year which led to permanent commission for women officers, this is the second time that the court has nudged the armed forces towards equality.

On September 8, the government assured the court that the induction of women into the NDA was already under consideration by the armed forces. A Bench, led by Justice S.K. Kaul, had urged the armed forces and the government to "take a proactive approach in gender equality issues rather than leave it unattended and calling for the court to interfere".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Record paddy yield, dip in oilseeds likely this kharif

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The summer kharif season is likely to produce a record paddy harvest this year, pushing the country's foodgrain production for the season to an all-time high of 15 crore tonnes, according to first advance estimates from the Agriculture Ministry.

However, oilseed production may be marginally lower than last year's, particularly groundnut and soyabean harvests, which could be bad news for soaring edible oil prices. On the other hand, the increase in pulses production, especially the toor dal crop, could come as a relief.

'Result of hard work'

Releasing the estimates, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar attributed the record foodgrain production to the "hard work of farmers, proficiency of scientists and farmer friendly policies of the

Going into the winter rabi season, the Centre has taken steps to incentivise the production of both oilseeds and pulses, according to a virtual presentation by Agriculture Commissioner S.K. Malho-

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

⁺ Assam, Nagaland CMs hold talks with NSCN(IM)

They held an hour-long meeting with Naga extremist leader Thuingaleng Muivah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, assigned by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, met senior Naga extremist leader Thuingaleng Muivah in Dimapur in Nagaland on Tuesday.

Mr. Muivah is the general secretary of the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, or NSCN(IM).

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio was with Dr. Sarma during the closed-door meeting that lasted an hour. The issues discussed were not made public.

Less than 24 hours after meeting Mr. Shah in New Delhi, the Assam Chief Mi-

India's religious

since Partition:

The religious composition of

India's population since Par-

tition has remained largely

stable, with both Hindus

and Muslims, the two largest

religious groups, showing

not only a marked decline

but also a convergence in

fertility rates, according to a

new study by the Pew Re-

search Center, a non-profit

sourced from India's decen-

nial census and the National

Health

(NHFS), looked at the three

main factors that are known

to cause changes in reli-

gious composition of popu-

lations - fertility rate, mi-

rates, the study found that

Muslims, who had the high-

est rate, also had the shar-

pest decline in rates.

With regard to fertility

gration, and conversions.

Family

The study, based on data

Survey

based in Washington DC.

mix stable

Pew study

G. SAMPATH



Himanta Biswa Sarma

nister drove to the private residence of Mr. Rio after landing at Dimapur around 12.30 p.m. The two went to the meeting venue at a Nagaland police facility together. After the meeting, Dr. Sar-

ma went to a resort nearby and held separate discussions with former Intelligence Bureau special direc-

tor A.K. Mishra and State BJP leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton, party chief Temjen Imna Along

Mr. Mishra had met Mr. Muivah on Monday. After the meeting, NSCN(IM) leader R. Raising told journalists it would be meaningless to sign any agreement that denied the Nagas their flag and constitution.

Prior to leaving for Dimapur, Dr. Sarma told journalists in Guwahati that it was a "routine" visit for a "political reason". He also disclosed that he had met the NSCN (IM) leadership informally three-four times in Delhi

Reacting to Dr. Sarma's

"involvement" in the Naga issue, the Assam Congress apprehended the possibility of the State's territorial integrity being compromised in view of the NSCN(IM)'s demand for the creation of 'Greater Nagalim' by bringing all Naga-inhabited areas of the northeastern region under one administrative

Congress raises doubts

Assam Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah sought to know in what capacity Dr. Sarma held the talks with Mr. Muivah and if the Chief Minister could do this without taking the State Assembly and the Cabinet into confidence.

HC allows Delhi govt. to set up panel on oxygen-scarcity deaths

Govt. says committee will not assign any fault to hospitals

NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Tuesday allowed the city government to constitute a high-power committee to probe the deaths allegedly caused by medical oxygen shortage during the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

A Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh noted the Delhi government's submission that the panel will not attribute any fault to any hospital and any compensation will be paid by the government alone. "In light of the aforesaid,

we see no difficulty in the panel discharging its assigned role," the court said, adding that it was unnecessary to await an order of the Supreme Court on grant of ex gratia according to National Disaster Management Authority guidelines, as the SC-appointed panel was seized of the issue at the "macro level" while the Del-



People lining up to refill oxygen tanks during the second wave of COVID-19 in Delhi. • FILE РНОТО

hi government panel would look at "micro situations". The court also noted that

the Delhi government, after keeping its decision to set up a panel in abeyance, has "expressed its intention to reinstate it", however, "due to difference in opinion (with regards to the scope of the panel's mandate) between the Council of Ministers and Lieutenant-Governor, the stalemate is continuing".

The High Court permitted

the setting up of a panel only

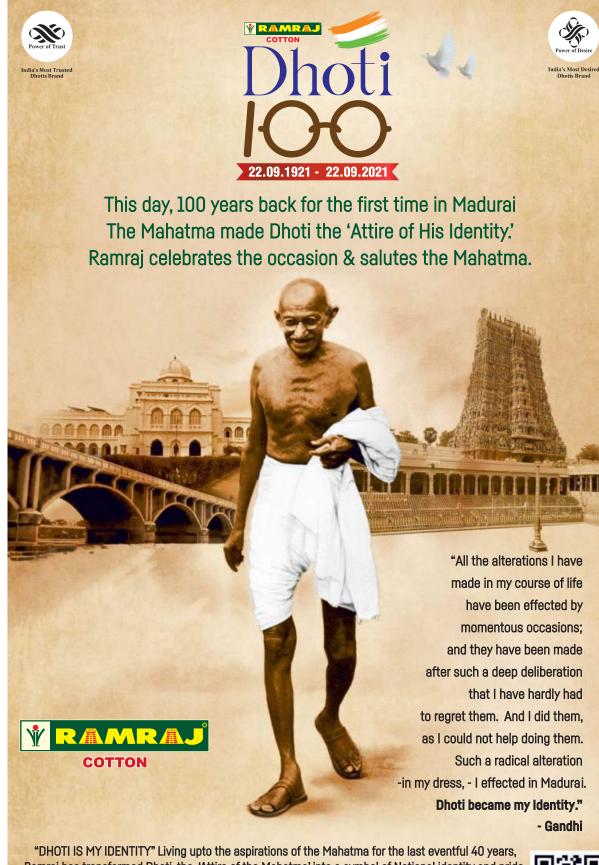
Mehra, representing the Delhi government, clarified that it was a "fact-finding committee" which would not attribute any fault or negligence to a hospital.

Relief of up to ₹5 lakh The court was informed that

compensation of up to ₹5 lakh would be decided by the panel on the basis of an objective criteria. Mr. Mehra said the relief awarded by the panel will be separate from the ex gratia of ₹50,000 already being paid by the Delhi government.

Following the order, the Delhi government released a statement saying it was grateful to the court. "The Delhi government

has been serious about the deaths in the national capital due to lack of oxygen... the L-G rejected our files on the matter twice... but today the High Court has upheld our stance," it said



Ramraj has transformed Dhoti, the 'Attire of the Mahatma' into a symbol of National identity and pride. Celebrating its cherished mission, Ramraj rededicates it's commitment and salutes the Mahatma for the inspiration. WATCH IT LIVE @ 5 PM: www.ramrajcotton.in/event



'FERTILITY RATES OF HINDUS & **MUSLIMS CONVERGING'** ▶ PAGE 9

Man involved in 100 cases of snatching in police net

STAFF REPORTER

A 35-year-old man allegedly involved in 100 cases of snatching and robbery in the Capital has been arrested from Jodhpur in Rajasthan, the police said on Tuesday.

DCP (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said that the accused has been idnetified as Arjun, a resident of Jhuggi Lal Bagh. One goldsmith, who was the receiver of snatched chains, identified as Vishal Verma, has also been arrested, Mr. Meena said.

According to the police, Arjun was wanted in 26 cases, including 10 in Dwarka district, 13 in west district, and three in Rohini district. He was released on bail in April. He returned to snatching and robbery, the police said.

"On September 14, we received information that Mr. Arjun was going to Jodhpur to evade arrest. A police team reached Jodhpur and arrested him," Mr.

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on

Tuesday asked the Centre,

the Delhi government and

Tata Power to respond to a

petition seeking electricity

connection for nearly 800

Hindu migrants from Pakis-

tan who are currently living in Delhi Jal Board Maidan in

north Delhi's Adarsh Nagar.

riom who works for the wel-

fare of 'minority migrants'

from Pakistan, Bangladesh

and Afghanistan in India,

The petition, filed by Ha-

Kyrgyzstan woman, son found murdered in flat

She was pregnant; police verifying statements of people

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old pregnant woman, hailing from Kyrgyzstan, and her one-year-old son were found murdered at a house in south-east Delhi's Kalkaji on Tuesday, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) R.P. Meena said that the victim has been identified as Myskal Zhumabaeva and son Manas

According to the police, a PCR call was received in the morning stating that a woman and her child have been murdered at a flat in Kalkaji's K-Block.

Quarrel with husband

When the police reached the spot, the mother-son duo were found murdered and lying on the bed with stab injuries. The spot was visited by the crime team and senior officers, Mr. Meena said.

Preliminary enquiry revealed that Myskal is the

said the migrants, mostly

from Sindh region, have

been living without electric-

"Migrants who have come

to India from Pakistan on

account of their religious

persecution believed that

coming to India will give

their children a bright and

safe future but their present

existence without electrici-

ty in the slum has shattered

all their dreams of meaning-

ful existence," the petition

ity for the last few years.

Dreams shattered

Plea seeks power connection for Pak migrants

Petition says they have been living in darkness for years; HC seeks response of govts.

dark."

Zhumabaeva fell ill and complained of stomach ache. She wanted to visit a hospital and the couple argued over which hospital to visit

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

wife of one Vinay Chauhan and the couple used to reside in Greater Kailash.

On Monday night, Myskal fell ill and complained of stomach ache. She wanted to visit a hospital and the couple argued over which hospital to visit, a senior police officer said, adding that Mr. Chauhan left the house after the argument and went to meet his friend

Staved at friend's place The police said that Myskal

then called her friend Matluba Madusmonova, an Uzbekistan national, and Avinish to help her visit the

"During the pandemic

when all schools have gone

online, there is no electrici-

ty in the *jhuggis* [slums] and

future of their children is in

miksha Mittal, Akash Vajpai

The petition said most of

the migrants are living on

long-term visa and they

have Aadhaar card with the

same address on which they

through advocates

and Ayush Saxena, said.

No use of Aadhaar

the plea, filed

hospital. After the check-up, Myskal went to Matluba's house in Kalkaji and stayed the night there, as told to the police.

Called husband

"The friend said that when she and her flatmate woke up in the morning, they went to Myskal's room and saw the mother-son dead," the officer said.

The friend called the victim's husband after seeing the body who informed the police.

Mr. Meena said that the husband told the police that the two got married over two years ago and that he runs a guest house.

"All the versions given by people are being verified. CCTV footage and technical details are being obtained to ascertain the sequence of events," Mr. Meena said.

A case under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and further investigation is un-

are currently living to vali-

date their occupancy. Ho-

wever, as per the electricity

distribution companies,

Aadhaar can be used as an

identity proof but not as a

proof of occupancy of the

The plea sought direction

for providing electricity

connection to the migrants

on the basis of their Aad-

haar card, long-term visa

DERC (Supply Code and

passport under the

Standards)

premises, it said.

Capital to receive heavy rain today

Met Department issues orange alert for city asking people to be prepared

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Capital received light showers on Tuesday evening that brought relief from the maximum temperature of 35.6° Celsius recorded earlier in the day.

The evening turned pleasant with cloud cover and in some parts of the city, a rainbow was visible briefly in the evening sky. The weather station at Safdarjung, which is the official record of the city, measured 3.6 mm of rainfall. The minimum settled at 25.8 degrees Celsius.

Traffic disruption

The Met Department has forecast heavy to moderate rain/thundershowers September 22 and has issued an orange alert for the city asking people to be prepared/updated.

The impact-based forecast has said that minor traf-



People taking cover during a light shower which brought respite from the humid weather conditions in New Delhi on Tuesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

fic disruption on roads can be expected with increased chance of vehicle accidents. It has also said that the rain could cause water accumula-

tion in low-lying areas and on roads. "Check for traffic congestion on your route before leaving for your destination. Follow any traffic advisories that are issued in this regard. Avoid going to areas that face waterlogging problem often," the Met Department said in its alert.

Honour confidentiality, HC tells I-T Department

'Papers seized from Newslaundry safe'

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the Income Tax Department to honour its assurance given to the court to maintain confidentiality of the documents seized during a survey operation at news portal Newslaundry's premises in the Capital earlier this month.

An HC Bench gave the direction after ED's counsel said the material seized by the agency will be used only in accordance with the law, which may include sharing it with other government agencies, and will not be leaked to third parties.

"The respondent assures and undertakes before the court that the material seized shall not be leaked and the concept of confidentially as enshrined in the Income Tax Act shall be abided. The said undertaking given by the respondent is accepted by the court and respondent is held bound by it," the court said.

The undertaking given by the respondent is accepted by the court and respondent is held bound by it

The court was hearing a petition by Newslaundry and its CEO Abhinandan Sekhri. Newslaundry, in its plea, said that the I-T officials impounded a hard disk and cloned copies of office desktops, laptop and phone of Mr. Sekhri, his personal email accounts, and a bunch of loose papers. The agency's counsel

said, "The material seized is in safe custody of the Income Tax Department. It shall not be leaked. It will be illegal to leak such material."

In view of the I-T Department's assurance, Mr. Sekhri said he would not press the prayer with respect to a challenge to the survey operation at this stage.

Address glitches in JNU entrance exam, NTA told

It shows agency's unpreparedness: ABVP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

JNU students on Tuesday highlighted that there have been several glitches being faced by those appearing for the entrance test and have requested the National Testing Agency (NTA) to address them at the earliest.

The JNU Entrance Examination that is being conducted by the NTA began at several locations across the country on Monday. The 18minute long, multiple choice question, computerbased test is for admission to various courses offered by JNU and is being conducted till September 23.

Problems faced

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad in a letter to the NTA director said that students were facing serious problems while taking the examination and asked the agency to deal with the complaints as a priority.

"There have been several cases of technical glitches in

the JNUEE examination process that has severely put the candidature of several aspirants into uncertainty. Some students have complained that there is no electricity in some of the centres allotted to them while other who have arrived at the examination centre printed on their hall ticket have not found their names on the rolls at the examination centre," the ABVP said.

ABVP president Shivam Chaurasia said that many of the aspirants have also been debarred from appearing for the examination without any reason, despite having completed the application process and paying the entrance examination fee as per the NTA notification.

"These challenges that are being faced by the JNUEE aspirants is unfortunate, demotivating and reveals the unpreparedness of the NTA in dealing with efficient conducting of entrance examinations," the ABVP said.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

PNB Organises Hindi Diwas Samaroh

Punjab National Bank, country's leading public sector Bank celebrated Hindi Diwas today with great zeal & enthusiasm in all the administrative offices and oranches. On this occasion, Hindi Divas Samaroh and Cultural event was organized at the head office of the Bank, Dwarka, New Delhi, which was presided over by Bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Shri CH. S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao. Executive Directors the Bank Shri Sanjay Kumar, Shri Vijay Dubey, Swaroop Kumar Saha, Chief General Manager and General Managers were specially present on this occasion. A cultural programme was also organized by the staff members observing covid-19 protocols and Hon'ble MD&CEO faliciated the winners of Lala Lajpat Rai Shield competitions organized by the Bank. While addressing the gathering, MD&CEO of the Bank heartily congratulated all the employees of the Bank for getting 'Rajbhasha Kirti' first prize for the fourth consecutive year conferred by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and Highlighted the importance of Hindi Diwas. He further said that the use of Hindi in banking is not only a constitutional requirement but also a commercial necessity. That's why PNB has adopted Hindi by heart and all our Digital products like Net Banking, Mobile Banking, PNB One App etc. have been made available in Hindi as well as regional languages for the benefit of the customers.

Chairman & Managing Director of IRCON

Shri Yogesh Kumar Misra has taken over as Chairman & Managing Director of IRCON International Limited on 04.09.2021. Born in 1965, Shri Yogesh Kumar Misra graduated in Civil Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. He is an officer of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), 1987 batch and has over 35 years of rich and varied experience in infrastructure works. He joined IRCON in 2006 and subsequently took absorption in IRCON He has made valuable contribution while working earlier on Design & Construction of J&K Rail Link Project and on other Railway capacity enhancement works. Under his leadership, IRCON has secured several projects within India and abroad on EPC, BOT and HAM basis in the highway and railway sectors.

Raising Day Celebration

36th Raising Day Celebration of Railway Protection Force was observed at Railway Protection Force from 1986, this day is celebrated as Raising Day. At the outset of the program, Chief Guest General Manager NCR ,Shr Pramod Kumar inspected the RPF parade organised in the well decorated the Railway Protection Force personnel on the Raising Day and motivated them to continue their excellent

IRCTC Dedicates A New Food Plaza For The Passengers At New Delhi Railway Station

The Indian Railway Catering And Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has been playing a pivotal role in revolutionizing the hospitality and catering business of Indian Railways across the country. In its latest drive, the company has recently dedicated a new Food Plaza - 'Pop n Hop' for the passengers at New Delhi railway station on Platform No. 16 towards Ajmeri Gate side. The 'Pop n Hop' Food Plaza is one of the most exquisite and extensive food and beverage facility created by IRCTC for the passengers and tourists to have wide variety sumptuous food offered in a hygienic and extremely comfortable environment. 'Pop n Hop' which will remain open to the passengers 24 hours all the year round has been set up in a massive floor area of 6,000 sq.ft. making it the most elaborate and sought after food and beverage outlet in the entire New Delhi

swanky food plaza to offer a wide and choicest variety of regional and transnational delicacies for the arriving guests. The new state of art Food Plaza at New Delh railway station promises to be the brand ambassador of hospitality for Indian Railways and will be one of the most happening places to be in Central Delh

LIC Launches 'Pragati'- a New Mobile App for Development Officers

LIC launches a new mobile app 'PRAGATI' (Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator) for exclusive use of its Development Officers. This feature was launched at the hands of LIC Chairperson Shri M R Kumar in the presence of Managing Directors, Shri Mukesh Gupta, Shri. Raj Kumar, Shri Siddhartha Mohanty and Ms. Mini pe and other Senior Officials of the Corporation on 17.9.2021 'Pragati' is a comprehensive mobile application which gives various information which are updated in near real-time about the performance of their agency force in critical areas of business performance like Premium collection, agency activisation, prospective MDRT / centurion agents etc, apart from monitoring their team on activities such as usage of agents mobile app and NACH validations. There is also a calculator to measure their cost ratio. In these days of digital explosion, gathering information is crucial for any officials to effectively discharge their duties. The scenario becomes more important when it is related to the marketing verticals of any organization where real time data and information is utmost necessity for decision making and preparing market enhancement strategies.LIC has been taking lot of customer centric and digital initiatives for ease of operations for its customers and field force. Recently LIC had launched the ANANDA Mobile App which is digital paperless solution which received overwhelming response from its agents. LIC has also come out with an artificial intelligence technology based app "Jeevan Saakshaya" which enables our Annuitants and retired employees to submit Life certificate from the comfort of their home instead of visiting LIC office for submitting Life certificate. With a growing portfolio nnuities we believe this app is a Win-Win for both LIC and our customers.

Nafed holds 64th Annual General Meeting

The 64th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) was held at New Delhi today. Welcoming the participants, Dr. Bijender Singh, Chairman NAFED thanked to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, MoS for Agriculture, Additional Secretary (A&C) and other senior officers in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for their constant guidance and support to NAFED from time to time and reposing confidence in NAFED by entrusting various tasks. He assured the Government that NAFED would strive hard to accomplish the tasks assigned by the Government to the best of its ability. He informed that IFFCO in coordination with NCUI, KRIBHCO, NAFED, AMUL and other cooperative institutions are organizing a "National Cooperative Conference" on 25th exptember, 2021 in Indraprastha Indoor Stadium ew Delhi, to deliberate as to how to increase the role of cooperative sector in the overall development of the country. NAFED has been generating profits for the last four years and as a result of continued improved mance since 2016-17

GAIL Gas Limited offers unique customer benefits to CNG vehicle owners in Bengaluru

GAIL Gas Limited have launched a special Scheme for Bengaluru Urban and Rural District to benefit the CNG Vehicle Owners. The Scheme was launched today by Shri B.Sriramulu, Hon'ble Minister of Transport Department and Tribal Welfare of Karnataka. Shri Raman Chadha, Chief Executive officer, GAIL Gas along with Shri Anupam Mukhopadhyay, Chief Operating Officer, Shri Bhaskar Debnath, Chief Financial Officer and Shri Vivek Wathodkar, General Manager and Officer In Charge, GAIL Limited, Bengaluru along with other officials of Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Baiai, Eicher etc were present at the occasion at Hotel Taj West End, Bengaluru. The CNG Promotional Scheme is valid for any person or organization purchasing a new car, auto, taxi, LCV HCV or converting their existing car, auto, Commercial taxi to CNG with effect from 10th of September, 2021. This initiative aims to make this clean and costeffective fuel alternative more accessible to customers and strengthen green mobility in Bengaluru. A prepaid CNG fuel card ranging from INR 14000 to INR 25,000 by GAIL Gas Limited, will be offered to CNG Customers, which can be utilized to fill free CNG at

such attempt to encourage customers to opt for clea and green fuel in Bengaluru."

Oriental Insurance

Oriental Insurance celebrated 75th foundation day of the Company on 12th September 2021. Activit carried out were tree plantation, vaccination drive health check-up, COVID test at Head Office. Similar type of activities were carried out at all Regional Operating Offices of Oriental Insurance across the country. In the 75th year of its existence, the Company will focus on connecting with the customers to provide enhanced customer delight. The Company is launching customer centric on line products i

Warehousing Corporation

Central Warehousing Corporation organizing the Ath Rashtriya Poshan Maah which comes under POSHAN ABHIYAAN- Prime Minister overarching scheme for Holistic Nourishment was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th March, 2018, The campaign of Poshan Maah is to be celebrated unde 4 different themes during 4 weeks in the month o September, 2021. During the Second week (8th to 15th September, 2021) CWC staff attended the "Webinar on Rice fortification" organized by DFPD in association with World Food Program. Further an online Yoga session was organized by the CWC on topic "5-minutes Yoga Protocol" (Yoga break) in which staff posted across the regional offices and warehouse Pan India participated virtually based upon the them

BHEL celebrates Utkrishthta Utsav Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) celebrated its annual Utkrishthta Utsav with great fervour, where the company's 'Excel Awards' were conferred on meritorious employees. DHon'ble Union Minister of Heavy Industries graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and presented the awards in a glittering ceremony, Dr. Nalin Shinghal, Chairman & Managing Director, BHEL, Directors on the Board of BHEL and other senior BHEL officials were present on the occasion. All the manufacturing units, divisions and offices of the company were connected live to the event through Video Conferencing. Excel awards were presented to 12 teams comprising 65 employees (including 3 women employees) from various units of BHEL. The awards included, Utkrishthta Puraskar - for all round excellence; Utkrisht Takniki Prakashan Puraskar - for publishing Technical Paper/ Booklet Book, Anusandhan Puraskar - for Research & Development, Grahak Santushti Puraskar - for Customer Satisfaction, Utpadakata Puraskar - for enhancement of Productivity, Pratibaddhata Puraskar - for recognizing exemplary commitment to work under adverse critical conditions, and Samaj Seva Puraskar - for outstanding contribution to Society. BHEL's Excel Awards scheme is a unique PSU award scheme oper to all employees in the company. The awards are giver to recognize all-round excellence and contributio made by employees for the company's growth profitability, customer satisfaction and Technologica Development in addition to exemplary achievements made in sports, social or cultural work, etc. The award amount ranges from Rs.50,000/- to Rs.2,50,000/- for each team with a host of privileges for the awardees.

Dr Sanjay Kumar Lal joins as Director (Fin) - Delhi Transco Ltd

Dr Sanjay Kumar Lal, an officer of 2001 batch of Indian Revenue Services has recently joined Delhi Transco Limited as Director (Finance). He has done Finance and his expertise will be of immense use in Delhi Transco. He has worked in various capacities in he had conducted various highly successful searche

Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer Seraj Division HP.PWD Janjehli Distt. Mandi on behalf of Governor of Governor of H. Pinvites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractor registered with HP PWD for the works as detailed in the table

Sr No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor	Starting date for down- loading bid	Deadline for submission of bid
1.	C/o Govt. Degree Collage at Thachi in Tehsil Balichowki Distt. Mandi (SH;- C/o building portion, WS &SI, Rain water harvesting system and septic tank)	8,58,32,631/-	17,16,700/-	5000/-	Class-A	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
2.	C/o Examination hall in GSSS at Bagachanogi in Tehsil Thunag Distt Mandi (SH;-C/o Building portion)	45,80,932/-	91,700/-	2000/-	Class-C-D	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
3.	C/o PHC building Level-II (with residence) at Kholanal in Tehsil Balichowki Distt. Mandi (SH;- C/o building portion, WS&SI, septic tank, site development works, boundary wall and approach road)	1,55,10,649/-	3,10,300/-	5000/-	Class-C-B	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
4.	C/o Science Lab in Govt. Sen. Sec. School at Bagachanogi in Tehsil Thunag Distt. Mandi (SH;- C/o building portion, WS&SI, RWH system and septic tank)		3,76,300/-	5000/-	Class-C-B	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
5.	Balance work for construction of road from Dhunju to Kareri Km 0/000 to 2/500 (SH;- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 1/900 to 2/100)	18,50,000/-	37,000/-	500/-	Class-C-D	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
6.	R/R Damage on Mandi Gagal Chail Janjehali Chhatri Ranabag road Km 0/000 to 82/000 (SH;- C/o B/Wall with wire crate at Rd 49/175 to 49/197.50)	12,56,420/-	25,900/-	500/-	Class-C-D	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
7.	C/o Helipad to Draun road Km 0/000 to 2/000 (SH;- C/o 900 mm dia RCC hume pipe culvert with toe wall and catchpit at Km 0/195,0/330, 0/605, 0/700, 0/985, 1/065, 1/105, 1/180)	7,02,000/-	15,000/-	500/-	Class-C-D	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
8.	Missing CD on Tandi to Draun road Km 0/000 to 1/675 (SH;- C/o 900 mm dia RCC hume pipe culvert with toe wall and catchpit at Km 0/195, 0/330, 0/605, 0/700, 0/985, 1/065, 1/180	8,75,400/-	18,000/-	500/-	Class-C-D	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
9.	M/T on Khari Gohar road Km 0/000 to 3/300 under SCCP (SH;- P/L M/T in Km 2/300 to 3/000 and V-shape drain in essential reaches) under SCSP	38,19,066/-	76,400/-	1500/-	Class-C-D	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
10.	Providing maintenance under annual maintenance plan on Sanoi Bethwan road Km 19/000 to 41/000 (SH;- Providing and laying bituminous concrete in km 32/000 to 35/000 and 36/000 to 40/000	89,27,734/-	1,21,800/-	2000/-	Class-C-B	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
11.	C/o 40.00 mtr span motorable bridge over Jeuni Khad on Sashal bridge to Fagrout road at RD 0/30 (SH;- C/o both side abutment and approaches)	25,57,430/-	51,200/-	2000/-	Class-C-B	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
12.	C/o PHC building Thatta in Tehsil Balichowki Distt. Mandi (SH;- C/o building portion, WS&SI, septic tank,)	3,78,50,700/-	7,58,000/-	5000/-	Class-A-B	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM
13.	C/o Govt. Sen. Sec. School Sarachi in Tehsil Thunag Distt. Mandi (SH;- C/o building portion, WS&SI, RWH system and septic tank)	3,46,50,930/-	6,93,100/-	5000/-	Class-A-B	04.10.2021 at 11.00 AM	12.10.2021 at 09.00 AM

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

TRIPURA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (Department of Power, Govenmennt of Tripura)
URL: www.treda.nic.in

HP / 4222/21-22

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

On behalf of Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDA), Join Director, TREDA invites e-tender survey, design, manufacture, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of solar photo voltaic water pumping systems and stand alone community water purification plants (cwpp) of 1000LPH for drinking water purpose including creation of water source by construction of bore-well at various locations of Tripura on turn-key basis vide DNIe-T 6(20)/TREDA/NCES/2021/2571

The tender papers may be downloaded from e-procurement portal http://tripuratenders.gov.in and the deadline for submission of online e-bid is 18/10/2021 upto 3:00 PM.

Janasanyog /D/6203/21

Factory staffer arrested in fake robbery case

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

An employee of a cardboard factory has been arrested for allegedly concocting a robbery story in order to misappropriate ₹2 lakh, the police said on

Tuesday. The police said that on Saturday, a PCR call was received where the caller said that two persons assaulted his driver, who was drunk, and snatched ₹2 lakh from him

However, during questioning, the police said, he was found giving different versions and not able to explain exactly how the amount was robbed.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726 selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

GOVT. OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY

SILCHAR MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, SILCHAR, ASSAM Memo No. SMC/MICRO/VRDL/267 Dated 21/09/2021, Silchar. **CORRIGENDUM**

With reference to our earlier advertisement no. SMC/MICRO /RDL/255; Dated 09/09/2021 regarding walk in interview for two positions-Data Entry Operator(One post) & Multi Task Staff (one post) under VRDL, in the Department of Microbiology, Silchar Medical College & Hospital., scheduled on 24.09.2021, stands cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances, until further notification.

> Principal-Cum-Chief Superintendent Silchar Medical College & Hospital. Silchar-788014, Assam

Janjehli Distt Mandi H.P

Sh. Yogesh Kumar Misra takes charge as

North Central Railway Organises 36th

Zonal Training Institute Subedargani, North Central Railway Prayagraj in the august presence of Chief Guest, General Manager, North Central Railway Shri Pramod Kumar and Guest of Honour President North Central Railway Welfare Organization Smt. Poonam Kumar. Railway Protection Force was established as an armed force of the Union by amending the Railway Protection Force Act 20 September 1985. Since then training centre premises. Shri Pramod Kumar also conferred Director General Appreciation Medal and Certificates upon the officers and jawans for their outstanding contributions. Senior Divisional Security Commissioner Prayagraj Manoj Kumar Singh, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner Agra Prakash Panda, Inspector Amit Meena, Sub-Inspector, Agra Devendra Solanki, Assistant Sub-Inspector Agra Raghuraj Singh and Constable Jhansi Narendra, who received the award, were prominent. In his address on the occasion, the General Manager congratulated

A Business Initiative

Performance

any of the CNG stations within the Bengaluru. The card carries a validity of 120 to 180 days from the dat of activation and will offer a daily limit of INR 150 to 300 depending upon the type of vehicle. Speaking on the initiative, Shri Raman Chadha, Chief Executive Officer, GAIL Gas Limited said, "We are making all possible efforts in expanding the CNG network in Bengaluru and the CNG Promotional Scheme is one

foundation Day

onance with the Digital India initiative of the Gov

organizes 4th Rashtriya Poshan Maah

of "Yoga for Nutrition".

his Doctorate from prestigious Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa, Delhi. Besides this, he is also a Law Graduate Dr Sanjay Kumar Lal has a vast experience in the field of Taxation, Account an the Income Tax Department in its different wings such as Investigation, International Taxation, headquarters etc. He has also rendered his services in the Ministry of Finance. During his tenure in the investigation wing Before joining Delhi Transco Limited, he was poster as Commissioner (OSD) at Ghaziabad in the Income

DELHI WEDNESDAY, SEP. 22 RISE 06:10 SET 18:18 RISE 19:20 SET 07:09

THURSDAY, SEP. 23 RISE 06:10 SET 18:17 □ RISE 19:50 SET 08:04

FRIDAY, SEP. 24 RISE 06:11 SET 18:16 RISE 20:21 SET 08:58

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City

Delhi Palam Today 33°C Light to moderate rain or thundershower with moderate winds at some places. A humid day

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 32°C One or two spell of light rain or thunderstorm may occur with cloudy sky at some places and gentle

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THEMAHINDU

7th serosurvey likely to start this week; result to be specific

Govt. aims to collect blood samples of 28K people from 272 wards of the city

NIKHIL M BABU NEW DELHI

The Delhi government is expected to begin the seventh serological survey later this week, wherein part of data collection will be done through a mobile application, officials said.

A serological survey is done to find out how much percentage of the population have antibodies against CO-VID-19, either through natural infection or vaccination.

The government aims to collect 28,000 blood samples of random people from all 272 wards of the city. The result of the seventh survey will tell us the impact of the second wave of the pandemic, as the last survey was started in April, before the second wave and had to be cut short due to the spike in cases.

The result is also expected to be more specific due to a change in the procedure, officials said. "Till now, we have measured only IgG in the blood samples. But this time,



A COVID-19 vaccine dose being administered to a beneficiary in New Delhi on Tuesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

we are planning to measure neutralising antibodies, which give better protection against the virus," a Delhi government official told The

Preparations have been done and the survey is expected to start in two to three days, an official said. "Whenever blood is collected from a person for the survey, they are also requested to answer a questionnaire. This time, we do it using an androidbased mobile application, which will speed up our entire process. In the earlier surveys, the details were entered on paper at the ground level

and then collated," the official

Longest interval

Since the Delhi government started doing serological survevs for COVID-19 in June 2020, this is the longest interval between surveys. In June, the team that did the sixth serological survey had recommended the next survey in June end or July first week. The government did not follow this and did not officially release the results.

In August, Central government officials suggested at a DDMA meeting for a sero survey among children to know their exposure. During the meeting, Dr. V.K. Paul, member NITI Aayog, also emphasised the "need for high quality sero survey".

What is a serosurvey?

Blood samples collected are tested in a lab using antibody testing kits to understand whether the person was infected by the virus and developed antibodies. A positive result would imply that the person has developed antibodies against the virus. This means that the person was infected at some point by the virus and developed immunity against it or it is due to vaccination. The first such survey, done in the city in June-July last year, had shown that 23.4% of the people surveyed had developed antibodies against the virus.

Delhi reports 39 fresh cases. zero fatalities

STAFF REPORTER

The city reported 39 fresh COVID-19 cases and no deaths in last 24 hours, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Tuesday.

This is the fourth consecutive day when the city reported zero deaths. The total number of deaths stood at 25,085 and cases at 14,38,556. A total of 66,278 tests were done in a day and TPR was 0.06%. Of the total cases, 14,13,071 people have recovered and there are only 400 active

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on

Tuesday asked the Centre to

respond to a plea by Delhi

Waqf Board, seeking the pre-

servation and protection of

its heritage properties that

are likely to be impacted by

the ongoing Central Vista Re-

the preservation and protec-

tion of six of its properties in

the area within which the re-

development work was

Zabta Ganj at Mansingh

Road, Jama Masjid at Red

Cross Road, Masjid Sunehri

Bagh Road Near Udyog Bha-

The properties are Masjid

The Waqf Board sought

development Project.

ongoing.



The government will ensure that the food donated to the needy is of good quality. • FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

will pledge to adhere to the requirement of protocol and ensure that the donated food is of same standards as fresh food. We will also in-

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Food business operators to be

brought under single platform

It is part of 'No Food Waste' campaign of Delhi govt.

STAFF REPORTER

cials said.

government.

Loss and Waste.

The government will also

make sure that food donated

to the needy is of the same

quality of fresh food and

both NGOs and FBOs stick to

a protocol prepared by the

of the 'No Food Waste' cam-

paign, which is to start on

September 29, International

Day of Awareness of Food

"We will be conducting a

workshop on September 29

to train FBOs on donating ex-

cess food, as part of the cam-

paign. Through the work-

shop, both NGOs and FBOs

wan, Mazar Sunehri Bagh

Road behind Moti Lal Nehru

Marg, Masjid Krishi Bhawan

inside Krishi Bhawan Com-

pound and Masjid vice-presi-

dent at the official residence

of the Vice President of

Mehta, representing the

Solicitor General Tushar

India.

'Preserve properties affected by Central Vista'

HC asks Centre to respond to plea by Delhi Waqf Board; next hearing on Sept. 29

Workshop on Sept. 29

This will be done as part

gramme through awareness drives," an official said. All NGOs working as food distribution agencies are required to have a registration or licence under the Food Safety Standards Act, 2006. They must also maintain the protocol related to collection, storage, transport, and

distribution of surplus food

such as shelf life, storage

would take instructions on

the Waqf Board's petition in

a week's time. The court

posted the hearing the mat-

Senior advocate Sanjoy

Ghose, representing the

Waqf Board, said that his

client, in no manner, intend-

ed to impede the ongoing

project but merely sought a

"clarification that the go-

vernment would honour the integrity of these places of

Mr. Ghose said one of the

structures even housed the

remains of Dr Fakhruddin

Ali Ahmed, the fifth Presi-

dent of India and the father

of former High Court judge

worship".

ter for September 29.

Central government, said he Badar Durez Ahmed.

volve public in the pro-

temperature, reheating etc., as per the government.

"On September 29, we will help NGOs to get licence. We will be carrying out a registration drive for NGOs," the official said.

The Department of Food Safety will do random sampling of the donated food to make sure that quality of the donated food is maintained. The Department of Food Safety is also planning to involve individuals who want to donate food and interested people can reach out to the department.

The Waqf Board, in its

plea, claimed that the six

properties "are more than

an ordinary mosque and

have a distinction attached

ferred a few of these proper-

ties to the predecessors of

the petitioner by way of re-

gistered agreements; these

waqf properties were also

spared when government

buildings were constructed

around them or in their im-

mediate vicinity; a few of

these waqf properties were

also withdrawn from the ac-

quisition and their title was

"The British Crown trans-

to them".

Shopping window



People seen shopping in large numbers at Janpath Market in New Delhi on Tuesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Goel pays courtesy visit to President

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi nominated him as vice-chairman of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, former Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel on Tuesday paid a courtesy visit to President Ram Nath Kovind.

According to Mr. Goel, the President said the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi should adequately be propagated and spread as much as possible.

Gandhi Smriti Gandhi Darshan are the two sites from where people coming from humble background to noted persons or holding high position take inspiration, Mr. Goel quoted the President as having said. According to Mr. Goel, the President added that especially the students and youth should follow Gandhiji's teachings in their lives.

Mr. Goel said he assured the President that the message given by Mahatma Gandhi would be spread all over India through various programmes, and discussions.

He also said museums in 'Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan' will be popularised by publicising them so that more and more people visit these sites.

BJP to protest outside CM residence today

Party to seek unemployment allowance for lakhs of citizens

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi BJP on Wednesday will hold a demonstration near Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence to demand unemployment allowance for lakhs of citizens.

Delhi BIP president Aadesh Gupta said, "Mr. Kejri-

wal on an election campaign tour to Uttarakhand and Goa promised ₹5,000 unemployment allowance for the unemployed. But, back in Delhi, where the Kejriwal government had been in power for over seven years now, not a single paisa had been yet been spent in the name of unemployment allowance."

'25 lakh unemployed'

He said, "Mr. Kejriwal only knows how to mislead people...In Delhi, around 25 lakh unemployed have nevbeen given allowance."



Girl receive sanitary pads after the inauguration of the machine in the city on Tuesday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In a first, BJP office gets sanitary vending machine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BJP national Mahila Morcha president Vanathi Srinivasan on Tuesday inaugurated the first sanitary napkin vending machine installed by the unit at the party office.

Ms. Srinivasan said it was very important to tell women about issues like cleanliness during the menstrual cycle and their health.

"Though the government has taken several steps in

this regard whose results are there for everyone to see but we have to be sensitive and careful in our efforts especially when we are already grappling with a global health issue," she said.

State Mahila Morcha president Yogita Singh along with other office-bearers of the morcha distributed sanitary napkins and sanitisers to women under sewa and samarpan abhiyaan of the

5 arrested for vandalising Owaisi's house

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Five members of Hindu Sena have been arrested for allegedly vandalising the house of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AI-MIM) chief and MP Asaduddin Owaisi in New Delhi district's Ashoka Road on Tuesday.

DCP (New Delhi) Deepak Yadav said an FIR has been registered in the

In a video, Hindu Sena officer-bearer Lalit Kumar said he along with a few other members of the outfit had visited Mr. Owaisi's house to teach him a lesson "because he speaks against Hindus in every rally and speech".

The members broke the nameplate and damaged part of a window.

Artists, North body give makeover to wall near Hanuman

Mandir roundabout

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Near the busy Hanuman Mandir roundabout on Pusa road, a wall has been given a makeover to pay tribute to the medal winners at the recently concluded Paralympic Games in To-

The North civic body has repaired the wall, turning it into a canvas for artists from the Delhi Street Art

The artists from DSA said daily thousands of people would walk or drive past the wall but not look at it. Now, they said, the mural will draw their attention towards the achievements of the athletes.

DSA founder Yogesh Saini said his team first creat-



Murals of Paralympic winners on the wall near Hanuman Mandir in Delhi. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ed a tribute to the Tokyo Olympic winners at Madhubani Chowk and was looking to do the same for the Paralympic winners.

"We found the perfect location partnering with the North body and hope that these murals will inspire many young athletes," Mr. Saini said.

The North body said they have been partnering with DSA for the last sever-

al months in the Karol Bagh zone and have created multiple murals, including Madhubani art on Walls of Kindness, a tribute to the Mangalyaan mission, women scientists, mathematicians, writers, musi-

"This particular wall is our tribute to the amazing accomplishments of India's Paralympic team at Tokyo", it added.

cians, artists and others.

allowed to revert to the petitioner," it added. Nine arrested for stealing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

material

construction

Nine members of a gang allegedly involved in stealing construction material from various sites were arrested following a gunfight with the police in Greater Noida, officials said on Tuesday.

Two of them suffered bullet injuries during the gunfight on Monday night, said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Greater Noida) Vishal Pandey. A manhunt is on for three other members of the gang, he added.

Illegal firearms and ammunition were seized from their possession, Mr. Pandey said, adding that further probe is under way.

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A GREETING TO REMEMBER

or even a promotion. Now you can surprise your loved ones by wishing them on

CLASSIFIEDS

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar,(U.P.

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & http://etender.up.nic.in Please ensure to see these websites for any changes. amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A) 1. 16/SM(Jal-II)/ET/2021-22, Name of Work:- M/o W/s (R/o 100 HP Motor and other Electrical work at R.W. No.-11), Noida (For Two Years)

Cost-Rs 35.53 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 06.10.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Prequalification shall be opened/downloaded on date 07.10.2021 at 11.00 AM,

15/SM(Jal)-R/ET/2021-22, Name of Work:-Computerization of Water Bill System & Facility Management Centre, Noida

Cost-Rs 59.92 Lacs Which can be uploaded by date 29.09.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Prequalification shall be opened/downloaded on date 30.09.2021

at 11.00 AM. General Manager **NOIDA**

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Government of Karnataka Social Welfare Department O/o Commissioner, 5th Floor, MS Building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-01

No: SWD/PETC/S-7/CR-10/2021-22 Dated: 20-09-2021

Notification of Tender [Through e-tendering only]

15 Days Short Term Tender is invited from Reputed & Prestigious Training Institutions through E-Procurement portal, to provide coaching for UPSC/KAS/Banking/ RRB SSC & Group-C exams to the ST candidates for the year 2021-22. Tender notification numbers are given below.

1) U.P.S.C Examination Coaching: SWD/PETC/S7/CR-10. UPSC-2021-22. 2) K.A.S Examination Coaching: SWD PETC/S7/CR-10/KAS-2021-22. 3) Banking Examination Coaching: SWD/PETC/S7/CR-10/BANKING -2021-22 4) R.R.B Examination Coaching: SWD/PETC/S7/CR-10. RRB-2021-22. 5) Group-C Examination Coaching: SWD/PETC/S7/CR-10/Group-C -2021-22, 6) S.S.C Examination Coaching: SWD/PETC/S7/CR-10/SSC-2021-22.

For details please visit website http//:eproc.karnataka.gov.in The Tender Opening on dated:24/09/2021 and the last date for receipt of tender is Extended up to 04/10/2021 at 5.30 PM.

Sd/-Commissioner, Social Welfare Dept. Bengaluru.

DIPR/DDU/1595/AKAR/2021-22





KARNATAKA STATE INDUSTRIAL AND **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** KSIIDC **CORPORATION LIMITED (KSIIDC)**

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) 4th Floor, East Wing, "Khanija Bhavan" No.49, Race Course Road Bengaluru-560001.

SELECTION OF CONSULTANT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT **SOFTWARE FOR PPP PROJECTS**

Through Gok e-Procurement platform (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Government of Karnataka intends to develop a project management software for PPP projects. KSIIDC invites Tender (Two cover system) through e-procurement platform from the eligible Applicants/Bidders for "Implementation of Project Management Software for PPP projects". The Tender Document may be accessed from e-Procurement portal of the GoK <u>(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in</u>) Important Dates: Tender document can be downloaded from: 21.09.2021 onwards. Pre-Bid Meeting: 28.09.2021 at 11:00 a.m. Last date for submission of Tender Documents 15.10.2021 up to 3:00 PM. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) Any further changes pertaining to this tender will be uploaded in e-procurement platform only. Contact No. DGM(IPD-II), 080-22267014/ 9980070769, e-mail: info@ksiidc.com

Managing Director, DIPR/DDU/JA/1594/2021-22 KSIIDC & Tender Inviting Authority









DP/269/RLY/2021

झारखंड सरकार स्कुली शिक्षा एवं साक्षरता विभाग

-:: प्रेस विज्ञप्ति ::-

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति संख्या– PR250456 के माध्यम से झारखण्ड शिक्षा न्यायाधिकरण, राँची के शिक्षाविद सदस्य एवं प्रशासनिक सदस्य के रिक्त एक-एक पद पर नियुक्ति हेतु विहित प्रपत्र में आवेदन आमंत्रित किया गया था। प्रशासनिक सदस्य के पद पर नियुक्ति हेतु अपेक्षाकृत बहुत कम आवेदन प्राप्त होने की स्थिति में पुनः प्रेस विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशित की जा रही है।

2. उपर्युक्त पद के लिए आवेदन प्रपत्र विभागीय वेबसाईट Link: https://schooleducation.jharkhand.gov.in/Application/uploadDocuments/portlet/ PORTLET_DOC_E_20210812_132548.pdf

http://59.145.222.53:8080/hrd/deptmnt.jsp से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।

3. अतः प्रशासनिक सदस्य के रिक्त पद पर नियुक्ति हेत् आवेदन स्पीड पोस्ट / निबंधित डाक द्वारा विभाग में प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि-05.10.2021 (कार्यालय अवधि) तक पुनः विस्तारित की जाती है।

4. पूर्व प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में अंकित अन्य प्रावधान यथावत् रहेंगे। PR 253570 (Human Resource Development) 21-22 (D)

YK

सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव।

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one male namely Sumit, S/o Shiv Prasad, R/o H.No. 170, Gali No. 1, Mukhiya Wali Gali, Khichripur, East Delhi, Age: 22 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Hair & Eyes: Black, wearing Yellow & Blue colour Shirt and Blue Pant, has been

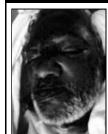
missing/kidnapped since 03.09.2021. In this regard a DD No. 08A, dated 07.09.2021 has been registered at P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having

any information about him please inform undersigned. Website: http://cbi.nic.in E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 SHO

P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph.: 011-22772287, 22772251 DP/707/ED/2021

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male person Name: Ram Babu, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 55 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Oval, ID Mark: White Colour Hair White Beard, Wearing: Blue Colour Half Pant, was found lying unconscious near Shivaji Stadium Bus Terminal, Connaught Place, New Delhi on 16.09.2021 at 13.38 hrs. He was admitted to Lady Harding Medical College, New Delhi Where he was declared dead by the doctors Vide MLC

No.1859/2021 on Dated 17.09.2021, In this regard, **DD No. 61-A** dated 17.09.2021 has been lodged at PS Connaught Place, New Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in the mortuary of LHMC Hospital, New Delhi for 72 hours.

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

> P.S., Connaught Place, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23364139, 23747100, 8750870525

DP/333/NDD/21



General public is here by informed that one female **Namely:** Sovani, **W/o** Lachhi Ram, R/o Village Rohadi, Tehsil Mavali, District Udaipur, **Age:** 40 Years, **Height:** 5 feet 2 inch, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, ID Mark: Tattoo of Sovani on left hand, Wearing: Colourful Kurti, Chunni & Ghaghara and Slippers in feet has been

missing since 14.08.2021 from Footpath of Barakhamba Road, Near Gopal Das Building, New Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 29A dated 15.08.2021 has been lodged

at P.S. Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out

information about this female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following. E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in P.S. Barakhamba Road, New Delhi

Website: http://cbi.nic.in Ph. 011-23413800, 23413999 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/316/NDD/2021

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, **Age:** 40/42 Yrs., **Height:** 5'5", **Sex:** Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Blue and White Colour Checkdar Shirt and Saleti Colour Pants, Place of Recovery: Found dead at KM Pole No. 1528/08 to 1528/10, Near Ashram Flyover.

In this regard FIR/DD No. 13A, Dated 10.09.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-24356743, 24358593 DP/272/RLY/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Pawan S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: about 30-35 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Injury Mark: Head injury, Wearing: Green & Sky Blue coloured T shirt, Grey coloured Pant, was found by train accident on 14.09.2021 from Daya Basti

Railway Station & admitted in Hindu Rao Hospital by Cat Ambulance W-18 vide MLC No. 3036/21 during the treatment Doctors declared him dead at 11:52 PM vide DD No.37A. In this regard a FIR/DD No.18A dated 14.09.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-28711697 Mob.: 8750871308

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Tender Notice No.10 of Year 2021-22 "Sealed Open tenders are invited b Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) North Eastern Railway, Izatnagar fo and on behalf of the President of India or the following works:-

Sl No.-1, Description of works Miscellaneous Signalling execution work along with part supply of materials in Connection with Construction of LHS at LC Gate No. 240 & 02 other LHS of Izzatnagar Division. Approx. Value (Rs.): ₹ 1,38,05,056.02, Completion Period: 12 Months.

 Date & time of closing of e-tende 11-10-2021 at 11:00 Hrs. • The tender can be viewed at website http://www ireps.gov.in. • The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must have register or IREPS portal. • All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time o participating in e-tendering Sr. Divl. Signal & Telecom. Engineer CPRO/Signal-37

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

HC denies interim relief to TMC MP, wife

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday declined to grant any interim relief to TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira Banerjee, who had

OBITUARY &

REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

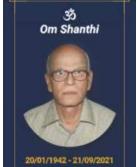
sought quashing summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to an alleged coal scam in West Bengal.

asked the ED to respond to

Justice Yogesh Khanna

the couple's plea within three days and posted it for further hearing on September 27. "Let me be very clear. I am not granting any stay. I am issuing notice," the HC clarified.

To love without condition, to talk without intention, to give without reason, and to give without expectation, that's the



the sad demise o Shri, H. Ananthakrishnan (Retd. LIC, Exe Director)

Wife - Lakshmi Son - Sriram Daughter - Uma

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Staff of Sri S. Ponnuswamy Iyer Memorial

Educational & Charitable Trust (Read) Shri Venkateshwara Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Thanjavur

K&K Consultants (Architects, Structural & MEP Consultants) Chennai

K&K Infra (Engineering Procurement Construction) Firm, Chennai

Court rejects bail pleas of four Bhima accused

SONAM SAIGAL

The special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Tuesday rejected the medical bail applications filed by senior citizens Shoma Sen, Anand Teltumbde, Gautam Navlakha and Vernon Gonsalves.

The four are among those accused in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case and are said to be suffering from several co-morbidities.

Special Judge D.E. Kothalikar rejected the pleas by relying on recommendations from the high-powered committee set up to decongest prisons owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, the same court extended the interim bail granted to Rona Wilson, also an accused in the case. He was directed to be released from September 13 to September 27 to go to his home at Kerala and attend a mass for his late father. Mr. Wilson will now return to Taloja Central Jail on September 30.

Prof. Teltumbde, 70, suffers from chronic bronchitic asthma, chronic cervical spondylitis, supraspinatus tendinopathy and prostatomegaly. Mr. Gonsalves, 69, suffers from hypertension, high blood pressure and piles. Mr. Navlakha, 67, is a patient of colonic polyposis, chronic gastritis, and hyperten-

Prof. Sen, 63, filed her application stating that she multiple ailments.

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FEATURES

CHANGE OF NAME I MOHAMMED Aasif S/o Mohammed

PERSONAL

Sharif R/o Vijay Nagar, Falna have corrected my name spelling from Mohammed Ashif to Mohammed Aasif for I, Mahima Gupta W/o Nisheeth Kumar Sahu R/o 205, D6, Kaveri Apartments, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070 have Changed my Name to Mahima Sahu

for all future purposes.

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GUIDAN



(L20) ACADEMIC ASSOCIATE Expected CTC: 6 to 8.4 LPA

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WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MII
Agartala	–	32.2	25.1	Kozhikode		33.0	25.
Ahmedabad	0.1	31.5	25.5	Kurnool	0.2	32.8	24.
Aizawl	6	–	21.4	Lucknow		35.0	26.
Allahabad		35.2	26.6	Madurai		36.8	25.
Bengaluru	53.4	29.7	20.3	Mangaluru	0.7	30.5	24.
Bhopal		31.4	23.0	Mumbai	7	28.8	25.
Bhubaneswar		30.2	25.4	Mysuru		32.9	21.
Chandigarh	47	31.0	23.7	New Delhi		35.6	25.
Chennai		36.4	25.0	Patna	9	33.8	26.
Coimbatore		34.1	23.4	Port Blair	18	27.8	24.
Dehradun	14	29.7	23.6	Puducherry	4.2	35.0	20.
Gangtok	0.8	22.2	16.9	Pune	6.6	26.8	21.
Goa	12	28.4	24.8	Raipur		32.0	23.
Guwahati		31.4	26.3	Ranchi	0.2	27.6	22.
Hubballi		28.0	22.0	Shillong	11	25.0	16.
Hyderabad	19.8	31.0	22.5	Shimla	6	20.0	15.
Imphal	21	27.6	21.3	Srinagar	1	27.6	15.
Jaipur	–	33.0	24.2	Thiruvananthapuram		33.1	25.
Kochi	–	30.6	25.6	Tiruchi	0.1	35.1	24.
Kohima	3	27.4	17.0	Vijayawada	2	33.2	24.
Kolkata	134	29.1	24.1	Visakhapatnam		35.0	26.
(Dainfall data	in mana.	+	atura in	Colsius)			

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing								
	CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	co	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	
	Ahmedabad	31	.54	.23	108	.104		
	Bengaluru	11		.91	43	53		
	Chennai	4	.27	.62	27	59		
	Delhi	17	.55	101	80	93		
	Hyderabad	4	.75	.22	23	34		
	Kolkata	6	.43	.13	34	33		
	Lucknow	7	.24	.44	70	.108		
	Mumbai	18	.10		63	.102		
	ь.	_	0	40	2.4	2.2		

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rohtak, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of

Air Quality Code: 📕 Poor 📕 Moderate 📕 Good (Readings indicate average AQI) **SO2:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues

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

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

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

+ T.N. HC upholds ban on crash guards, bull bars

Implement ban universally, State told

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.

The Bench also said the notincation pointed out that fitment of crash guards or bull bars was in violation of Section 52 of the Motor Vehicles Act of 1988, which prohibits alterations at variance with specifications mentioned in the registration certificate of the vehicle concerned.

The court passed the orders while disposing of two public interest litigation petitions which insisted on effective implementation of the 2017 notification.

Ajay Francis Inigo Loyola, counsel for one of the petitioners, contended that fitment of crash guards changed the basic specifications of a vehicle and increased its length. He contended that scientific studies had been conducted to prove that the after-market fitments were not safe

for motorists.

However, senior counsel AR.L. Sundaresan, representing the manufacturers of crash guards and bull bars, claimed they only provided additional safety, and sought liberty to convince the Centre.

Accepting his plea, the judges made it clear that the orders passed by them would not prevent the manufacturers from making an appropriate representation to the Centre, and the latter from considering it in the proper perspective.

The Madras High Court on Tuesday upheld a notification issued by the Central government in December 2017, asking all State governments and Union Territories to prohibit the use of crash guards and bull bars in motor vehicles.

REGIONAL APPOINTMENT



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Rourkela Steel Plant Rourkela - 769 011, Odisha, India

Date: 21/09/2021

Advt. No. 02/2021 WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT AS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Rourkela Steel Plant invites personnel, fulfilling the eligibility criteria given below, to appear in the Walk-in Interview on 11/10/2021 at Central Power Training Institute (CPTI), located in the ED (Projects) Office Building premises, Rourkela Steel Plant, Rourkela for engagement as Air Traffic Control Officer (ATCO), on contractual basis, for its Airport at

2. Period of engagement

1. No. to be engaged : 01 (One)

: 02 (Two) years

3. Consolidated Fee : Rs.60,000/- per month 4. Other Benefits: Rent free accommodation, post-paid SIM under CUG, free medical treatment for self & spouse and 15 days Casual

5. Eligibility criteria: a) Age: Maximum age 63 years as on 11/10/2021 b) Essential Qualification: Must have completed the course on Aerodrome Authority of India, Allahabad, OR equivalent course from a recognized Institute OR has served as an Aerodrome Officer/Air Traffic Controller under the Airports Authority of India / Indian Air Force Station with similar responsibility.

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despite pandemic: Jagan

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has said that despite a global economic downturn and the COVID-19 pandemic, exports from Andhra Pradesh have grown by 19.4% (value) in the past couple of years, leading to an improvement in the contribution to national

Key accused in D.J. Halli violence case held

The National Investigation Agency arrested a key accused in the August 2020 D.J. Halli violence case on Monday. Tabrez Mahaboob, 35, is a member of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), a political outfit of the Popular Front of India (PFI).

Karnataka mulls bringing in law on religious conversion

It is fine if a person voluntarily adopts a religion, says Karnataka Home Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra informed the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday that the State government had been holding discussions on enacting a law to prevent religious conversion through inducement. The Minister was responding to a question by Goolihatti Shekar (BJP) during zero hour on the alleged largescale conversion of Hindus and Muslims to Christianity.

To increase their population, some missionaries were involved in conversions, and the government had been discussing various options to stop conversions through inducement, Mr.

It is fine if a person voluntarily adopts a religion. But religious conversion by inducements is incorrect, and this could also lead to communal disharmony ARAGA JNANENDRA, KARNATAKA HOME MINISTER

Jnanendra said. "It is fine if a person voluntarily adopts a religion. But religious conversion by inducements is incorrect, and this could also lead to communal disharmony," the Minister said.

On BJP members' charge that some churches filed cases of atrocities against Hindus, the Minister said action would be taken against polfalse cases. He claimed that "forced religious conversion is rampant" in Karnataka.

Narrating his mother's conversion to Christianity, Mr. Shekar said she was "brainwashed" into not wearing vermilion on her forehead and abandoning idol worship. His mother had a Christian community song as the ringtone, and this had "caused embarrassment to the family", he said. More than 15,000 people had been converted to Christianity by missionaries in Hosadurga constituency by offerinducements, the member alleged.

Devanand Chavan (JD-S) alleged that many people of the Banjara community in Vijayapura had been converted to Christianity. K.G. Bopaiah (BJP) claimed that Christian missionaries had been targeting SC/ST colonies for conversion.

Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri suggested to the Home Minister to examine prevailing laws in various States, and enact a law in Karnataka to stop reli-

ISRO case: Rasheeda,

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mariyam Rasheeda and Fauzia Hasan, foreign nationals who were imprisoned in Kerala during the investigation of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) espionage case, have moved the Supreme Court seeking compensation from the pol-

crore each from the 18 pol-

ice officers who have been arraigned as accused. The CBI had booked the cases after a report filed by the Justice D.K. Jain Committee that was appointed by the Supreme Court to look into the allegation. The petition was moved before the top court through the CBI.

The 18 accused officers, submitted Ms. Rasheeda and Ms. Hassan, were responsible for their illegal arrest and detention.

SC reserves order on plea by sister of Gauri Lankesh

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved for judgment a petition filed by the sister of slain journalist Gauri Lankesh against the dropping of organised crime charges against a man accused of harbouring her alleged killers.

Kavitha Lankesh had moved the court challenging a Karnataka High Court decision to drop charges under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (KCOCA) of 2000 against accused Mohan Nayak, who is accused of harbouring Gauri's killers.

He was also accused of being a critical member of "organised crime syndicate".

The question before the court is whether a person, against whom there is no evidence of being part of a syndicate in the past, can be identified as a member of that crime gang and booked under the KCOCA.

The High Court had quashed KCOCA charges against Nayak on the ground that he had no prior chargesheets under the KCOCA to prove that he was part of the "continuing unlawful activities" of the crime syndicate allegedly behind Gauri's murder.

senior advocate Husefa Ahmadi, appearing for Ms. Kavitha, submitted there was no dispute about the involvement of a crime syndicate in the murder of Gauri Lankesh.

TRS, Congress supporters Hasan seek damages clash outside Revanth's home They were jailed in espionage case

TRS workers try to lay siege to Congress leader's residence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Twitter war between Municipal Minister K.T. Rama Rao and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president A. Revanth Reddy spilled over to the streets when Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and Congress cadres clashed at Mr. Reddy's residence on attacking each other with

A group of TRS workers tried to lay siege to Mr. Reddy's residence in Banjara Hills, and burn his effigy while protesting against his remarks on Mr. Rama Rao. TRS workers reached the place raising slogans against the Congress leader. Congress supporters clashed with them.

Even as the supporters entered into an argument, some people from both groups started pelting stones and attacking the others with sticks.

The police intervened and separated both the groups, avoiding a major clash. TRS workers were pushed away from the place by the police. The Congress strongly

condemned the attack.

ice officers who allegedly tortured them. The duo has sought ₹2

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Tuesday, pelting stones and

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Advt. No. 21/2021 Sd/-(No. NIRDPR/AR(E)/Admn.A/2021/63/Advtforprojpositions) Assistant Registrar (E)



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Junior council

The BJP is building a new leadership in Gujarat that is subservient to the Modi-Shah combine

o member of the previous Council of Ministers has found a place in the reconstituted Ministry led by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gujarat. Of the 25-member council of the BJP, nine members including the Chief Minister are first time legislators. Only three members have any previous ministerial experience. Ten are cabinet rank Ministers, five are MoS with independent charge and nine are MoS. Seven belong to the Patidar community, which got the lion's share; there are four from STs, two from SC communities, and eight from the various OBC castes. The BJP hopes to blunt the anti-incumbency sentiment against it before the State goes to polls next year through this clinical scrubbing. The party has been in power since 1998 without a break. Over the years, several Ministers had become power centres, and many were accused of being arrogant and aloof. The previous Vijay Rupani government had Ministers who continued from councils led by Keshubhai Patel, Narendra Modi and Anandiben Patel. While the Chief Ministers changed, political heavyweights such as Nitin Patel, Kaushik Patel, Bhupendrasinh Chudasama and Saurabh Patel continued as influential Ministers. They have all been eased out this time. Whether they will quietly fade away or create trouble for the new Chief Minister is an open question.

The BIP has done a balancing act in ensuring representation for major castes and communities, while cutting out veterans to rope in fresh faces. Purshottam Solanki, who served as a junior Minister in all BJP governments due to his formidable hold over the numerically strong Koli community in the Saurashtra region, has been dropped. Three Koli leaders who have been inducted are not influential beyond their own seats. Similarly, tribal representatives in the council are also relative lightweights. The BJP may be raising a new leadership for the party among different communities and regions to tackle the many barriers in its path to yet another Assembly victory, and beyond. Some leaders sidelined in the past by the party tried to revolt, but few survived eventually. The change of guard in Gujarat and the composition of the new Council of Ministers suggest that the party leaders in the State have little autonomy or control over their own fate. The blueprint of the BJP's Gujarat strategy is firmly in the control of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. They draw their strength considerably from their control of the party's Gujarat government. The new council is indebted to the central leadership, at least to begin with. The question is whether they can marshal enough support for the BJP's continuing dominance in a State that is critical for its national hegemony.

A welcome decision

Vaccine production must be ramped up to sustain exports and meet domestic demand

n a welcome move to address the huge vaccine inequity globally, India will, from October, resume exporting much needed COVID-19 vaccines. The deci sion comes after the Government severely restricted vaccine exports in March and stopped them in mid-April. The renewed export drive, known as Vaccine Maitri, will first prioritise the global vaccine-sharing platform, COVAX, and neighbouring countries. Just four days after the vaccination programme kicked off in India on January 16, India shipped the first batch of vaccines to Bhutan and the Maldives as a part of its vaccine diplomacy. Till mid-April, India had supplied nearly 20 million doses to COVAX and donated nearly 11 million, while nearly 36 million doses were sold to 26 countries. But with the daily fresh cases and deaths in the second wave beginning to surge in March and the supply of vaccines from the two manufacturers not meeting domestic demand, the priorities quickly changed and the export of vaccines was put on hold. It became possible to export vaccines till March mainly due to the slow uptake of vaccines by health-care and frontline workers and Covishield vaccine manufactured late last year nearing the six-month expiry date. The daily uptake of vaccines began climbing steadily with vaccine eligibility too – all above 45 years from April 1 and all adults above 18 years from May 1.

With most developed countries hoarding vaccines and prioritising their vaccination, and India too halting all exports, vaccine supply to the COVAX facility has been hit. As a result, about 80% of the nearly six billion doses administered globally have been in high- and upper middle-income countries. Vaccine inequity is striking in Africa – just 2% of the six billion doses have been administered here and less than 3.5% of its people fully vaccinated. While efforts are being made through CO-VAX to increase vaccine supply to Africa, the continent will still end up with 25% fewer doses than anticipated by the end of 2021. Only 15% of the over one billion doses pledged by the developed countries have reached Africa, which has made unsuccessful attempts to buy vaccines. And now, with the U.S. and other developed countries focusing efforts on approving booster doses for certain categories, the supply of vaccines to Africa and other countries to immunise even health-care workers will continue to be restricted. A vaccination policy that leaves many of the countries in the Global South vaccine deprived will be hugely counterproductive. As long as vaccine inequity prevails, the virus will continue to circulate, thereby increasing the possibility of more dangerous variants, far more transmissible and resistant to vaccines than Delta, emerging. India's decision to resume vaccine exports is, hence, commendable. The need to quickly ramp up vaccine production here to sustain exports even while meeting the ever-rising domestic demand cannot be overemphasised.

Dravidam 2.0 as a time to reflect, for action

Even as the DMK government celebrates the movement's icons, it must address the newer challenges of the times



KALAIYARASAN A.

s the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam government in Tamil Nadu is celebrating its icons (Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, C.N. Annadurai and M. Karunanidhi) with renewed zeal, there is a need to revisit the Dravidian policies that have transformed the State. Today, Tamil Nadu is the most modern State that boasts a dynamic productive economy with impressive welfare provisions for its citizens. Its structural transformation has been substantial: less than 30% of its workforce is involved in agriculture, it is highly urbanised, and has a large industrial workforce. While this transformation has certainly created new opportunities and brought in a degree of inclusion, particularly for lower castes. Dalits and women, it has thrown up a set of fresh challenges. These are the problems of the "second generation", as it were, and are quite unique to the State.

The first generation of Dravidian policies, particularly its innovative approach to affirmative action, addressed quantitative concerns such as access to education and health for all, and the shift from caste labour to wage labour. The second generation needs a qualitative shift in the approach towards education, health, caste and gender issues, and decentralised governance.

Poor education, employment

The broad-based industrial transformation broke the occupational basis of caste by converting caste labour into wage labour, but it did not create enough decent jobs, with casual jobs being the predominant option outside agriculture. According to the latest Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS)-2018-19, 62% of workers are in the informal sector and 82% of the workforce is not covered by any social security. Even among those with regular jobs and stable incomes, 75.2% do not have a written contract. This informality and resultant wage inequality are arguably a product of poor quality of education that the State has built in the last three decades.

Even as Tamil Nadu was a pioneer in universal school education, which challenged the elitism India's education system was known for, it has not been without its problems. In a recent report released by the Union Ministry of Education, Tamil Nadu scored the lowest among the southern States in learning outcomes for 2019-20 in the Performance Grading Index (PGI). One in four in Class VIII were not able to read Class II level text. More than 50% of students cannot do simple division. Since learning outcomes determine who goes to what college, this in turn reflects in labour market outcomes. Tamil Nadu's achievement in higher education with a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 51.4% compared to the all-India average of 27.1%, has not helped achieve quality in the job market.

In fact, the increased enrolment itself is an outcome of mushrooming private colleges. Tamil Nadu accounted for more than a fifth of all educational loans availed in the country from public sector banks in 2013-14 as well as in 2015-16. But many of the private engineering colleges do not meet the prescriptions of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in terms of infrastructure, qualified teaching staff, and syllabi. This disadvantages students from these colleges when they compete for employment, leading to poor returns on their investments in

Tamil Nadu's challenge is to focus on improving learning out-



quality of education. Students who are the first in their families to access higher education are disappointed, and they happen to be largely Dalits and those from the lower rungs of Other Backward

Feeble health care

Tamil Nadu is known for its public health interventions and socially inclusive health personnel. But what is not spoken of as much is that the State is a pioneer in private medical services, which provided the template for corporatisation of medical services across India. A significant population in the State relies on expensive private health care. As per the Nation-Sample Survey (NSSO)-75th round (2017-18), average medical expenses for hospitalisation in private hospitals was ₹35.581, higher than Guiarat, Maharashtra, and the all-India average

of ₹31,845. Some of these fault lines became evident in the State's health response to COVID-19. Despite having a well-functioning public health system, the State's ability to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, reduce mortality, and to vaccinate the public has been inadequate. Its case-fatality ratio was more than neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and twice that of Kerala. This failure is attributed to the State's neglect of decentralisation, whereas Kerala and Maharashtra performed better with their more decentralised efforts. Tamil Nadu has not seen its urban local body election since 2016.

While the Tamil Nadu govern-

ment's recent policy of recruiting archakas (priests) from all castes is a laudable move, caste inequality in the economy persists. Inequality across caste lines is exported to urban areas while it has diminished in rural areas. Urban Tamil Nadu, which was seen as a space less marked by caste, now reproduces caste inequalities in new ways. Besides unevenness in higher education, the elites have invented a new mechanism - 'opportunity hoarding' – through their caste networks that sustain caste inequality. Many States which include Tamil Nadu's neighbours Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, have introduced quotas for Dalits in public procurement for goods and services, Tamil Nadu is yet to enact one to display its credibility in addressing the Dalit question. Meanwhile, violence against Dalits is on the rise. The relative socio-economic and political rise of Dalits have a correlation with the rise in the violence against them. Often, this violence is physical in nature and targets the property of Dalits, which is a symbol of their material progress.

Further, the State has a peculiar record when it comes to women's empowerment. It has certainly increased overall women participation – the percentage of women (between ages 15-59) in the workforce is 42% against 34% in Gujarat, 41.3% in Maharashtra and 31% at the national level. Women's participation even in the non-farm sector in Tamil Nadu is 61% as against 34% in Gujarat and 35% in Maharashtra. However, this quantitative increase in the participation of women in the modern economy has been accompanied by pervasive violence against them in social life. Not only is the violence against women much higher than most States but the violence is also justified by both men and women. As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-2015-16, domestic violence against women is 45%, which is comparable to Bihar's

45% (it is 33% at the all-India level). About 70% of women accept it and about 63% of men justify it. The State that boasts the Dravidian legacy of women's empowerment has sent just 12 legislators (or 5%) to its 234-member Legislative Assembly in the recent election.

Beyond 'crony populism'

The State does not do well even in terms of "fiscal justice", to use Thomas Piketty's phrase. Not only is its tax-GDP ratio one of the lowest -8.7% in the country, TASMAC, or Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Limited (a public sector network of liquor shops) continues to be a significant source of income. The State certainly must build new forms of fiscal progressiveness to move from this regressive taxation to something that the propertied class pays for. The State's political apparatus has a reputation for corruption and rent seeking which Michael Walton and James Crabtree characterise as an exemplary case of 'crony populism'. Dravidian parties have built a centralised mechanism for extraction of rents akin to pork-barrel politics which feeds into electoral funding. The State has one of the highest election expenditures per candidate in the country.

Leaving aside the frenzied praise for Tamil Nadu's success visà-vis the Bharatiya Janata Partyruled States in quantitative terms, what the State requires is a renewed approach to address the qualitative aspects of social policy and governance. Just as Dravidian icons identified, understood and addressed the challenges of their times, the new government in Tamil Nadu, while it offers hope, must be mindful of the new challenges of the here and now.

Kalaiyarasan A. is a Fulbright-Nehru postdoctoral fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs Brown University and Research Affiliate at South Asia Institute, Harvard University.

The big deal behind the ruckus over AUKUS

China's economic and military capacities as well as its belligerence have led to a shift in regional security paradigms



SUJAN R. CHINOY

The announcement of the ıew Australia-U.K.-U.S. (AU (https://bit.ly/3tZUVvq https://bit.ly/3EEWqE8) has naturally generated animated debate in strategic circles, coming as it does just days before the first in-person Quad Leaders Summit to be hosted by United States President Ioe Biden on September 24 in Washington, Last week, HMS Oueen Elizabeth, the flagship of the United Kingdom's Carrier Strike Group, arrived in Japan after exercising with India, Malaysia and Singapore and traversing the disputed waters of the South China Sea. Exercise Malabar 2021, held in the Western Pacific from August 26-29, 2021, brought together, for the second year running, the U.S. Navy, Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), the Royal Australian Navy and the Indian Navy.

Indo-Pacific is the core issue Earlier in April, France, which like the United Kingdom has historically been an Indo-Pacific power with territories and bases across the region, participated in a multi-nation naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal with the four Quad nations (the U.S., Japan, Australia and India). All this points to a vigorous strengthening of bilateral, trilateral and multi-lateral security dialogues and structures, seemingly different in scope and activity, but

in the Indo-Pacific. There is no gainsaying the fact that rapid accretion in China's economic and military capacities, but more particularly its belligerence,

which converge on the core issue

of maintaining peace and stability

has led to a tectonic shift in regional security paradigms.

The Quad is not a security arrangement though there is a widespread feeling that without stronger security underpinnings it would play a limited role in dealing with the real challenge of China's militarisation. The Malabar exercise is not a naval alliance, even though the habit of coopera tion is geared to facilitate communication and interoperability in times of need. Several countries have been obliged to review their defence preparedness in response to China's rising military power and its adverse impact on regional stability.

In August, Japan's Defence Ministry proposed a budget of U.S.\$50 billion for the fiscal year 2022, which represents a 2.6% nominal increase in its annual defence spending. The traditional ceiling of limiting defence spending to under 1% of GDP is no longer sacrosanct. Its Defence White Paper, for the first time, highlighted the urgent need to take stock of developments around Taiwan, a clear acknowledgement that Japan's own security is linked to stability in the Taiwan Strait where muscle-flexing by China is the new norm. It is not without reason that Australia's defence budget has seen enhanced outlays for the ninth straight year. For the financial year 2020-2021, it touched AUD 44.61 billion (USD\$34.84 billion) representing a 4.1% hike over

the previous year. The AUKUS pact will facilitate the transfer of nuclear submarine propulsion and manufacturing technologies to Australia, the first instance of a non-nuclear nation acquiring such capability. Even if the first of the eight nuclear-powered submarines may be available only around 2040, or perhaps a few years earlier, the very fact of Australia operating such advanced platforms adds a new dimension to the evolving maritime security



architecture in the Indo-Pacific. It conclusively puts to rest a longstanding domestic debate on whether it was time for Australia to assess China through the strategic lens, overcoming the purely mercantile considerations that tended to dominate its China

A chance for the U.K.

The AUKUS pact is also an emphatic assertion of the relevance of the U.S.-Australia Security Treaty (AN-ZUS). New Zealand, the outlier, walked away in 1984 from the treaty that ironically still bears its initials. Its "nuclear free" stance ran counter to the U.S. Navy's non-disclosure policy in regard to nuclear weapons aboard visiting vessels. Close ties notwithstanding, Australia's future fleet of nuclear submarines will not be permitted access to New Zealand's ports or waters, as averred by Prime Minister Iacinda Ardern.

AUKUS provides a fresh opportunity to the United Kingdom to reinsert itself more directly into the Indo-Pacific. It is already a member of the Five Eyes (FVEY), an intelligence-sharing alliance built on Anglo-Saxon solidarity (Australia, Canada, New Zealand,

the U.K., and the U.S.). AUKUS is not a substitute for the Quad. At the same time, it does not erode the Quad's significance as a platform for consultations and coordination on broader themes of maritime security, free and open trade, health care, critical technologies, supply chains and capacity-building. The AUKUS

submarine deal, on the other hand, is an undiluted example of strategic defence collaboration, and a game-changer at that.

In 2016, Japan's Mitsubishi-Kawasaki consortium that manufactures the Soryu-class diesel-electric submarine lost out to France's Naval Group (formerly known as the DCNS) which bagged the conmarines in Australia to replace its six Collins-class vessels. The Shortfin Barracuda Block 1A submarine offered by France was a dieselelectric variant of its own Barracuda-class nuclear attack submarine. It is heightened threat perceptions that have now prompted Australia to switch from conventional to the far more potent nuclear attack submarines.

Beijing's stance is odd

China, expectedly, has strongly criticised AUKUS and the submarine deal as promoting instability and stoking an arms race. This is sheer hypocrisy. China has the world's fastest-growing fleet of sub-surface combatants, including the Type 093 Shang-class nuclearpowered attack submarine (SSN) and the Type 094 nuclear-powered Jin-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), not to speak of its burgeoning fleet of conventional diesel-electric submarines with AIP (air-independent propulsion) capability. Its nuclear submarines are on the prowl in the Indo-Pacific. Yet, China denies Australia and others the sovereign right to detheir defence on

requirements! As for India, it operates one indigenously-built SSBN (INS Arihant) after returning the SSN (INS Chakra) on lease from Russia. It operates a number of conventional submarines, though far fewer than what it truly needs, including the Scorpene-class diesel-electric attack submarine which is manufactured at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) in collabora-

tion with France's Naval Group under Project 75.

Australia's role gets a boost

Australia's proposed nuclear submarines, whether the U.K.'s Astute-class attack submarine or the U.S.'s Virginia-class vessel, will potentially be fully equipped with advanced U.S. weapons such as the anti-ship missiles and the Tomahawk cruise missiles. These will give Australia quite a punch in terms of a stand-off capability. Situated as it is, far away from any other country, the diesel-electric attack submarines that it currently operates, or even those that it might have got from France, have limited capacity in terms of range and duration of mission as compared to nuclear-powered submarines. The growing focus on antisubmarine warfare across a more expansive region is clearly altering

calculations. Australia's nuclear submarines would help create a new balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, especially in tandem with the U.S. and the U.K. Australia will now have a more meaningful naval deterrence of its own to protect its sovereign interests. Australia is set to play a more robust role in ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

France's momentary pique at the cancellation of the contract by Australia should soon subside. As major Indo-Pacific power, France is an important part of the regional security calculus. The setback 'down under' may spur France to focus afresh on partners such as India, which must strike a balance between continuing imports and implementing the allimportant Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.

Sujan R. Chinoy is the Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. 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.

Vaccine exports

We must not forget that the devastating onslaught of the second wave of COVID-19 in India resulted in the 'competence' and chest thumping that heralded the 'Vaccine Maitri Scheme' being questioned and subject to criticism. Therefore, when it comes

to India's renewed 'commitment' to resume the export of COVID-19 vaccines (Page 1, September 21) – even as it prepares for a third wave of the pandemic while shoring up a faltering domestic economy – policymakers would certainly do well to exercise circumspection

and a less shriller display of 'commitment'. ANTHONY JOSEPH,

A game

For almost all political parties in Kerala, the Pala Bishop's remarks have come as a handy tool and windfall to expand their

existing vote-banks and create new ones. They are using every trick in the bag to hoodwink people in the name of defending minorities and secularism. It is for the people of Kerala to see through the games that politicians play to achieve their selfish ends. Almost all the religions in

the State are awash with enormous wealth. Why not utilise such assets for the uplift and welfare of the poor and downtrodden in the State, irrespective of their religion, caste or creed?. It is time that religious leaders in the State upheld and practised the true tenets of their

religions, and became social reformers and spiritual lights. If this takes place, Kerala is sure to become god's own country. The simmering mistrust should not boil over. C.G. KURIAKOSE,

Malippara, Kothamangalam, Kerala

THE HINDU DELHI WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

What counts is seldom counted

Census data in India are losing their relevance in the development agenda



India is busy debating the caste census when the regular Census itself has not been conducted owing to the pandemic. It is quite ironic that various elections have been held, and people gathered together at large rallies flouting COVID-19 norms, while the Census has still not been conducted. This is the first time that India has not conducted its decadal Census since the exercise began.

Losing significance

The design of the Census (whenever the exercise is held) can be improved. A digital Census would ensure better quality, coverage and quick results in this digital age. Given this promise on the one hand and the uncertainty in conducting the Census on the other, the demand for including caste enumeration within the Census only adds to the confu-

First, we must recognise what the Census does. It has lot of potential in policymaking and the exercise is not merely about counting the population. Unfortunately, though, the limited information collected, and the under-utilisation or non-utilisation of Census data, have limited the role of the Census in policymaking.

Its importance is further diminished when numerous large-scale surveys are funded by the various ministries of the Government of India. These surveys are conducted periodically. They allow for a detailed analysis of the socio-economic issues of significance since the raw data are made available in the public domain. Hence, the Census, at best, serves as a framework for designing these sur-

But the fundamental reason why the Census has lost significance is because the data collected are not disseminated on time, despite the use of technology. The primary reason for this is that the government regulates the release of the numbers based on its calculations of whether or not the Census data have the potential to harm the political agenda. For in-



trapolation. Further, the fundamen-

tal demographic attributes around

which the Census data are structured

offer a lot of scope for interpretation

and exploration for understanding

future trends as well. The pseudo co-

hort inspection of the Census data

can go a long way in informing us of

the changing dynamics of population

attributes over time. The fascination

and engagement with the Census

have been quite limited to two con-

cerns: sex ratio and work participa-

tion (female work participation in

particular). But the Census data, if

explored intelligently and systemati-

cally without the limitation of survey-

based data sets like biases, errors

and representational issues, have

The primary axes of disaggregation

of Census-based information are resi-

dence, age, gender, administrative

units, Scheduled Castes and Sche-

duled Tribes, and religion. Apart

from such disaggregation, the Cen-

sus offers two units of analysis: at the

level. These may appear quite limit-

ed, but a lot can be inferred from

these attributes of disaggregation.

Attributes of disaggregation are

simply meant for identification and

they are more neutral for interven-

tion purposes. Disaggregated attri-

butes should serve a purpose, i.e.,

help policymakers make interven-

tions, if any. If the reason behind

such a purpose is to gauge selective

individual level and at the household

Characteristic information

much more potential.

Census workers on duty in Bangalore in 2011. • K. MURALI KUMAR

stance, the data on internal migration collected in the 2011 Census were made available to the public only when the Chief Economic Advisor decided to write a chapter for the Economic Survey 2016-17 in 2017.

This more-than-century-old decadal exercise is a matter of pride and distinction for this country. Unfortunately, its potential is hardly tapped by policymakers. Concerns now are only about counting castes and minorities, which will help political masters serve their own interests. Census data are mainly used by demographers, who have now redefined themselves as data analysts.

That this exercise has been reduced to just a count of the population is a great pity. Census-based information was important at a time when there was no alternative way of gauging the dynamics of population change alongside its varied features like employment, education, etc. While there is no denying the fact that alternative sources of information have enriched our understanding of population dynamics and facilitated focused interventions through programmes and policies, the Census has lost its potential relevance. Information is released late owing to bureaucratic regulations. There is also a lack of interest by the scientific community in a nuanced exploration

Despite the decadal nature of the data, the inter-Censal and post-Censal information could very well be generated with interpolation and exthen ascribed attributes like caste and religion are perhaps less important than objective criteria like adversity or failure itself. In fact, associating caste/religion for identification and intervention generates an environment of patronage. In political terms, this can create clientelism. While there is no disagreement that systematic adversities are generated by one's caste position, it is not necessary to have the count of the attribute as it is to know the magnitude of adversity and its locational attributes. With a widespread information base through administrative records as well as periodic surveys, it is not difficult to focus on these adversities and alleviate them. Counting ascribed identities like caste and religion is perhaps less pro-

adversity or failure in entitlements,

gressive than counting achieved identities or capability attributes like education and profession and other tangible endowments like the ownership of land, house and other consumer durables. Further, associating any adversity with an ascribed identity may at best help focus the intervention but the effort should be on addressing the adversity irrespective of the identity. Injustice or wrongdoings need not necessarily be associated with ascribed attributes. In fact, many make the fallacy of association leading to causation and that leads them to conclude that adversity/discrimination associated with ascribed attributes are largely due to the attributes themselves. Going beyond this association and examining the failure in entitlements and circumstantial differences will perhaps be more effective in thinking of interventions and in addressing concerns. A better example to this effect is blaming certain minority communities for high fertility rates rather than identifying the real reason for the same in terms of socio-economic exclusion.

On the whole, count and characteristics are equally important, but the characteristics that are modifiable hold the key towards change. It is rightly said that what can be counted may not count and what counts is seldom counted.

S. Irudaya Rajan is Chairman, The International Institute of Migration and Development, Kerala. U.S. Mishra is Professor, Centre for Development Studies,

Swooping down on algorithms

China's draft rules on regulating recommendation algorithms address pressing issues but have a flavour of authoritarianism



China has pursued aggressive measures in its tech sector in the past few months, ranging from strong-arming IPOs to limiting gaming hours for children. A host of legislative instruments are in the process of being adopted, including the Personal Information Protection Law, the Cybersecurity Law, and the draft Internet Information Service Algorithm Recommendation Management Provisions.

Providing user autonomy

The Management Provisions, released by the Cyberspace Administration of China, are possibly the most interesting and groundbreaking interventions among the new set of legislative instruments. The provisions lay down the processes and mandates for the regulation of recommendation algorithms which are ubiquitous in e-commerce platforms, social media feeds and gig work platforms. They attempt to address the concerns of individuals and society such as user autonomy, economic harms, discrimination, and the prevalence of false information.

Algorithmically curated feeds dominate most of our interactions on the Internet. For instance, this article could reach you on social media platforms like Twitter thanks to a recommendation algorithm. Such an algorithm helps a user navigate information overload and presents content that it deems more relevant to the user. These algorithms learn from user demographics, behavioural patterns, location of the user, the interests of other users accessing similar content, etc., to deliver content. This limits user autonomy, as the user has little opportunity to choose what content to be presented with. Algorithms tend to have certain inherent biases which are learned from their modelling or the data they encounter. This often leads to discriminatory practices against users.

China is aiming to mandate recommendation algorithm providers to share the mantle with the users. The draft says users should be allowed to audit and change the user tags employed by the algorithms to filter content to be presented to them. Through this, the draft aims to limit classifications that the user finds objectionable, thereby allowing the user to choose what to be presented with. This also has ripple effects in platformised gig work, where the gig worker can understand the basis of gigs presented to her. Addi-

tionally, Article 17 of the draft specifically strikes at labour reform at the algorithmic level, by necessitating compliance with working hours, minimum wage, and labour laws.

The draft has a clear emphasis on active intervention by recommendation algorithm providers to limit and prevent information disorder. This indicates how China is attempting to crack down on mis-/dis-/malinformation. It has to be read with the clear overtone of the draft requiring recommendation algorithm providers to "uphold mainstream value orientations", "vigorously disseminate positive energy", and "advance the use of algorithms in the direction of good." Evidently, this is China's attempt at dissuading any disaffection to the Party and remain in tight control of the social narrative.

Lessons for the present

Regulating algorithms is unavoidable and necessary. The world is lagging in such initiatives and China is hoping to lead the pack. The draft addresses pressing issues and entrenches some normative ideals that should be pursued globally. The regulatory mechanism institutionalises algorithmic audits and supervision, a probable first in the world. However, a distinct Chinese flavour of authoritarianism looms large in the draft rules. China has less than desirable records in liberty and is not the ideal choice to set standards through laws. It would be best for liberal democracies to steer clear of these overtures and stick to technically sound regulation which is free from the ails of censorship and social control.

It is high time for India to invest better and speed up legislative action on the regulation of data, and initiate a conversation around the regulation of algorithms. India should strive to achieve this without emulating China, where this draft only complements a host of other laws. India must act fast to resolve the legal and social ills of algorithmic decision-making. Policymakers should ensure that freedoms, rights and social security, and not rhetoric, inform policy changes.

Algorithms are as fundamental to the modern economy as engines to the industrial economy. A one-size-fits-all algorithm regulation fails to take into account the dynamic nature of markets. An ideal regime should have goals-based legislation that can lay down the regulatory norms for algorithms. Such legislation must aim to lay down normative standards that algorithmic decision-making must adhere to. This should be complemented by sectoral regulation that accounts for the complexities of markets.

Sapni G.K. is a Research Analyst with the Takshashila

Changing the agri exports basket

India has the potential to become a global leader in the food processing sector

PARASHRAM PATIL

The Indian government has been encouraging agricultural exports to meet an ambitious target of \$60bn by 2022. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries shows that the contribution of agricultural and processed food products in India's total exports is 11%. Primary processed agricultural commodities form the majority share. India's export earnings will increase by focusing more on value-added processed food products rather than primary processed agricultural commodities (Siraj Hussain, 2021). From 2015-16 to 2019-20, the value of agricultural and processed food increased significantly from \$17.8bn to \$20.65bn. The Indian agricultural economy is shifting from primary to secondary agriculture where the focus is more on developing various processed foods. The Indian food processing industry promises high economic growth and makes good

Changes over the years

India's agricultural export basket is changing from traditional commodities to non-traditional processed foods. Traditionally, Basmati rice is one of the top export commodities. However, now there is an unusual spike in the export of non-basmati rice. In 2020-21, India exported 13.09 million tonnes of non-basmati rice (\$4.8bn), up from an average 6.9 million tonnes (\$2.7bn) in the previous five years.

Similarly, Indian buffalo meat is seeing a strong demand in international markets due to its lean character and near organic nature. The export potential of buffalo meat is tremendous, especially in countries like Vietnam, Hong Kong and Indonesia.

In 2020-21, the export of poultry, sheep and goat meat, cashew kernels, groundnuts, guar gum, and cocoa products went down in terms of value and total quantity.

The export of processed food products has not been growing fast enough because India lacks comparative advantage in many items. This may imply that the domestic prices of processed food products are much higher compared to the world reference prices.

The main objective of the Agriculture Export Policy is to diversify and expand the export basket so that instead of primary products, the export of higher value items, including perishables and processed food, be increased. The exporters of processed food confront difficulties and non-tariff measures imposed by other countries on Indian exports (Siraj Hussain, 2021). Some of these include mandatory pre-shipment examination by the Export Inspection Agency being lengthy and costly; compulsory spice board certification being needed even for ready-to-eat products which contain spices in small quantities; lack of strategic planning of exports by most State governments; lack of a predictable and consistent agricultural policy discouraging investments by the private sector; prohibition of import of meatand dairy based-products in most of the developed countries; withdrawal of the Generalised System of Preference by the U.S. for import of processed food from India; export shipments to the U.S. requiring an additional health certificate; and the absence of an equivalency agreement with developed countries for organic produce.

The way forward

The Centre's policy should be in the direction of nurturing food processing companies, ensuring low cost of production and global food quality standards, and creating a supportive environment to promote export of processed food. Developed countries have fixed higher standards for import of food items. Reputed Indian brands should be encouraged to export processed foods globally as they can comply with the global standard of codex. Indian companies should focus on cost competitiveness, global food quality standards, technology, and tap the global processed food export market. India has competitive advantages in various agricultural commodities which can be passed onto processed foods. It has the potential to become a global leader in the food processing sector.

Parashram Patil is an Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Fellow, New Delhi

DATA POINT Rural health and NEET The profile of students admitted to the MBBS degree in Tamil Nadu has changed drastically hailed from the rural areas. They had been educated in Tamil medium schools in the State Board syllabus. Post NEET, the share of these students plummeted. More students from English medium schools located in urban areas and following the CBSE syllabus were admitted for the course. This change in the profile of students could lead to a further shortage of doctors and specialists in rural areas. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Sumant Sen and Jasmin Nihalani Vacancy % of obstetricians & Vacancy % of doctors at of surgeons gynaecologists at CHCs in PHCs in rural at CHCs in Vacancy % of eye surgeons at CHCs in % of anaesthetists paediatrician at CHCs in rural India

1. PROFILE CHANGE A comparison of the profile of MBBS entrants in **TN medical colleges** in two select years — one before and another after the implementation of NEET. The figures are from the Justice A. K. Raian committee

report on NEET:	K. Kajari commi	ttee
Parameter	2015-2016	2019-20
% of Tamil medium students entering MBBS	16.9	1.7
% of State Board students entering MBBS	99.4	65.7
% of rural students allotted govt. colleges	62.8	49.8
% of repeaters entering MBBS	30.7	69.4
% of first generation MBBS graduates	29.5	17.2

3. DIVIDED HEALTH OUTCOMES | India's health indicators

Indicator	Urban %	Rural %
Mothers who had an antenatal check-up in the first trimester (%)	69.1	54.2
Mothers who had at least 4 antenatal care visits (%)	66.4	44.8
Mothers who consumed iron folic acid for 100 days when they were pregnant (%)	40.8	25.9
Mothers who received postnatal care within 2 days of delivery (%)	71.7	58.5
Institutional births (%)	88.7	75.1
Births assisted by health personnel (%)	90	78
Children stunted	31	41.2
Children wasted	20	21.5
Children underweight	29.1	38.3
	dian Dublic	

NOTES | I *Based on 2019-20 data; **Indian Public Health Standards are a set of uniform standards envisaged to improve the quality of health care delivery in India; ^Surgeons, OB&GY, physicians & paediatricians

2. POORER RURAL MANPOWER | The table lists the % of doctor vacancies compared to the sanctioned posts and the % of shortfall of specialists as compared to the required

for 2019-20						
	Vacanci doctors	es % of in PHCs	Shortfall specialist	% of ts in CHCs^		
State	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban		
Bihar	57.7	62.0	45.6	89.3		
Chhattisgarh	52.2	20.7	90.9	100.0		
Haryana	35.9	7.9	94.3	88.5		
Odisha	35.8	2.2	79.2	0.0		
Himachal	34.8	0.0	93.8	92.9		
Punjab	33.2	17.2	75.7	58.3		
Jharkhand	32.7	50.0	73.8	83.3		
M.P.	30.2	18.5	96.3	88.1		
Uttarakhand	27.3	18.4	85.7	85.4		
U.P.	22.9	20.7	71.3	41.7		
West Bengal	21.0	41.2	54.0	0.0		
Maharashtra	20.6	3.2	64.1	0.0		
Gujarat	20.3	63.4	99.1	30.4		
Kerala	16.9	11.1	79.5	93.8		
Rajasthan	15.0	0.0	80.0	58.3		
Karnataka	10.8	0.0	66.7	21.1		
Tamil Nadu	9.0	5.7	85.2	68.3		
Andhra	3.4	0.0	44.1	21.1		
Telangana	3.3	5.6	24.1	0.0		
LAST WORD						

Vacancies in posts for rural doctors were significantly lower in the southern States. However, rural vacancies were relatively higher than in urban areas

The shortage of specialists in rural areas → was higher compared to In Haryana, Madhya Pradesh

SOURCE: JUSTICE A. K. RAJAN COMMITTEE REPORT ON NEET, NFHS, RURAL HEALTH STATISTICS

and Gujarat, more than 90% of the shortage exists in posts for specialists

Vacant posts for doctors were relatively few in urban areas. While vacancies for specialist doctors were significant, they were still much lower than in rural areas in most

The Man Trindu. FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 22, 1971

Campaign for prohibition urged

Concerted effort and sustained campaign to create public opinion against the repeal of the dry law in Tamil Nadu so that the Government could not ignore it - this line of action was indicated by the Congress leaders (both wings) who addressed the South Zonal Prohibition Workers' conference here to-day [Madras, Sept 21]. Mr. Morarji Desai, who inaugurated the two-day conference, said prohibition was the first victim of the onslaught on the country's basic values and culture. "We are being involved now in the craze for material propensity and enjoyment to the exclusion of everything else – at the cost of a human approach to life and character," he said. "If we allow liquor to corrupt people, all our values would be destroyed," he added. On the organisation of a satyagraha, Mr. Morarji Desai said that the programme should be carefully drawn up and volunteers given proper training. "Start it on a small scale and extend it gradually; but never give up till the goal is reached," he said. Mr. K. Kamaraj suggested the constitution of a broadbased non-political committee to organise and take part in demonstrations throughout the State so that the people would be aroused to agitate for the closure of the liquor shops.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 22, 1921

The Indian Institute of Science (From an Editorial)

We think public attention has once again to be drawn to the unsatisfactory condition of the Indian Institute of Science, now that there is a likelihood of the Government of India instituting an enquiry into the condition of the Institute. The "Times Educational Supplement" understands that "the Government of India have in contemplation the early appointment of a Committee of inquiry into the constitution and working of the Indian Institute" of Science at Bangalore. It is opportune therefore to press the public point of view as regards the necessary reform of the Institute at this juncture. A very large sum of money is being spent on the Institute and the Government as well as the public must see to it that it is spent most usefully. The Tata endowment itself yields a lakh and a quarter a year. The Government of Mysore contribute half a lakh while the Government of India gives an amount equal to half the sum realised from the endowments and the Government of Mysore grants. The Institute has thus an annual income of 2.625 lakhs.

FROM PAGE ONE

India mulls 'reciprocal' steps to U.K. rules

"Of this [Covishield] we have supplied five million doses to the U.K., at the request of the U.K. We understand this has been used in their National Health System and therefore, non-recognition of Covishield is a discriminatory policy," he stated. This policy hurt Indian nationals travelling to the U.K., he pointed out.

Earlier, Mr. Jaishankar remarked he had taken up the matter with Ms. Truss and "urged early resolution of issue in mutual interest".

The U.K., on August 8, moved India to the 'Amber list', taking it away from the 'Red list'. This opened the British "Visit visas" to Indian travellers "irrespective of vaccination status".

It also changed the earlier requirement of 10 days of quarantine in hotel and permitted the same duration to be spent at home.

However, travellers were allowed to test for COVID-19 after five days and end the quarantine if the test turned negative. The change has seen a surge in Indian demand for U.K. tourist visa.

20,000 visas issued

The Hindu has learnt that the British High Commission here has issued at least 20,000 visas for Indian travellers in the last four

tourist visas suspended, which is preventing vaccinated British tourists from entering India.

It was also learnt that the recognition of Covishield of the SII is not an issue for the U.K. and the real problem is the vaccine certificate, which is stuck on procedural and technical matters related to the healthcare database of the U.K.

Earlier, a British High Commission spokesperson said, "We are engaging with the Government of India to explore how we could expand U.K. recognition of vaccine certification to people vaccinated by a relevant

Process to induct women into NDA by May 2022'

The Ministry said arrangements had to be made regarding infrastructure and curriculum-wise for physical training, etc, before the induction of women. "While the education curriculum is well-set, all the rest of the aspects of training are required to be formulated separately for women can-

didates," the affidavit said. Other issues regarding the capability of the NDA to absorb the intake, the decadre structure. downstream effect, envisaged requirement and employment by the respective defence services have to be considered.

The affidavit underscored the importance of physical training. "Any dilution of physical training and service subjects like parameters of firing, endurance training, field craft and living off the land for women cadets would invariably impact the battle worthiness of the Armed Forces," it

On August 18, the court issued an interim order allowing women candidates to take the NDA exam, which was then scheduled on September 5. The court had also questioned why "co-education is a problem"

in the armed forces. The court had orally observed that it was 'absurd' that women were not allowed to appear for the NDA exam even after the Supreme Court, in a judgment, had directed permanent commission in

On February 17 last year, the Supreme Court had upheld permanent commission for women officers.

Gender stereotype

The court had dismissed the government's submissions that women are physiologically weaker than men as a "sex stereotype" and declared that Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers were eligible for permanent commission and command posts in the Army irrespective of their vears of service.

"Women officers of the Indian Army have brought laurels to the force... Their track record of service to the nation is beyond reproach. To cast aspersion on their abilities on the ground of gender is an affront not only to their dignity as women but to the dignity of the members of the Indian Army," the top court had said in its judgment last

Good crop: Rice production

is estimated to be 10.7 crore

well short of the 1.47 crore

tonnes targeted. Last week,

the Food Secretary had said

soybean harvests were ex-

pected to play a significant

role in taming edible oil

prices which have soared

crop, toor dal, is likely to

surpass both last year's pro-

duction and this year's tar-

gets, with a harvest of 44.3

lakh tonnes, the Ministry

The production of coarse

Cash crops are likely to

see record production, with

an estimate of 41.9 crore

cereals is pegged to drop to

3.4 crore tonnes in compari-

son to 3.6 crore last year.

The main kharif pulse

over the past year.

tonnes this year.

Record paddy yield likely this kharif season

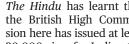
Apart from a focus on seed production and distribution, the government is also targeting areas in eastern India which are planted with rice in the kharif season but remain fallow in the rabi season, with plans to sow 6.25 lakh hectares of pulses and 2.32 lakh hectares of oilseeds on such land. The minimum support prices for oilseeds and pulses are also higher than for wheat, the main cereal grown in the

With regard to kharif crops, rice production is estimated to be 10.7 crore tonnes this year, slightly higher than the 10.4 crore tonnes produced last year. The acreage sown with paddy also increased by almost 1 lakh hectares.

Oilseed dip

Both major oilseed crops in the kharif season saw slight dips in production.

Groundnut acreage dropped almost 4%, resulting in an estimated production of 82.5 lakh tonnes. production, which was affected by patchy rainfall in parts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, is likely to amount to 1.27 crore tonnes, slightly lower than last year, and



However, India has kept

public health body in India."

Truck drivers must have fixed hours'

DINAKAR PERI

Guns remain silent along the

Line of Control (LoC) in

Kashmir with the ceasefire

between India and Pakistan

holding. Officials estimate

that the peace will prevail till

winter sets in. However, lo-

cal recruitment of militants

remains a cause for concern

as shown by data and ack-

"There has been no in-

crease in ceasefire violations

(CFVs). This year, there has

been none. At least in the

Kashmir Valley, there have

been no incidents of CFV,"

Lt. Gen. D.P. Pandey, Gener-

al Officer Commanding

(GOC) of the Srinagar-based

There were only two infil-

tration attempts and these

were not supported by Pakis-

tan by providing firing cover.

"One was neutralised in Ban-

dipora recently. Another op-

eration is on in Baramulla's

Uri for the past 24 hours af-

ter we felt an infiltration at-

15 Corps, said on Monday.

nowledged by officials.

NEW DELHI

Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday pitched for fixed duty hours for truck drivers, on the lines of airline pilots, to reduce road accidents due to fatigue.

The Minister discussed the matter at a meeting with new members nominated to the National Road Safety Council. The council was also directed to hold a meeting every months. In a tweet, Mr. Gadkari proposed "a policy to include On-Board Sleep Detection Sensors in Commercial Vehicles", on a par with European standards. The Minister said he would write to Chief Ministers and Collectors to ensure that District Road Committee meetings were regularly held.



Ceasefire along LoC expected to hold

However, local recruitment of militants remains a cause for concern in the Kashmir Valley

Ever vigilant: An Army jawan standing guard along the Line of Control (LoC) in a forward area of

tempt was made," Lt. Gen. Pandey said. "Frankly speaking, there has been no instigation from across the border...," he said.

Data from the Army show there were 4,645 CFVs in 2020, 3,168 in 2019 and 1,629 in 2018. In contrast, there are 592 this year till the ceasefire came into effect on February 25. With winter about to set in in couple of months when the high-altitude passes would be blocked by snow, the ground assessment is that the situation would remain silent barring a few infiltration attempts. If so, it would mean one of the quietest years along the LoC in many years.

The situation is also influenced by regional and global developments; the sudden U.S. pull-out from Afghanistan and the Taliban takeover as also Pakistan's listing in the Financial Action Task Force.

These will continue to keep Pakistan occupied as they need their full atten-

tion, one officer on the ground said. In a conversation between the Directors-General of Military Operations over the established hotline on February 22, both sides agreed on "strict observance of all agreements, understandings and ceasefire along the LoC and all other sectors" with effect from the midnight of February 24-25. a joint statement said.

However, local recruitment and violence continues in the Kashmir Valley with data showing only partial reduction.

As per data, the local recruitment in 2019 was 119 and in 2020, 186. This year, till June-end, the number stood at 79.

As for the number of terrorists neutralised, as of end August, 110 terrorists were killed in Kashmir this year with the lowest at three in January and the highest in July at 33. In all, 221 terrorists were neutralised in 2020, 153 in 2019 and 215 in 2018.

Combing operation on in Uri: officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The combing operation by security forces near the Line of Control (LoC) at Uri in Baramulla district of north Kashmir continued for the third day on Tuesday, as the Army said it foiled infiltration".

An official said searches were on in the area.

The Army on Monday said an infiltration bid was made on the intervening night of September 18 and 19 after the troops manning the LoC spotted "suspicious movement". It was one of the two major infiltration bids this year.

Mobile and Internet services were snapped in Uri on Monday "due to security reasons"

Earlier this year, a group of infiltrators was killed in a forest range of Bandipora after it sneaked in from the Gurez Sector in north Kashmir.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Pilot, co-pilot killed in Army helicopter crash

They were on a training sortie in a forest area of Udhampur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A pilot and a co-pilot were killed on Tuesday morning when an Army helicopter crash-landed in a forest area in Udhampur.

The deceased were identified as Major Rohit Kumar and Major Anuj Rajput.

"During a training sortie in Patnitop area, an Army Cheetah helicopter crashlanded in Shiv Garh Dhar area in Udhampur district. The pilots were critically injured and evacuated to the nearest medical facility, but they died of their injuries" an Army spokesman said in a statement.

There was inclement weather in the area when the accident occurred, officials said.



Tragedy strikes: The wreckage of the Army helicopter that crashed in Udhampur district on Tuesday. • PTI

Kasturirangan to lead syllabus panel

12-member steering committee given a tenure of 3 years to draft framework

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Centre has started the process to revise school textbooks by appointing former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K. Kasturirangan as the head of a 12-member steering committee responsible for developing a new National Framework Curriculum (NCF).

Dr. Kasturirangan also chaired the drafting committee for the National Education Policy, 2020 which recommended development of a new NCF. The steering committee has been given a tenure of three years to complete its task, said an Education Ministry statement on Tuesday.

DEVESH K. PANDEY

Two more Afghan nationals

have been held in the ongo-

ing pan-India operation be-

ing carried out by the Direc-

Intelligence (DRI) in connec-

tion with the seizure of

about 3,000 kg heroin at the

are under way, the Enforce-

ment Directorate is likely to

take up a money-laundering

probe against the accused

persons as the offences un-

der the Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances

Act come under its purview.

The international value of

While the DRI searches

Mundra port in Gujarat.

of



K. Kasturirangan

Two more Afghans held

ED may launch money-laundering probe

in heroin seizure case

Revenue

The last such framework was developed in 2005. It is meant to be a guiding document for the development of textbooks, syllabi and teaching practices in schools across the country. The subsequent revision of textbooks by the National Coun-

the seized contraband is be-

ing determined with the

on the basis of the purity

percentage of the heroin,"

said an official. According to

the Afghanistan Drug Price

Monitoring (monthly re-

port) in April 2021, one kg

heroin is worth a little over

\$2,000 in Afghanistan. In

2019, an official said, the per

kg price in India ranged

from \$7,106 to \$21,317 as per

The DRI had earlier ar-

rested five persons, includ-

ing two Afghan nationals,

and conducted searches at a

warehouse in Delhi.

one estimate.

'The value is estimated

help of experts.

cil of Educational Research and Training will draw from the new NCF.

In fact, the steering committee will develop four such frameworks, one each to guide the curriculum of school education, teacher education, early childhood education and adult education. Apart from Dr. Kasturirangan, others on the panel who had also helped draft the NEP include former Karnataka Knowledge Commission Member Secretary M.K. Sridhar and the Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh Vice-Chancellor T.V. Kattimani. Other academics on the steering committee include Jamia Millia Islamia Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar, Central University of Puniab Chancellor Jagbir Singh, and Manjul Bhargava, an American mathematician of Indian origin.

Padma Shri awardee Michel Danino, an Indian of French origin who authored a book identifying the legendary Saraswati river with a current water body, is also on the steering committee along with National Book Trust Chairman Govind Prasad Sharma and National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration Chancellor Mahesh Chandra Pant. Indian Institute of Management-Jammu Chairman Milind Kamble and Dhir Jhingran and Shankar Maruwada from the non-profit sector are also part of the

V.R. Chaudhari appointed next Chief of the Air Staff

R.K.S. Bhadauria is retiring on Sept. 30

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union government on Tuesday appointed Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari the next Chief of the Air Staff (CAS). The current chief, Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria, is retiring on September 30.

"Government has decided to appoint Air Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, presently Vice Chief of the Air Staff, as the next Chief of the Air Staff," a Defence Ministry statement said. Air Marshal Chaudhari was commissioned in the fighter stream of the Air Force on Decem-



V.R. Chaudhari

ber 29, 1982. He has flying experience of more than 3,800 hours on a wide variety of fighter and trainer aircraft. As an Air Vice Marshal, he has been Deputy Commandant, Air Force Academy; and Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Air Defence).

Pawar won't be accepted as leader: Anant Geete

Sanjay Raut distances Sena from remarks

STAFF REPORTER

Striking yet another discordant note within the tripartite Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra, senior Shiv Sena leader Anant Geete on Tuesday said the unnatural coalition was just a political compromise and that the Sena could never toe the ideological line of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) or the Congress.

"Sharad Pawar formed the NCP by stabbing the Congress in the back... Why should Shiv Sainiks accept Pawar as their leader? Their leader can and only be [late

ray," said Mr. Geete, who was also former Union Minister, speaking in Raigad district during a political gathering that saw a few local NCP leaders enter the Sena fold. Meanwhile, MVA leaders

Sena founder] Bal Thacke-

scrambled into damage-control mode, with Sena spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut distancing the party from Mr. Geete's remarks. "Both Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Pawar are tall leaders of the State. The MVA leadership has nothing to do with Mr. Geete's remarks. The government will complete its term without any hitch."

'Computing is applied to all professions'

Data are everywhere: Sai University V-C

STAFF REPORTER CHENNAI

Students should be exposed to multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary higher education programmes in computing and data science to explore possibilities and get insights, say experts.

At a webinar on careers in computing and data sciences, hosted by The Hindu with Sai University on Monday, panelllists said it is imperative to have mix-andmatch learning models for students as in Harvard University and MIT.

The university's founder and Chancellor K.V. Ramani said: "The aim is to bring in global best practices to India. We have established a university with top-notch names around the world. 55% of our faculty will be international professors and the other half will be Indian professors with international accreditation."

Jamshed Bharucha, Founding Vice-Chancellor of Sai University, said, "The university is the first Indian higher education institution that embeds computing science and data science within a liberal undergraduate ecosystem. In this time and age, computing is applied to all professions and all aspects of life and data

are everywhere." He added that students

get to study 'computing bilinguals' with which one will learn the language of computing and data science and study another subject like music, public health and environmental issues concurrently to have in-depth knowledge, find correlations and patterns. Students can combine these things to get new data sets, understand and analyse them to get new insights. "With computing bilinguals, students can come up with ways to understand the world better using digital technology," Prof. Bharucha

Growing sector

The data science market is rapidly growing at 30% annually. Within the digital sector, the growth is even faster. This means, more data is created and more analysts are needed - it is a virtual cycle.

Ashank Desai, Founder, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of Mastek, pointed out that there were around one lakh vacancies for data science professionals in India.

S. Sadagopan, International Advisory Board at Sai University, said, "Every flower in the university can grow the way it wants to grow and won't be straightjacketed."

Nisha is a 15 years old girl hailing from a poor family. She is suffering from Chronic Myeloid Leukemia and needs Rs. 15,00,000/- for the Allogenic Matched Bone Marrow Transplant at V.S. Hospital, Chennai. Kindly help her to have a new life. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring V.S. Medical Trust will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT. (Please do not

APPEAL

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tonnes in the case of sugar-

data said.





PM to meet Biden and Harris but focus will be on regional security; he will also attend Quad summit

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet U.S. President Joe Biden and attend the Ouadrilateral (Quad) summit along with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Friday, but there is "no link" between his meetings and the newly announced Australia-U.K.-U.S. (AUKUS) alliance, the government said on Tuesday.

In the first such comments indicating that New Delhi is distancing itself from the new partnership, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla said the Quad meeting would deal with issues such as the pandemic, new and emerging technologies, climate change, infrastructure, maritime security, education, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, while AUKUS was a "security alliance".

"We are not party to this alliance. From our perspec-

SANDEEP PHUKAN

Former Congress president

Rahul Gandhi's sharp attack

on the BJP's "Hindu" cre-

dentials last week has put

the spotlight back on his

own and his party's dilem-

ma in articulating the ques-

It could be a matter of de-

bate whether or not the

Congress's attempt to recast

its image will work, but it is

clear that Mr. Gandhi is keen

on taking the fight to the

BJP's own turf of Hindutva

politics, seeking to distin-

guish it from the larger Hin-

hain. Ye jhoote Hindu hain.

Ye Hindu dharm ka prayog

karte hain, ye dharm ki da-

lali karte hain, magar ye

Hindu nahin hain [What

kind of Hindus are they?

They are fake Hindus. They

use the Hindu religion, they

broker the religion, but they

are not Hindus]," he de-

clared at a convention of the

All India Mahila Congress on

NEWS ANALYSIS

On September 10, a day

after visiting the Mata Vaish-

no Devi shrine, Mr. Gandhi

invoked his lineage of being

a Kashmiri Pandit while ad-

dressing a rally of Congress

But it is always a tight-

rope walk for Mr. Gandhi to

express his faith publicly

and yet project himself as an

During the 2017 Gujarat

Assembly election, when

Congress chief spokesper-

son Randeep Surjewala re-

ferred to Mr. Gandhi as a

"janeu dhaari Brahmin

Brahmin]", Mr. Gandhi is re-

ported to have expressed

Yet, in Jammu, he re-

ferred to himself as a "Kash-

miri Pandit who would help

thread-wearing

workers in Jammu.

"inclusive" leader.

[sacred

his disapproval.

September 15.

"Ye kis prakar ke Hindu

du identity.

tion of religious identity.

NEW DELHI

Cong. and the dilemma

over its religious identity

Rahul keen on taking fight to BJP's turf

Rahul Gandhi

his fellow Pandit brothers".

At the Mahila Congress

convention, while expound-

ing on the meaning of God-

desses Lakshmi and Durga,

he attacked the Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)

and V.D. Savarkar for propa-

gating a "militant" ideology.

years, if anyone has under-

stood the Hindu religion in

the best way and made it his

practice, it is Mahatma

Gandhi. We believe in this

and so do the BJP-RSS peo-

ple. So, if Mahatma Gandhi

understood the Hindu reli

gion and spent his whole life

understanding it, then why

did the RSS ideology pump

three bullets in his chest?'

asked the Congress leader.

Telephone: 0291 2570710 (O)

While his attack on the

"In the last 100-200



Focus point: Taliban fighters in Herat on Tuesday. The bilateral meeting will feature the developments in Afghanistan. • AFP

tive, this is neither relevant to the Quad, nor will it have any impact on its functioning," Mr. Shringla told presspersons at a briefing on the Prime Minister's visit.

Afghan situation

Mr. Modi is expected to begin his visit to the U.S. on September 24, and will hold talks with Kamala Harris, the first U.S. Vice-President of Indian origin, in their first faceto-face meeting. He will also meet a group of American business leaders and CEOs as

well as hold bilateral meetings with the Australian and Japanese heads of state. On September 25, Mr. Modi will meet Mr. Biden and both leaders will attend the Quad summit subsequently. Mr. Modi is expected to fly to New York later that evening and address the United Nations General Assembly the next morning.

"The bilateral meeting will also feature the current regional security situation following recent developments in Afghanistan, and our stakes as a neighbour, and a long-standing and preferred development partner of the people of Afghanistan. In this context, we would undoubtedly discuss the need to see an end to radicalism, extremism, cross border terrorism and the dismantling of global terrorist networks. They will also discuss the reform of the multilateral system, including the UN Security Council," Mr. Shringla

Apart from reviewing the India-U.S. comprehensive strategic global partnership, Mr. Modi and Mr. Biden would discuss trade and investment ties, defence and security collaborations, and the "green" strategic clean energy partnership during their bilateral meeting.

Mr. Shringla said the focus, in particular, would be on how to operationalise the four foundational defence agreements that India and the U.S. have now signed.

When asked if Mr. Modi's meetings and the Quad summit would be impacted or overshadowed by the big nership, Mr. Shringla said the two events were not partnership would mean

'Different visions'

"There is no link between AUKUS and Quad. AUKUS is a security alliance, Quad is a different group of countries working on a different vision... of the Indo Pacific as a free, open, transparent, inclusive region. And in the same sentiment, the Malabar exercises [maritime exercises involving Australia, India, Japan and the U.S.] are those that are done between different nations and has nothing to do with Quad," Mr. Shringla said. He also said India had noted Australia's clarification that the AUKUS partnership only dealt with nuclear power technology, and hence, was not a case of "nuclear proliferation".

U.S.-Australian defence partlinked and denied the new that the Quad would only deal with "softer issues".

Punjab CM heads to Delhi to discuss new Cabinet

Use of chartered plane draws flak from political parties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Tuesday headed to Delhi to discuss the Cabinet formation with the Congress's central leadership.

Mr. Channi, along with State Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu and Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, took a chartered flight to Delhi, where they met All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary and Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat, and general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal to discuss the names of those to be included in the



CM Charanjit Singh Channi and Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu in Delhi. •PTI

new Cabinet, party sources said.

Before heading to Delhi, Mr. Sidhu tweeted: "In line of duty!!", along with a photograph of him with Mr. Channi and Mr. Randhawa

posing near a chartered plane. The picture invited a lot of criticism from political

As talks of the new Cabinet gained momentum, speculation was rife that the names of a few loyalists of former Chief Minister Captain (Retd.) Amarinder Singh, who was "cornered" by the party high command into resigning from his post, may be axed by Mr. Channi, a close aide of Mr. Sidhu's.

In the new Cabinet, the names of Gurkirat Singh Kotli, Pargat Singh, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Inderbir Singh Bolaria, Madan Lal Jalalpu and Sangat Singh Gilzian were at the forefront.

Muslims converging: study

'Slowdown in population rise pronounced among minorities'

G. SAMPATH NEW DELHI

A new study on the religious composition of India's population since Partition said due to the "declining and converging fertility patterns" of Hindus and Muslims, there have been only marginal changes in the overall religious composition of the population since 1951, the year India conducted its first Census as an independent nation.

From 1992 to 2015, the total fertility rates of Muslims declined from 4.4 to 2.6, while that of Hindus declined from 3.3 to 2.1, indicating that "the gaps in childbearing between India's religious groups are much smaller than they used to be," said the study published by the Pew Research Center, a non-profit based in Washington D.C.

The average fertility rate in India today was 2.2, which was higher than the rates in advanced economically countries such as the U.S. (1.6), but much lower than what it was in 1992 (3.4) or 1951 (5.9).

Marked slowdown

Although growth rates had declined for all of India's major religious groups, the slowdown had been more pronounced among religious minorities, who outpaced Hindus in the earlier decades.

Between 1951 and 1961. the Muslim population expanded by 32.7%, 11 percentage points more than India's overall rate of 21.6%. But this gap had narrowed. From 2001 to 2011, the difference in growth between Muslims (24.7%) and Indians overall (17.7%) was 7 percentage points. India's Christian population grew at the slowest pace of the three largest groups in the most recent Census decade – gaining 15.7% between 2001 and 2011, a far lower growth rate than the one recorded in the decade following Partition

Shrinking gaps

The chart shows average number of children a woman is expected to bear in her lifetime across various religions between 1992 and 2015. As the data show, the gaps between fertility rates of religions has been

Religion	1992	1998	2005	2015
Muslim	4.4	3.6	3.4	2.6
Hindu	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.1
Christian	2.9	2.4	2.3	2
Buddhist	2.9	2.1	2.3	1.7
Sikh	2.4	2.3	1.9	1.6
Jain	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.2
SOURCE: PEW RESEARCH C	ENTER			

(29.0%). In terms of absolute numbers, every major religion in India saw its numbers rise. In percentage terms, between 1951 and 2011, Muslims grew by 4.4 percentage points to 14.2% of the population, while Hindus declined by 4.3 points to 79.8%. But all the six major religious groups - Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains - have grown in absolute numbers. The sole exception to this trend are Parsis, whose number halved between 1951 and 2011, from 110,000

Interestingly, out of India's total population of 1,200 million, about 8 million did not belong to any of the six major religious groups. Within this category, mostly comprising adivasi people, the largest grouping was of the Sarnas (nearly 5 million adherents), followed by the Gond (1 million) and the Sari Dharma (5,10,000).

Observing that a preference for sons over daughters could play a role in overall fertility, the study noted that sex-selective abortions had caused an estimated deficit of 20 million girls compared with what would naturally be expected between 1970 and 2017, and that "this practice is more common among Indian Hindus than among Muslims and Christians". Cautioning that religion

was by no means the only or

even the primary factor affecting fertility rates, the study noted that women in central India tended to have more children, with Bihar and Uttar Pradesh showing a total fertility rate (TFR) of 3.4 and 2.7 respectively, in contrast to a TFR of 1.7 and 1.6 in Tamil Nadu and Kerala respectively.

With regard to migration as a driver of change in the religious makeup, the study said since the 1950s, migration has had only a modest impact on India's religious composition. More than 99% of people who live in India were also born in India, and migrants leaving India outnumber immigrants three-to-one, with "Muslims more likely than Hindus to leave India", while "immigrants into India from Muslim-majority countries are disproportionately Hindu."

The study also cast doubt over the speculated numbers of undocumented immigrants in India, noting, "If tens of millions of Muslims from nearby countries had indeed migrated to India, demographers would expect to see evidence of such mass migration in data from their countries of origin, and this magnitude of outmigration is not apparent." Religious conversion has also had a negligible impact on India's overall composition, with 98% of Indian adults still identifying with the religion in which they were raised.

Row over changes to marriage Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ideology of Savarkar and the A Bill to amend the Rajas-RSS has often riled the parthan Compulsory Registraty's ally in Maharashtra, the tion of Marriages Act, 2009, passed in the State Assemb-Shiv Sena, the BJP has often accused Mr. Gandhi of being ly, has generated a controa "chunaavi Hindu", someversy, with the BJP charging one who remembers his that it will validate child marriages. The Congress Hindu credentials only at government said the the time of elections. With the Assembly elecamended provisions will tion in the Hindi heartland only streamline the regisof Uttar Pradesh scheduled tration process, without early next year and Gujarat changing the status of nup-

later in the year, one could tial ties of minors. The amendment allows explain that Mr. Gandhi's women above 18 to provide Hindu assertion is, perhaps, political. But those close to information of their marthe Congress leader claim riage on their own. The that it is more about "wrest-State government said the ing back" the political narra-Amendment Bill had been tive from the BJP and argubrought to protect legal rights of children, stop muling that Hinduism, in contrast to the political idetiple marriages and take ology of Hindutva, has care of maintenance and inspace for everyone. heritance related matters.

AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR

JODHPUR 342304, Rajasthan, India

कृषि विश्वविद्यालय, जोधपुर

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Professors and 40 posts of Associate Professors in the Agriculture University Jodhpur. The advertisements and all details including application forms, score

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I. IFT No. KCMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/5407/2021-22

SI. No	Description of Material	Qty In No's					
Supply of 3 Ply Corrugated Boxes to pack following Good Life varients for three months to Kolar Dairy							
1	100 ml Fino Packs Toned / Smar with Partitions Single Colour Printin						
2	180 ml Fino Packs Toned / Smar with Partitions Single Colour Printin						
3	500 ml Fino Packs Toned / Slim wit Partitions Single Colour Printin						
4	500 ml Brik Packs Toned/Slim/Smar without Partitions Single Colour Printin						
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	Smart Without Furtherns Single Colour Filling	
5	1000 ml Customised Coffe Day Toned Brik Packs without Partitions 3 Colour Printing	30,000
I	FT No. KCMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/5408/20 Date	21-22 e: 20.09.2
SI. No	Description of Material	Qty In No's
	ply of 3 Ply Corrugated Boxes to pack following G ants for three months to Mega Dairy, Chikkaballa	
1	500 ml Brik Toned/Gold/Slim/Smart/Vijayavajra/ Suraksha Packs without Partitions Single Colour Printing	7,50,000
2	1000 ml Brik Packs Toned/Gold/Slim/Smart/ Vijayavajra/Suraksha without Partitions Single Colour Printing	5,00,000
3	1000 ml Cap Brik Packs Cow Milk / Toned with Partitions Single Colour Printing	38,000
4	1000 ml Customised Coffe Day Toned Milk Slim Brik Packs without Partitions 3 Colour Printing	1,50,000

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E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

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00 ml Brik Packs Cow's Milk/Toned/Gold/Slim/ nart without Partitions Single Colour Printing	9,00,000
00 ml Customised Coffe Day Toned Brik cks without Partitions 3 Colour Printing	30,000
֡	00 ml Brik Packs Cow's Milk/Toned/Gold/Slim/ lart without Partitions Single Colour Printing 00 ml Customised Coffe Day Toned Brik

6	Packs without Partitions 3 Colour Printing	30,000			
II. IFT No. KCMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/5408/2021-22 Date: 20.09.2021					
SI. No	Description of Material	Qty In No's			
Supply of 3 Ply Corrugated Boxes to pack following Good Life variants for three months to Mega Dairy, Chikkaballapur					
1	500 ml Brik Toned/Gold/Slim/Smart/Vijayavajra/ Suraksha Packs without Partitions Single Colour Printing	7,50,000			
2	1000 ml Brik Packs Toned/Gold/Slim/Smart/ Vijayavajra/Suraksha without Partitions Single Colour Printing	5,00,000			
3	1000 ml Cap Brik Packs Cow Milk / Toned with Partitions Single Colour Printing	38,000			
4	1000 ml Customised Coffe Day Toned Milk Slim Brik Packs without Partitions 3 Colour Printing	1,50,000			
Packs will out Partitions 3 Cooler Printing Access to E-tender Documents: 22.09.2021 to 16.10.2021 05.30 PM Last date for submission: on or before 16.10.2021, 05.30 PM Date of opening of Tech. Tender: 18.10.2021, 11.00 AM onwards Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/ Sd/- M.D, KOMUL					

TMC leader likely to visit Agartala despite 'ban'

SYED SAJJAD ALI AGARTALA

Trinamool Congress national general secretary pected to arrive here on after authorities imposed a 'ban' on his scheduled rally and the party not getting any relief from the

important party programme and address a news conference during his brief stay.



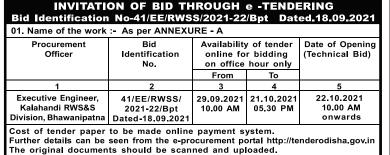
Abhishek Banerjee is ex-Wednesday morning even High Court.

Party sources said the leader would attend a very



CIN- U40102RJ2000SGC016484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking) Suratgarh Super Critical Thermal Power Project, Suratgarh-335805 ONLINE TENDER NOTICE -tenders are invited for TN-48/AHP(RVU2122WSOB00922) Annual contract for routine reakdown maintenance work and providing assistance in operation of complete As Handling System, 49/Electrical(RVU2122WSOB00920) Annual contract for complet peration and maintenance (Routine, Breakdown & annual) of electrical equipme excluding CHP & AHP) and 50/CHP(RVU2122WLOB00924) Annual Contract for the work omplete Operation, maintenance and housekeeping of automated PLC based coal handlin

plant at SSCTPP, Suratgarh, including wagon unloading, O & M of heavy machineries and othe equipments, Electrical & C&I works of CHP area and other related works as specified in scope of work. Tender details are available on websites http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender) w.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in Chief Engineer (STPS-SC) Raj.Samwad/C/21/6378



Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna

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EXAMINATIONS in Medical Sciences body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY CUM ENTRANCE TEST-SUPERSPECIALTY **NEET-SS 2021**

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test - Superspecialty (NEET-SS) 2021 on 13th and 14th November 2021.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://nbe.edu.in for details pertaining to eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates							
Online Submission of the	22 nd September 2021 to						
Application Form	12 th October 2021						
Date of Examination	13 th and 14 th November 2021 for different groups						
Declaration of the Result	by 30 th November 2021						

Candidate Care Support: +91-22-61087595; E-mail: helpdesknbeexam@natboard.edu.in

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2021 (OJEE-2021) No: OJEE / 328 DATE: 21.09.2021 NOTICE REGARDING EXTENSION OF LAST DATE OF

APPLICATION FOR 4 YEAR BACHELOR PROGRAM IN **CINEMATIC ART AND TECHNOLOGY OF BIJU PATTANAIK FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE** OF ODISHA (BPFTIO), CUTTACK

The last date of online application for the 4 yrs. degree program in Cinematic Art and Technology in the disciplines of (i) Cinematography, (ii) Sound Recording & Sound Design and (iii) Film Editing, to be offered by Biju Pattanaik Film and Television Institute of Odisha (BPFTIO), Cuttack from the current Academic Session 2021-22, which was earlier scheduled as 20.09.2021, is hereby extended up to 24.09.2021. Fees can be paid till 25-09-2021 (5.00 PM).

Detailed instructions and guidelines for online application will be like other forms as per the Information Brochure available in OJEE website, i.e., www.ojee.nic.in.

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

> **CHAIRMAN, OJEE** Odisha

OIPR-14020/11/0011/2122



Mumbai jail after bail

Businessman Raj Kundra on Tuesday walked out of a Mumbai jail, a day after a magistrate's court here granted bail to the key accused in a pornographic films case, in which he was arrested two months ago. Mr. Kundra was released from the Arthur Road iail shortly after 11.30 a.m., a jail official said. Chief metropolitan magistrate S.B. Bhajipale on Monday allowed Mr. Kundra's bail application on furnishing a bond of ₹50,000. PTI

Sonowal files nomination for Rajya Sabha seat

Minister for Shipping, Ports, Waterways and Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday filed his nomination papers for a Rajya Sabha seat, at the Assam Assembly Secretariat. The seat is one of the seven across the country that will go to the polls on October 4. Mr. Sonowal currently represents the Majuli seat in the 126-member Assembly. His nomination to the Upper House became necessary after he was made a Union Minister. The Rajya Sabha seat was vacated by Biswajit Daimary, who contested the Panery Assembly seat as a BJP candidate and was chosen as House Speaker.

Three tonnes of ganja seized in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR The Odisha police on September 20 seized more than three tonnes of ganja during vehicle checks across the State. The Malkangiri district police intercepted a truck transporting 2.25 tonnes of ganja worth about ₹2 crore. This seizure has shown that Odisha remains a major supplier of marijuana across the country. Similarly, the police seized 1,250 kg of marijuana from a bananaladen truck on National Highway 16. The value of the seized ganja is above ₹1 crore. Seven persons have been

Police arrest 453 land brokers in Assam

More than 40 days after Biswa Sarma asked the Revenue and Disaster Management department officials to eliminate middlemen from land-related work, police have arrested 453 land brokers. They were picked up from various parts of the State on September 20 night for indulging in unlawful activities involving land sale, purchase and holding, the police said. Special Director General of Police G.P. Singh said, "We strive to identify the black sheep amongst government personnel involved along with ascertaining unlawful backward and forward linkages of those arrested."

India's R value below one in mid-September

It stays above one in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The R value, which reflects how rapidly the COVID-19 pandemic is spreading, dropped to 0.92 by mid-September after going over one in August-end, according to experts.

However, the R values in a few major cities - Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Benga luru – still remain over one. The R value in Delhi and Pune is below one.

The reproduction number, or R, refers to how many persons an infected person infects on an average. In other words, it shows how 'efficiently' a virus is spreading.

The R values in Maharashtra and Kerala are below one, giving much-needed relief to these States with the highest number of active cases.

The overall R value was 1.17 at the end of August. It declined to 1.11 between September 4 and 7. Since then, it



Surveillance efforts: Most States are continuing to maintain their COVID-19 testing rates. • M. VEDHAN

has remained under one. "The good news is that India's R has continued to be less than one, as is that of Kerala and Maharashtra, the two States having the highest number of active cases," said Sitabhra Sinha of the In-

stitute of Mathematical

Sciences, Chennai. Mr. Sinha

leads a team of researchers

who calculate the R value. According to the data, the R value of Mumbai stands at 1.09, Chennai 1.11, Kolkata 1.04, and Bengaluru 1.06.

According to the Health Ministry, the recovery rate currently stood at 97.75%. The weekly positivity rate (2.08%) had been less than 3% for 88 days, it said.

'Railways falling foul of CVC norms'

Report says post of Chief Vigilance Officer should be an external appointment

s. vijay kumar

In what could be a major setback to the Vigilance Directorate of the Railways, Principal Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Sanjeev Sanyal has said the organisation is functioning in violation of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) gui-Railway sources said the

Principal Economic Adviser's note raises questions on the legality of the decisions made in the past and pending cases of the Vigilance Directorate relating to allegations of corruption and other irregularities involving thousands of employees, including senior officers, in the past. In his report on the 'Rationalisation of Government Bodies and Proposal for the Ministry of Railways', Mr. Sanyal said the Railways had the largest Vigilance Directorate in the Central government with over 1,170 personnel, including 192 officers. But the administrative structure is not compliant with the CVC guidelines.



Key department: The Railways has the largest Vigilance Directorate in the Central government. • FILE PHOTO

While the CVC had mandated in its circular issued in 2001 that the Chief Vigilance Officer of an organisation should be external, the post is being appointed with internal officers in the Railways. "In fact, all posts in the Vigilance Directorate of the Railways, except Director Vigilance which is filled from the Indian Police Service, are internal. Further, in many cases, these Vigilance Officers have tenures longer that what is permitted by the CVC. This is in violation of

the CVC guidelines...," he noted.

In its recommendations, the expert panel headed by Mr. Sanyal said the Railways should ensure that the Vigilance Directorate adhered to the CVC guidelines. In case certain roles required technical skills that necessitated internal appointments, such posts should be identified and clearly notified.

The Railways is one of the largest employers with over 12 lakh staff and officers. Though the CVC guidelines prescribe that the CVO should be appointed from other Ministries for a certain tenure, the post in the rank of a Senior Deputy General Manager is filled internally. The organisation deals with allegations of corruption, misappropriation of funds, abuse of official power and other irregularities and recommends punishments ranging between stoppage of increments and dismissal.

Merger of Directorates

The report also said the number of Directorates in the Railway Board be reduced from 52 by merging Directorates that had similar functions. It was recommended that the Traffic Transportation Directorate be merged with the Traffic Commercial Directorate, Economics with Statistics & Economics, Tourism & Catering with Heritage, Infrastructure with Land & Ameni-Accounting Reforms, Finance, Finance (Budget), Finance (Expenditure) be merged into one as Finance & Accounts Directorate.

Central Vista: 600 more workers to be deployed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said 600 more workers would join the Central Vista Avenue redevelopment project, which was expected to be completed before the Republic Day Parade in 2022.

Mr. Puri, who visited the site on Tuesday to review the work, said he was confident that the project would be ready in time for the R-Day parade next year.

3,400 workers working day & night on site to compensate for the time lost due to rains. 600 more workers will be added to the work-



The work is expected to be completed ahead of the R-Day parade next year.

force in a week. (sic)," Mr. Puri said in a tweet.

As part of the Central Vista revamp project, the Central Vista Avenue redevelopment was started earlier this year. It includes new public amenities for visitors, new landscaping of the India Gate lawns and development of infrastructure for the annual parade.

ECI to send voter guides in Braille

Visually challenged persons who have newly registered to get personalised letter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday unveiled a letter and voter's guide in Braille to be sent to newly enrolled visually challenged voters, about a month after announcing that all those newly registered would get a personalised letter from the ECI.

The Braille language version of the letter to new voters and the guide were released by the ECI on Tuesday during a virtual national conference on accessible elections. In August, the ECI had

said it would be sending a



More accessible: A voter guide in Braille and a booklet on voter awareness were released on Tuesday. ■TWITTER/@ECISVEEP

welcome kit of sorts to newly registered electors, including a personalised letter, a pledge for ethical voting and a guide along with their vo-

ter's ID card. During the conference, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said on Tuesday that there was a need for a "pleasant rience" for persons with disabilities and that their suggestions would be taken into account while framing rules for accessible elections. About 77.4 lakh persons with disabilities were registered to vote currently, the ECI statement said.

and dignified polling expe-

Suggestions taken

"Based on suggestions received from different stakeholders, a resolution was adopted to pave the way forward to further streamline the policy framework on 'Accessible Elections', for future elections," the state-

SAARC Ministers' meet unlikely

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

A meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, is unlikely to take place, the government of Nepal, the current chair of SAARC, has confirmed.

It is understood that disagreement over the representation of Afghanistan has led to the cancellation of the meeting. The meeting of SAARC Foreign Ministers at the UNGA had become contentious over the recent years because of differences between India and Pakistan regarding crossborder terrorism, among other issues.

Bone of contention

The Hindu has learnt that the initial understanding among the members was that during the meeting, the chair for Afghan Foreign Minister would remain empty. However, former Pakistan High Commissioner to India Abdul Basit has stated in a social media post that the issue of representation of Afghanistan "in the meeting became the bone of contention".

The Taliban captured power in Kabul on August 15 but the political set-up has not yet gained international legitimacy.

Seer death: Adityanath promises action against guilty

Top disciple booked, taken into custody

OMAR RASHID

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said those found guilty in the death by alleged suicide of prominent Hindu seer Swami Narendra Giri would be punished after an independent investigation.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, who along with Mr. Adityanath visited Prayagraj to offer final respects, demanded that a probe be conducted by a sit-



Floral tribute: Yogi Adityanath paying his respects to deceased seer Narendra Giri at Prayagraj on Tuesday. • PTI

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

ting judge of the Allahabad

ice have booked Anand Giri, Giri was known to have who had been a close discihad friendly ties with both ple of Narendra Giri till they

the BJP and the SP. The pol-

SCAN TO PLAY

this year, for abetment of suicide. He has been brought to Prayagraj for questioning after being detained in Haridwar with the assistance of the Uttarakhand police.

Anand Giri, a self-styled yoga guru who was arrested in 2019 in Australia for allegedly molesting two women but later acquitted, was named in a note recovered from the room in the Baghambari Mutt where Narendra Giri's body was found hanging from a fan, said the

In Prayagraj, Mr. Adityanath said Narendra Giri's death was an "irreparable

had a public fallout earlier loss for the religious and bulldozer was going to be spiritual world". Evidence related to the death had been collected and a team of senior officers was probing the matter. "Each and every aspect will be revealed and the guilty will certainly be punished," he asserted.

Court probe sought

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav said only an investigation by a sitting High Court judge would "bring out the truth". He demanded to know what kind of "mental pressure" Giri was under at the time of the incident and the "circumstances" leading up to his death. "We also heard that a

run over his land," he stated in a veiled allegation that the BJP government was planning to demolish his proper-

'Falsely implicated'

Before being detained by police, Anand Giri said he was being falsely implicated in the case and claimed that his guru had been "murdered as part of a conspiracy" by those who siphoned off money from the Baghambari Mutt and the Bade Hanuman temple. "I have full faith that he did not commit suicide," he told a news

TH CROSSWORD+ 13358

15 Bad bug, greed and envy (8)

17 First royal breaking ties (8) 21 Dossier about ULFA Terrorist leaders is empty (6)

25 Thief? I can become a leader (9)

26 Boy bored by love song (5)

27 Dreamt about sickly place where one keeps running without getting anywhere (9)

28 One bets on these female partners (5)

29 Hot? No? Let's play (6)

DOWN

2 Saying "No fur sale" vigorously (7)

3 Neither moving into that place (7)

4 Naughty squire is daring! (6)

6 Braver, quietly unassuming and more fortunate (7)

8 What one pays outside to do training (8)

9 Good free network (4) 16 Seer eyes gals lecherously (8)

18 Talk bombastically about 'I' & 'Me'! Habit! (7)

20 It's not a bad place (7) 22 Kin are mostly confused (7)

24 A new goal changing an old way (6)

25 Winning by divide and rule in the end! (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to nuzzle 13357

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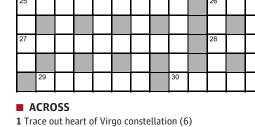
FAITH

Ramayana's superiority

To understand the Vedas, we need the help of the Itihasas and Puranas. There are eighteen Puranas, and these are classified as satvika, rajasa and tamasa Puranas, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. When satvik qualities were foremost in Brahma, he gave the sattvika Puranas. The sattvika Puranas are the ones which have been treated as important by Vaishnava Acharyas. And among these, the Vishnu Purana is considered the most important. It is called Purana Ratna. However, sometimes, Vaishnava Acharyas have also used statements in the rajasa and tamasa Puranas as references. Here they followed a rule. Wherever something that was said in a rajasic or tamasic Purana did not contradict what was said in the satvika Puranas, then they were acceptable. When they contradicted statements made in the satvika Puranas, they were rejected.

Vishnu Purana has a special quality. In other Puranas, a question is asked to Brahma about a specific devata. For instance, when a question is asked about Agni, Brahma extols Agni and the result is the Agni Purana. But in the case of the Vishnu Purana, the question asked by Sage Maitreya to Sage Parasara is not about any devata. It is a general question about the Supreme One, and Parasara replies that Lord Narayana is the Paramatma.

The Itihasas were written at the time the events described took place. The authors also are characters in the stories. Of the two Itihasas, Ramayana is superior. It may be argued that Mahabaharata is superior as it contains Bhagavad Gita and Vishnu Sahasranama. But the Gita and Vishnu Sahasranama together add up to a few hundred verses, and the total length of the Mahabharata is more than a lakh. In the Ramayana, however, Valmiki talks throughout about Rama.

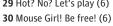


10 A groovy sort of gun (5) 11 Very lawful alternative for a person at bar (9) 12 Disturbing aspect, quietly ignored system in India (5)

5 Partly problematic and trivial (6)

13 Pure and intuitive sort, one very liberated (9) **14** Popular site away from coast (6)





5 The hollow plate used as painter's tool (7)

7 Took turns to read about keeping time (7)

19 He doesn't believe in field trips (7)

23 One is real product of the promised land (7)



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BPCL	413.80	-6.60
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HDFC Bank	1551.95	7.90
HDFC Life	735.80	5.65
Hero MotoCorp	2850.45	39.05
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ICICI Bank	711.85	1.8
IndusInd Bank	1137.55	47.60
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CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.41	73.73
Euro	86.14	86.51
British Pound	.100.42	100.86
Japanese Yen (100)	67.01	67.33
Chinese Yuan	11.35	11.40
Swiss Franc	79.35	79.70
Singapore Dollar	54.32	54.57
Canadian Dollar	57.51	57.76
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Tata Motors





Yamaha unveils Aerox scooter for ₹1.29 lakh

India Yamaha Motor Pvt. Ltd. unveiled Maxi Sports Scooter Aerox 155 and a new version of 155cc super sport motorcycle YZF-R15. With Aerox 155, IYM enters India's premium scooter space. It comes at a starting price of ₹1.29 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi). YZF-R15 V4's prices begin at ₹1,67,800 (ex-showroom, Delhi)

Stem cell bank LifeCell raises ₹255 crore

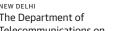
CHENNAI Stem cell bank and reproductive genetic testing services provider LifeCell International Pvt. Ltd. said that OrbiMed Asia Partners IV has invested ₹225 crore in return for a minority stake. "The existing founders will invest ₹30 crore," said Mayur Abhaya, MD.

Flipkart to hold annual sale event from Oct. 7-12

Flipkart will hold the 8th edition of its annual sale event 'The Big Billion Days', between October 7 and 12. This year's event would bring forth new opportunities for home grown brands, sellers and consumers from metros to Tier 2 cities and beyond, the company said.

DoT issues order for SIM delivery at doorstep

The Department of Telecommunications on Tuesday issued an order that enables customers to apply for a new mobile connection online and get the SIM delivered at their doorstep on verification using Aadhaar or any eligible document stored in Digilocker. PTI



est green electron. The port-to-energy conglomerate plans to triple its renewable power generation capacity over the next four years, foray into green hydrogen production, power all data centres with renewable energy, turn its ports in-







ADB cuts India's 2021-22 growth forecast to 10%

Bank sees risks to outlook tilt to downside, hinging on pandemic; projects input costs to fan inflation to a faster 5.5% pace

VIKAS DHOOT NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank has cut its forecast for India's GDP growth in 2021-22 to 10%, from 11% projected earlier, with downside risks dominating the economic outlook. The ADB also sees rising input costs fuelling inflation to a faster 5.5% pace, than the 5.2% previously estimated.

While the COVID-19 second wave had disrupted the recovery since the ADB's April forecast for 11% growth, the Bank expects the economy to 'rebound strongly in the remaining three quarters and grow by 10% in the full fiscal year before moderating to 7.5%' in 2022-23.



Shots are key: Until vaccination is really widespread, there is a risk of fresh outbreaks and restrictions, says Abiad. • AFP

Still, the risks to the outlook tilt to the downside and depend mainly on the evolution of the pandemic, the ADB's director of macroeconomic research Abdul Abiad told The Hindu.

"The primary risks are

centred around the pandemic," said Dr. Abiad. "Until we get to the point that we have really widespread vaccination, countries still are at risk of renewed outbreaks as the Delta variant is much more infectious. So the main risk

weighing on the outlook is if vaccination hasn't progressed widely, the health system gets strained and the government needs to put restrictions on mobility again," he explained.

'Bit optimistic'

Conceding that the ADB's outlook was a 'bit optimistic' compared to the Reserve Bank of India, which now expects 9.5% growth this year, Dr. Abiad said: "We didn't change it much from our earlier forecast, because we have only had one quarter of the fiscal year yet and with the wide uncertainty, we wanted to stick to that and see how things evolve."

That the second wave ac-

celerated very rapidly but also declined very rapidly, allowing the economy to reopen was another key factor behind ADB's assessment, and was backed by the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) readings that had 'switched to highly positive for India', he pointed out. "Because consumption

will recover only gradually, government spending and exports will contribute more to this year's growth than they did in the previous fiscal year," the ADB said in an update to its Asian Development Outlook for 2021, emphasising that the healthy trend in export orders suggested that 'strong external demand' had helped cushion the impact of the second wave on the economy.

Blaming the uptick in India's inflation on rising global oil prices and higher duties on gasoline and diesel fuel, along with double-digit consumer price inflation for pulses and vegetable oil, the ADB said a deficient monsoon could augur further inflationary pressure.

"Rising prices for oil and other commodities will further increase input and transportation costs for producers, which they will pass on to consumers. These push factors and the secondround effects of persistently high headline inflation from last year will keep core inflation elevated," it warned.

Tata Motors to raise CV prices as costs climb

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tata Motors Ltd. said it will raise the prices of its commercial vehicles (CVs) by about 2% with effect from October 1 following a continuous rise in input costs.

"The continued rise in the cost of commodities, such as steel and precious metals, necessitates the company to pass on a part of it through increase in price of the products" the company said.

Tata Motors said it had tried to minimise the impact by absorbing a certain portion of the cost and would continue to deliver the lowest total cost of ownership to its customers.

Plan for tighter e-com rules said to face internal dissent

Some proposals excessive, sans economic rationale: FinMin

REUTERS

India's plan to tighten rules on its fast-growing e-commerce market has run into internal government dissent, memos reviewed by Reuters show, with the Ministry of Finance describing some proposals as "excessive" and "without economic rationale".

The memos offer a rare glimpse of high-stakes policy-making governing a market already featuring global heavyweights from

Amazon to Walmart, plus domestic players like Reliance Industries and Tata Group. The sector is forecast by Grant Thornton to be worth \$188 billion by 2025.

"The ministry of finance raising such concerns would likely spur a rethink of the policy," said Suhaan Mukerji, managing partner at India's PLR Chambers.

India in June shocked the e-commerce world with proposals from its consumer affairs ministry that sought to limit 'flashsales', rein in a

push to promote private-label brands and raise scrutiny of relationships between online market place operators and their vendors. There is not yet a formal implementation timeline for the rules.

Though the rules were announced after complaints from brick-and-mortar retailers about alleged unfair practices of foreign companies, they also drew protest from the Tata Group, with more than \$100 billion in revenue, which is planning an e-commerce expansion.

HDFC offers home loans at 6.7% till Oct. 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

HDFC Ltd. has announced a limited period home loan offer starting at 6.7% for the festival season.

The offer will be applicable on all new loan applications irrespective of the loan amount or employment category. The special rate is linked to the borrower's credit score. "This is a close-ended scheme and will be valid till October 31," HDFC said. "I am sure this offer will help prospective home buyers to realise their dream," said Renu Sud Karnad, MD.

Relook taxation on interest on FDs, urge SBI economists

'Review tax at least for senior citizens as returns negative'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Retail depositors are earning negative returns on their bank deposits and hence, there is a need for reviewing taxes on interest earned, economists at the country's largest lender SBI have said.

If not for all the depositors, the taxation review should be carried out for at least the deposits made by senior citizens who depend on the interest for their dailv needs, the economists led by Soumya Kanti Ghosh said in a note, which pegged the overall retail deposits in the system at ₹102 lakh crore.

TDS trigger on interest At present, banks deduct tax at source at the time of crediting interest income of over ₹40,000 for all the depositors, while for senior citizens the taxes set-in if the income exceeds ₹50,000 per year. As the policy fo-

cus has shifted to growth, the interest rates are going down in the system which pinches a depositor.

"Clearly, real rate of return on bank deposits has been negative for a sizeable period of time and with RBI making it abundantly clear that supporting growth is the primary goal, the low banking rate of interest is unlikely to make a north bound movement anytime soon as liquidity continues to be plentiful," they wrote.

India added 521 MW of rooftop solar in Q2 2021'

Highest capacity installed in a quarter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India has added 521 MW of rooftop solar capacity in April-June this year, which is the highest capacity installed in a quarter, according to a Mercom India India added 521 mega-

watts (MW) of rooftop solar capacity in the second quarter of the calendar year 2021, a 53% increase quarter-on-quarter compared with 341 MW installed in Q1 2021 (January-March), according to Mercom India Research's newly released Mercom India Rooftop Solar Market Report Q2 2021.

Rooftop solar installations were up 517% year-onyear (y-o-y) compared with



the 85 MW installed in Q2 2020 (April-June 2020).

Rooftop solar capacity additions in India in Q2 2021 (April-June) were the highest in a quarter.

As per the report, installations were significantly higher than the previous quarter despite the second wave of the COVID-19 and related state lockdowns.

Paytm staff add 5.45 lakh shares to IPO pool

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Digital payments and financial firm Paytm has received more than 5.45 lakh shares from about 20 more employees for monetisation in its upcoming IPO.

According to a regulatory filing by One97 Communications (OCL), about 20 more employees have converted their ESOPs into a total of 5,45,735 shares.

Earlier, 200 former and current employees had converted their ESOPs into shares, taking the total count of employees to about 220. Last week, Paytm gave time till September 22 to employees to convert their ESOPs into shares for monetisation in the upcoming IPO.

SpiceJet gets investors' nod to transfer cargo unit to arm

Airline to almost wipe out ₹3,300-crore negative net worth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

SpiceJet said it has received shareholders' approval to transfer its cargo and logistics services business to its subsidiary, SpiceXpress and Logistics Private Ltd., on a basis, for slump-sale ₹2,555.77 crore.

"The consideration for the slump sale shall be discharged by SpiceXpress by issuance of its shares in favour of SpiceJet," the company said in a statement.

"The transfer will result in a one-time gain of ₹2,555.77 crore for SpiceJet, wiping out a substantial portion of it's negative net worth," SpiceJet added.



institutional placement. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The airline had a negative net worth of ₹3,300 crore as on June 30.

The company said it had also received the shareholders' approval to raise funds by issue of eligible securities through Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP). It plans to raise ₹2,500 crore. "The shareholder appro-

val paves the way for our long-term plans to take a concrete shape and result in unlocking significant value for the company and all its shareholders," said Ajay Singh, CMD, SpiceJet.

grooming

enters men's

CavinKare

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

FMCG company CavinKare has announced its foray into the men's grooming segment with the unveiling of a slew of hair and body care products under the Biker's brand. CavinKare also unveiled products in the shampoo category for

the Tamil Nadu market.

"This foray into the men's grooming category, which is expected to cross \$1.2 billion by 2024, marks a significant step in the CavinKare 2.0 growth strategy," said Venkatesh Vijayaraghavan, CEO & director -

FMCG, CavinKare. "The pandemic has been a game changer for the beauty and hygiene category," he added.

Adani to take on Ambani, invest \$20 bn in green energy

Group eyes hydrogen foray, net carbon-zero ports by 2025

the investment will be in re-

newable energy generation,

component manufacturing,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Unveiling his infrastructure conglomerate's green vision, billionaire Gautam Adani on Tuesday said his group will invest \$20 billion over the next 10 years in renewable energy generation and component manufacturing and produce the world's cheap-

to net carbon zero by 2025, and spend over 75% of capital expenditure until 2025 in green technologies, he said. Speaking at JP Morgan India Investor Summit, the Adani Group chairman said

transmission Adani Group's "integrated

value chain, our scale and experience puts us on the path to be the producer of the least expensive green electron anywhere in the world," he said. The announcement came

weeks after India's richest man Mukesh Ambani announced an investment of \$10 billion in clean power and hydrogen fuel over 3 years. Many saw the June 24 announcement as the petrochemical czar's direct competition with India's secondwealthiest man, Mr. Adani.

Carlyle sells ₹3,267-cr. stake in SBI Cards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

U.S. private equity fund CA Rover Holdings, part of the Carlyle Group, on Tuesday sold 3.4% stake in SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd. for ₹3,267 crore through open market transactions

According to NSE bulk deal data, the PE firm sold a total of 3.2 crore shares, amounting to 3.4% stake. The shares were sold at an average price of ₹1,021.05, valuing the transaction at ₹3,267 crore. CA Rover Holdings had held a 6.5% stake at the end of June.

Meanwhile, Societe Generale purchased 85.06 lakh shares of the card issuer.

'Amazon incurs \$1.2 bn in legal fees to maintain India presence'

The amount was spent during 2018-20, say sources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

U.S. e-commerce giant Amazon, which is said to be investigating alleged bribes paid by its legal representatives in India, spent a staggering ₹8,546 crore, or \$1.2 billion in legal expenses, for maintaining a presence in the country during 2018-20, sources said.

Sources aware of the firm's public account filings said entities of Amazon - including Amazon Retail India Pvt. Ltd., Amazon Seller Services Pvt. Ltd., Amazon Transportation Services Pvt. Ltd., Amazon Wholesale (In-



Internet Services Pvt. Ltd. (AWS) – paid ₹3,420 crore in India during 2018-19 and ₹5,126 crore during 2019-20 towards legal fees.

Amazon is locked in a legal tussle over the takeover of Future Group and is facing a probe by the Competi-



tion Commission of India.

spent under legal professional fees clearly shows how Amazon and its subsidiaries are misusing their financial muscles to bribe and manipulate Indian government officials," CAIT National Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal wrote in a letter to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

A ND-NDE



U.S. not seeking a new Cold War: Biden

As we close the period of relentless war, we're opening a new era of relentless diplomacy, he says at UN

Delivering his first address at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), U.S. President Joe Biden said America was not seeking a "new Cold War" in a reference to the tensions between the U.S. and China. Mr. Biden said America was closing a chapter on "relentless war", after its exit from Afghanistan and that it was opening a chapter on diplomacy, development and renewing democracy.

"We are not seeking a new Cold War, or a world divided into rigid blocs," Mr. Biden said. "The United States is ready to work with any nation that steps up and pursues peaceful resolution to shared challenges, even if we have intense disagreement in other areas..." he said. The President did not name

He said America would compete vigorously and will stand up for its allies and oppose attempts by stronger countries to dominate weaker ones via changes to territory by force, economic coercion, technological ex-



Firm stance: U.S President Joe Biden addressing the 76th session of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday. • AFP

ploitation or using information. Over the weekend, speaking to the Associated Press, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres had asked the U.S. and China to mend their "completely dysfunctional" relationship.

"We need to avoid at all cost a Cold War that would be different from the past one, and probably more dangerous and more difficult to manage," Mr. Guterres had said.

In his speech on Monday, Mr. Biden said the world stood at an inflection point and the future would depend on how it responded to a number of crises faced by humanity - COVID-19, climate change, the choice between "universal principles" and "the pursuit of naked political power".

Democratic world

"The authoritarians of the world may seek to proclaim the end of the age of democracy, but they're wrong," Mr. Biden said. "The truth is, the democratic world is everywhere. It lives in the anticorruption activist, the human rights defenders, the journalists, the peace protesters... Mr. Biden said the U.S., for its part, would, instead of fighting the wars of the past, focus on common challenges. He included trade, cyber issues, emerging technoloevery gies and the threat of terro-

He said he was prioritising working with alliances and regional organisations, naming several, including NATO, the European Union, the Quad, the African Union and others as it focused on regions and issues of consequence. He cited the Indo-Pacific as an example of one of the most consequential regions in the world.

rism on this list.

"We've ended 20 years of conflict in Afghanistan. And as we close this period of relentless war, we're opening a new era of relentless diplomacy of using the power of our development aid to invest in new ways of lifting people up around the world; of renewing and defending democracy; of proving that no matter how challenging or how complex the problems you're going to face, government by and for the people, is still the best way to deliver for all of our people," Mr. Biden said. "U.S. military power must be our tool of last resort, not our first. It should not be used as an answer to problem we see around the world," he said. He dwelt on forms of U.S. engagement - such as vaccines, and funding to tackle the climate crisis.

Iran deal

The President said the U.S. was willing to return to full compliance with the Iran nuclear deal if Iran did the same. He also said he was seeking the "complete denuclearisation" of the Korean peninsula and that the U.S. believed in the two state solution, emphasising its support for Israel, which he characterised as "unequivocal".

Mentioning the August terror attack at Kabul airport, Mr. Biden said the U.S. was adept at fighting terrorism without large-scale military deployments – such as by dismantling terror net-

dians didn't want a Conser-

vative government during a

pandemic. Canada has one

of the highest vaccination

rates in the world, and Mr.

Trudeau's government spent

hundreds of billions of dol-

lars to prop up the economy

amid lockdowns. Mr. Tru-

deau argued that the Conser-

vatives' approach, which has

been sceptical of lockdowns

and vaccine mandates,

Evergrande crisis poses a dilemma for China's regulators

The real estate firm is struggling to make interest payments

ANANTH KRISHNAN

A growing crisis at troubled Chinese real estate giant Evergrande, which appears likely to default on interest payments this week, has posed a hard choice for regulators of China's ruling Communist Party, as they look to contain the fallout while pushing ahead with leader Xi Jinping's ongoing crackdown on debt.

China's second-largest property developer - and the world's most indebted real estate firm with \$300 billion of liabilities - faces interest payments this week that it is struggling to make, sparking broader concerns on the impact on China's real estate market, a key driver of growth in the world's second-largest economy.

While China's authorities had many levers at their disposal to manage the debt crisis and avoid a "hard landing", they still face a challenge, the Asian Development Bank's Director of Macroeconomic Research, Abdul Abiad, said on Tuesday.

The Evergrande situation "warrants careful monitoring", he said, "because housing is an important component of the Chinese economy and makes up a substantial portion of house hold wealth" and property sector troubles would have "knock-on effects on the broader economy". At the same time, he said, the Chinese banking system is adequately capitalised to absorb the Evergrande shock if it materialises. The People's Bank of China, the central bank, last week injected \$14 billion into the system to address liquidity concerns.

Indeed, the background



Empty shells: Vehicles driving past unfinished residential buildings in Luoyang. • REUTERS

to the crisis at already debtheavy Evergrande lies in a concerted push by the Communist Party regulators, starting last August, to enforce "three red lines" to regulate the borrowings of real estate firms "by defining thresholds on liability-to-asset ratio at 70%, net debt-toequity ratio of 100%, and cash-to-short-term debt multiple of more than one time", the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported. Failure to meet these targets would restrict access to loans, pushing many real estate developers to restructure starting last year as well as halt many projects.

Wider crisis

But whether or not the Communist Party feels the need to step in to stave off a wider crisis stemming from Evergrande's expected defaults remains unclear. State media have in recent weeks warned real estate developers to not expect bailouts, although the broader concern is the impact on China's financial system with banks standing to lose billions of

"We don't expect government actions to help Evergrande unless systemic stability is at risk," S&P Global Ratings said in a research note reported by the Post. "Government support to prevent a default is only likely if contagion risks cause other large developers to fail. This could threaten the stability of the financial system and economy. We think the hit to the financial system from Evergrande alone will be manageable," the note said.

The Communist Party will, at the same time, also be concerned by the anger of thousands of homeowners who have already paid up for homes that may now never materialise, as well as the fears of thousands of others who had purchased a range of wealth management products from the company and now face losses. Last week, around 100 angry investors gathered at Evergrande's headquarters in Shenzhen, prompting the deployment of security personnel there. "A company as big as yours," one of the protesters was quoted as saying by Reuters, "how much money has been swindled from ordinary people?"

(With inputs from Vikas Dhoot)

Trudeau's party secures victory in Canada

The Liberal Party got most seats, but failed to clinch a majority on its own

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party secured victory in the parliamentary elections but failed to get the majority he wanted in a vote that focused on the coronavirus pandemic but that many Canadians unnecessary.

Mr. Trudeau entered Monday's election leading a stable minority government that wasn't under threat of being toppled – but he was hoping Canadians would reward him with a majority for navigating the pandemic better than many other leaders. Still, Mr. Trudeau struggled to justify why he called the election early given the virus, and the Opposition was relentless in accusing him of holding the vote two years before the deadline for his

In the end, the gamble did not pay off, and the results



Justin Trudeau

nearly mirrored those of two years ago. The Liberal Party was leading or elected in 158 seats – one more than they won 2019, and 12 short of the 170 needed for a majority in the House of Commons.

The Conservatives were leading or elected in 119 seats, two less than they won in 2019. The leftist New Democrats were leading or elected in 25, while the Bloc Québécois were leading or elected in 34 and the Greens were down to two. "You are sending us back

to work with a clear mandate to get Canada through this pandemic," Mr. Trudeau said. "I hear you when you say you just want to get back to the things you love and not worry about this pandemic or an election."

Mr. Trudeau bet Cana-

would be dangerous. Mr. Trudeau supports making vaccines mandatory for Canadians to travel by air or rail, something the Conservatives oppose.

⁺ Taliban double down on all-male Cabinet

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Taliban expanded their interim Cabinet by naming more Ministers and deputies on Tuesday, but failed to appoint any women, doubling down on a hard-line course despite the international outcry that followed their initial presentation of an all-male government line-up earlier this month.

At a news conference on Tuesday, Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid held out the possibility of adding women to the Cabinet at a later time, but gave no specifics. He also said the Taliban are preparing rules for allowing teenage girls and women to re-

ELSEWHERE

Sudan government says

it foiled coup attempt

Sudan's fragile transitional

government said it foiled an

attempted coup on Tuesday

involving military officers and

civilians linked to the ousted

regime of long-time autocrat

Minister Abdalla Hamdok (in

photo) said the coup attempt

was the "latest manifestation

reference to deep divisions in

of the national crisis", in

Sudan during its move to

Suu Kyi goes on trial,

Myanmar's junta has put

ousted leader Aung San Suu

lawyer said on Tuesday, the

could see her jailed for

decades. She pleaded not

guilty to charges of incite-

she "seemed to be in good

skipped a separate hearing because she felt unwell. AFP

health," a week after she

ment, her lawyer said, adding

latest in a list of charges that

Kyi on trial for incitement, her

pleads not guilty

democracy. AFP

Omar al-Bashir, Prime

KHARTOUM

'Rift emerges between factions'

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL

Even though the Taliban have managed to capture Afghanistan and form a government, a rift has started to emerge between the factions in the group, media reports said.

Writing for *The Spectator*, David Loyn said that Taliban co-founder Mullah Baradar

had expected to run the government but was instead given a deputy's role. Baradar wanted more

roles for Afghanistan's many ethnic minorities in the government and has also argued that the green, red and black Afghan national flag should still be flown alongside the white Taliban

turn to schools and jobs in

line with Islamic law, but did

not say when that might

est additions to the Cabinet,

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The European Court of Hu-

man Rights on Tuesday

backed the conclusion of a

British inquiry that Russia

was responsible for the kill-

ing of Alexander Litvinenko,

a former Russian spy who

died in London in 2006 af-

ter drinking tea laced with a

A former agent for the

radioactive material.

saying they included members of ethnic minorities,

such as the Hazaras. He said

He bristled at internation-

happen. the deputies were chosen for Mujahid defended the lattheir technical skills.

Russia behind Litvinenko

murder, rights court rules

Former spy was poisoned in London

saying there was no reason for withholding it. "It is the responsibility of

al conditions for recognition,

the United Nations to recognise our government (and) for other countries, including European, Asian and Islamic countries, to have diplomatic relations with us,"

Mujahid played down the financial problems, saying that much of the foreign aid to the previous government - widely seen as corrupt was spent on funding America's 20-year war against the Taliban.

He suggested Afghanistan could manage without that aid, saying the country had sufficient resources.

charged for

Mr. Skripal and his daughter were left fighting for their lives after the attack in March 2018 while a police officer investigating the case fell seriously ill and a local woman who came into contact with the

plomatic ties between Britain and Russia that were already strained by the 2006 radiation poisoning of former spy Alexander Litvinenko.

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cluded in early 2016 that

voi and Dmitry Kovtun had killed Litvinenko, and that Russian President Vladimir Putin had "probably approved" the operation. Both Mr. Lugovoi and Mr. Kovtun have denied any involvement in the killing.

Litvinenko's widow, Marina, took the case to the Strasbourg-based court, vowing to get justice for her husband.

KGB spy agency and its post-Soviet successor agency FSB, Litvinenko defected from Russia in 2000 and fled to London. While in Britain, Litvinenko became involved in exposing corruption and links to organised crime in the Russian intellijudgment.

gence service. He fell violently ill on November 1, 2006, after drinking tea with two Russian men at a London hotel, and spent three weeks in hospital before he died. His tea was found to have been Kremlin spokesman Dmilaced with radioactive polo-

nium-210. The British inquiry con-

Russian agents Andrei Lugo-

"The Court found in par-

ticular that there was a strong prima facie case that, in poisoning Litvinenko, Mr. Lugovoi and Mr. Kovtun had been acting as agents of the Russian State," it said in its The European court re-

jected Ms. Marina's claim for "punitive" damages, though it did order Russia to pay her 100,000 euros in damages and 22,500 euros in

try Peskov brushed aside the court judgment. "We're not ready to take such rulings on board," he said.

Third Russian attack on spy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Britain said on Tuesday a third Russian had been charged in absentia with the 2018 Novichok murder attempt on former double agent Sergei Skripal, saying they could also now confirm that the three suspects were military intelligence operatives.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said Britain "will not tolerate such malign activity" and said it had applied for an Interpol notice to detain and extradite all three from abroad if given the chance.

nerve agent later died.

The incident soured di-

Tyagi's sensational final over helps Rajasthan pull off a royal heist

With four needed off six balls, the speedster concedes just one run; left-arm seamer Arshdeep's five-for goes in vain as the Punjab side falls agonisingly short

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

Dajasthan Royals staged None of IPL's most dramatic jailbreaks on Tuesday. A defeat had looked a certainty at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, with Puniab Kings needing just eight runs from the last two overs.

With two set batsmen in Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran at the crease, it should have been a walk in the park for Punjab. But the penultimate over from Mustafizur Rahman yielded only

Still, Punjab was the favourite when Kartik Tyagi began his run-up for the final over. Off his third ball, he had Pooran caught behind. After bowling a dot ball to Deepak Hooda, he had him too, edging to Sanju Samson behind the stumps.

Tyagi gave no opportunity for the new man Fabian Allen to be a hero. Instead, with another dot ball, the young pacer became the unlikely hero as Royals won by two

Costly mistakes

Sloppy fielding and a poor finish to the innings could have proved very costly for Royals. K.L. Rahul was dropped three times as the Punjab captain (49, 33b, 4x4, 2x6) and his Karnataka teammate Mayank Agarwal (67,





Young guns on fire: The 20-year-old Tyagi's dream final over pulled off a dramatic win for Royals after Arshdeep, 22, put the skids on Rajasthan. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

43b, 7x4, 2x6) put on 120.

Royals, put in, had made 185. The main reason for the Royals' retreat after a fine start was Arshdeep Singh. The 22-year-old left-arm seamer bowled superbly to take his first five-wicket haul in the IPL, showing yet again that he has a mature head on young shoulders.

Arshdeep provided the breakthrough after the Royals' new opening pair of Evin Lewis (36, 21b, 7x4, 1x6) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (49, 36b, 6x4, 2x6) raised fifty inside five overs.

The West Indian, in his first game for RR, was looking

in good nick when he was caught by a diving Mayank at extra-cover.

Arshdeep also removed two other dangerous-looking batsmen - Liam Livingstone (25, 17b, 2x4, 1x6) and Mahipal Lomror (43, 17b, 2x4, 4x6). He gave the finishing touches to the innings too,

The final over ■ 01 W 0 W 0 (Runs

taking two wickets off the last two balls. However, it was Tyagi's remarkable final six deliveries that won the night.

needed 4; Bowler Tyagi)

Innings scan 46 Dots 18 57/1 49/0 9.25

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Evin Lewis c Mayank b Arshdeep 36 (21b, 7x4, 1x6), Yashasvi Jaiswal c Mayank b Harpreet 49 (36b, 6x4, 2x6), Sanju Samson c Rahul b Porel 4 (5b), Liam Livingstone c Allen b Arshdeep 25 (17b, 2x4, 1x6), Mahipal Lomror c Markram b Arshdeep 43 (17b, 2x4, 4x6), Riyan Parag c Markram b Shami 4 (5b), Rahul Tewatia b Shami 2 (5b), Chris Morris c Markram b Shami 5 (5b), Chetan Sakariya c & b Arshdeep 7 (6b, 1x4), Kartik Tyagi b Arshdeep 1 (3b), Mustafizur Rahman (not out) O (Ob); Extras (lb-4, w-5): 9; Total (in 20 overs): 185.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-54 (Lewis, 5.3 overs), 2-68 (Samson, 7.1), 3-116 (Livingstone, 11.5), 4-136 (Jaiswal, 14.2), 5-166 (Parag, 16.3), 6-169 (Lomror, 17.1), 7-175 (Tewatia, 18.1), 8-178 (Morris, 18.5),

9-185 (Sakariya, 19.5). **PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING** Shami 4-0-21-3, Porel 4-0-39-1, Hooda 2-0-37-0, Arshdeep 4-0-32-5, Adil 3-0-35-0,

PUNJAB KINGS

K.L. Rahul c Tvagi b Sakariva 49 (33b, 4x4, 2x6), Mayank Agarwal c Livingstone b Tewatia 67 (43b, 7x4, 2x6), Aiden Markram (not out) 26 (20b. 2x4. 1x6). Nicholas Pooran c Samson b Tyagi 32 (22b, 1x4, 2x6), Deepak Hooda c Samson b Tyagi O (2b), Fabian Allen (not out) O (1b); Extras (w-8, nb-1): 9; Total (for

four wkts. in 20 overs): 183 **FALL OF WICKETS** 1-120 (Rahul, 11.5), 2-126 (Mayank, 12.6), 3-183 (Pooran, 19.3), 4-183 (Hooda, 19.5).

ROYALS BOWLING Mustafizur 4-0-30-0, Sakariya 3-0-31-1, Tyaqi 4-0-29-2, Morris 4-0-47-0, Tewatia 3-0-23-1, Lomror 1-0-7-0, Parag 1-0-16-0.

Toss: PBKS; MoM: Tyagi. Royals won by two runs.

Next assignment

RR: Sept. 25 vs DC, Abu Dhabi, 3.30 p.m. IST PBKS: Sept. 25 vs SRH, Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

Points Table

Harpreet 3-0-17-1.

eam	M	w	L	PTS	NRR
hennai Super Kings	8	6	2	12	1.223
elhi Capitals	8	6	2	12	0.547
oyal Challengers	8	5	3	10	-0.706
lumbai Indians	8	4	4	8	-0.071
ajasthan Royals	8	4	4	8	-0.154
olkata Knight Riders	8	3	5	6	0.110
unjab Kings	9	3	6	6	-0.345
unrisers Hyderabad	7	1	6	2	-0.623

After the PBKS-RR match on Sept. 21

Determined Capitals face desperate Sunrisers

SPORTS BUREAU

Collowing contrasting runs in the Indian leg this edition, Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad face off eyeing a common goal - resuming their Indian Premier League campaigns with a victory in Dubai.

If the numbers from the previous editions are pointers to the future, then teams target 16 points to reach the playoffs in an eight-team field.

Going by that indicator, DC is just two wins away from playoffs while SRH needs seven victories in as many matches to make the grade.

With the teams returning after more than four-and-ahalf months, players will have to find their form. The last time the two met, DC

TODAY'S MATCH



In 2021

Played 1 | DC 1 | SRH 0

STAR SPORTS 1 & SS SELECT 1 (SD & HD) won in a Super Over. Since then, SRH lost two more matches even as Kane Williamson replaced David Warner as skipper, three days

DC, with quality players in all departments, will start as the favourite. The return of Shreyas Iyer lends further

before IPL was postponed in

solidity to the side that is looking to do one better than its runner-up finish in Dubai last year.

Bowling attack better

SRH, let down by its bowlers so far, will look to a fully fit Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Rashid Khan, Sandeep Sharma, Siddarth Kaul, and options like all-rounders Jason Holder, Mohammad Nabi, Vijay Shankar and Kedar Jadhav, to justify their reputation.

The SRH batting, relying heavily on Warner and Williamson, will miss wicketkeeper-opener Jonny Bair-

This brings a chance for Wriddhiman Saha to play in the top order. In the otherwise brittle middle-order, Manish Pandey's utility can never be overestimated

Who is Venkatesh Iyer? All about the KKR left-hander who became the talking point on Monday, thanks to his breezy knock (41 not out, 27b, 7x4, 1x6) against RCB Indore, Madhya Pradesh Place of birth Major Madhya Pradesh **BATTING**

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	50s/100s	
First Class	10	15	545	93	36.33	54.33	6/0	
List A	24	22	849	198	47.16	98.72	3/2	
T20s	39	33	765	88 n.o.	38.25	138.33	2/0	
He is also a right-arm medium-pacer								
ROWI ING								

First Cl debut List A debut	.ass	Indore	rashtra,	In be sr ag _ Ti
T20s	T20s 39		21	2/
List A	24	15	10	2/

12 | 31.50 | 5.38 35.10 10 | 25.76 | 6.98 22.10 n his previous visit to the crease, efore the IPL debut, Venkatesh mashed 198 (146b, 20x4, 7x6) aainst Puniab in a Viiav Hazare rophy match at Indore in ebruary, 2021 SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

Taliban bans **IPL** broadcast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Taliban-ruled Afghanistan has banned the broadcast of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in the country over the presence of "female audience and spectators" in stadiums.

"Afghanistan national (TV) will not broadcast the @IPL as usual as it was reportedly banned to live (sic) the matches resumed tonight due to possible anti-islam contents, girls dancing & the attendance of barred hair women in the (stadium) by Islamic Emirates of the Taliban," former Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) media manager and journalist M. Ibrahim Momand had tweeted when the IPL action resumed.

'Next few years are going to be tough'

Coach Zeeshan feels the time has come to blood a new generation

DAVIS CUP

N. SUDARSHAN BENGALURU

India's tame 1-3 defeat to Finland in a Davis Cup World Group-I tie last weekend has raised fresh questions about the standard of the sport in the country. There is currently no Indian men's singles player ranked in the top-150, and this year, Sumit Nagal's first round appearance in the Australian Open – courtesy a wild card - was the lone Major main draw singles match featuring an Indian. Zeeshan Ali, Davis Cup coach, in an interview, said the next few years will be a period of painful rebuilding. Excerpts:

What were the reasons for the loss?

Both against Croatia's Borna Gojo (rank 277) in the World Group qualifier last year and Finland's Otto Virtanen (rank 419), we were hoping that Prainesh [Gunneswaran] would win. He was ranked around 150. In Davis Cup, rankings don't always matter but the player has to play as per his ranking. Yes, Virtanen played like a top-100 player, but it cannot always be the case that only your opponent rises to the occasion.

It has been six years since an Indian beat a higherranked player in the Davis Cup (164-Somdev Devvarman against 40-Jiri Vesely in 2015). You have to reach beyond what you are capable of and the biggest example is Leander Paes. Ramkumar's matches against [Marin] Cilic and [Emil] Ruusuvuori were close, but it never felt like he was in a position to win. The difference in class and the level of tennis showed.

Doubles specialists are also ageing. Is the cupboard

No doubt the next few years are going to be tough. We have just two or three players to rely on. Sumit, Ramkumar and Yuki [Bhambri], if fit. We need to consistently play top-100 level tennis. Our players should compete in bigger events consistently, not just Chal lengers, so that they know what to do against top-notch opponents like Cilic. We need to start building a younger team, with 17 and 18-year-olds, and invest time and money in those with hunger.

Do you see any positive

It's a little hazy. Sumit needs to play, and Sasi Kumar [Mukund] also. It was a bit disappointing to see them skipping Davis Cup to play Challengers. In our days, Davis Cup meant so much. You are not just doing it for yourself, but for the country. That feeling and emotional connect seem to be lacking now [in the younger generation]. Sumit, Ramkumar... these are the guys who can still deliver. And we need the younger guys to

How much is India's tennis ecosystem to blame?

step up in doubles.

The top-200 players need to be playing bigger events. As far as I know, ATP 250 in Pune is not happening in 2022. So, the next big tournament will be end of 2022 or early 2023. Where does that leave our players? One event of that calibre is not enough. We need to have four or five.

Nothing to cheer about: Prajnesh and Ramkumar's presence could not turn the tide in favour of the Zeeshan- and Rohit Rajpal-trained side against Finland. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Australia steamrollers off-colour India

Haynes, Healy and Lanning make it a no contest; Mithali's knock to no avail

INDIA IN AUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MACKAY

India's frailties in the batting and bowling departments were laid bare as mighty Australia gave the visitors a nine-wicket hiding in the first women's ODI to extend its record winning streak to 25 matches.

India, which is aiming to post 250-plus regularly to challenge the likes of Australia, could only manage 225 for eight. Darcie Brown returned a 4/33.

Fifth on the trot

Skipper Mithali Raj (61 off 107) recorded her fifth consecutive fifty, which was also her 59th overall, while the other contributions came from debutants Yastika Bhatia (35 off 51), Richa Ghosh (32 n.o. off 29) and veteran

pacer Jhulan Goswami (20 off 24).

Australia gunned down the target in 41 overs as India's bowling lacked teeth. The four-time World Cupwinner last lost an ODI in October 2017. After a sedate start of 30

openers Alyssa Healy (77 off 77) and Rachael Haynes (93 n.o. 100) changed gears to run away with the game. Healy was the aggressor in their 126-run stand with her

dominating knock comprising eight fours and couple of She was eventually caught at mid-off trying to hit anoth-

Haynes and skipper Meg Lanning (53 n.o. off 69) then shared a 101-run stand to take Australia to a resound-



Good day at office: Darcie Brown celebrates after dismissing Yastika Bhatia, one of her four victims. • GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Shafali Verma c Healy b Brown 8 (10b, 2x4), Smriti Mandhana c Haynes b Brown 16 (18b, 1x4), Yastika Bhatia c Haynes b Brown 35 (51b, 2x4), Mithali Raj st. Healy b Molineux 61 (109b, 3x4), Deepti Sharma c Wareham b Brown 9 (19b, 1x4), Pooja Vastrakar c Molineux b Darlington 17 (28b, 1x4), Richa Ghosh (not out) 32 (29b, 3x4, 1x6), Sneh Rana b Darlington 2 (11b), Jhulan Goswami st. Healy b Molineux 20 (24b, 1x4, 1x6), Meghna Singh (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (b-2, lb-3, w-19): 24; Total (for eight wkts. in 50

FALL OF WICKETS 1-31 (Shafali, 3.3 overs), 2-38

(Smriti, 5.1), 3-115 (Yastika, 26.1), 4-129 (Deepti, 30.3), 5-166 (Mithali, 37.4), 6-172 (Pooja, 40.1), 7-178 (Sneh, 42.5), 8-223 (Jhulan, 49.3). **AUSTRALIA BOWLING**

Perry 4-0-37-0, Brown 9-1-

33-4, McGrath 6-0-34-0, Gardner 4-1-12-0. Molineux 9-0-39-2, Wareham 10-0-36-0, Darlington 8-1-29-2. **AUSTRALIA**

Rachael Haynes (not out) 93 (100b, 7x4), Alyssa Healy c Pooja b Poonam 77 (77b, 8x4, 2x6), Meg Lanning (not out) 53 (69b, 7x4); Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4;

Total (for one wkt. in 41 overs):

FALL OF WICKET 1-126 (Healy, 21.2).

INDIA BOWLING Jhulan 10-0-38-0, Meghna 6-

0-27-0, Pooja 2-0-26-0, Deepti 4-0-31-0, Poonam 10-0-58-1, Sneh 9-1-46-0

Toss: Australia. Player-of-the-Match: Brown.

Australia won by nine wickets with 54 balls to spare and took a 1-0 lead in three-match series. Second ODI: Sept. 24, 10.40

a.m. IST.

Australian women notch up 25 not out

Streak began in 2018 in Vadodara

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

It all began on an insanely hot day at Vadodara. In front of a big crowd,

Australia defeated India by eight wickets with nearly 18 overs to spare in the first Women's ODI at the Reliance Cricket Stadium.

That was on March 12, 2018. More than three years later, the women in yellow have yet to lose an ODI. On Tuesday, they beat India by nine wickets at Mackay to register their 25th straight

They had broken the record earlier in the year when they beat New Zealand in the first of a threematch series at Mount Maunganui. With that victory, they went past the 21match streak of Australia's men's team. Ricky Ponting's men had achieved their feat

For the record, after whitewashing the host in Vadodara - it was sweet revenge for their stunning loss to the Indians in the World Cup semifinal in the previous year - the Australian women won the three-match series against Pakistan at Kuala Lumpur, New Zealand in Australia, England in England, West Indies in the West Indies and against Sri

Lanka and New Zealand in Australia.

Women's cricket hasn't probably seen a team quite like this. "This is the strongest women's team I have ever come across," says former India all-rounder and commentator Reema Malhotra.

'They are such a dominant

side with great depth." She believes the team draws its strength from its domestic cricket and excellent selection policy. "The Women's Big Bash League has helped their players immensely," says Reema. "And the Australian selectors tend to pick the right players. They reward hard work and back their players, even if some of them go through a

Truly remarkable Sujith Sumasunder, former

tough period."

India opener and Head of Education at the NCA, and one who is doing his PhD in sports psychology, says what the Australian women's team is doing is truly remarkable. "When a team goes through a phase like this, nothing less than a win is expected of them," he says. "And when they dominate the way they do, like Clive Lloyd's West Indies side used to, they can intimidate the opposition."

TV PICKS

IPL 2021: Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. AFC Cup 2021: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3,

IN BRIEF



Beckham's son Romeo makes pro debut

Former England captain David Beckham's 19-year-old son Romeo made his professional soccer debut for Inter Miami's reserve team over the weekend. REUTERS



Messi has knee injury, to miss next Ligue 1 game

Lionel Messi will miss Paris Saint-Germain's game away to Metz on Wednesday due to a knee injury, the Lique 1 leader announced. The Argentine star underwent an MRI on Tuesday after taking a knock to his left knee. AFP

Ultimatum to UEFA over Super League ruling

A Spanish judge gave UEFA five days to confirm it will abide by the court's ruling and not punish Real Madrid. Barcelona and Juventus for their involvement in the Super League. AP

Randeep Barua posts win

SPORTS BUREAU

Randeep Barua beat M. Kantimahanthu Roop 5-7, 7-6(2), 6-1 in the pre-quarterfinals of the over-55 event in the ITF Seniors tennis tournament at the Singha Sports Academy on Tuesday. Rain intervened on the second day's schedule, and matches had to be played late in the evening under floodlights.

The results: Over-35 (prequarterfinals): Narendra Choudhary bt Gauray Oberoi 6-0, 6-0; Rewant Datta bt Rohan Narayan 6-2, 6-0; Avinash Kunwar bt Pankaj Ahlawat 6-1, 6-1; Sachin Patil bt Swarnesh Chaturvedi 6-0,

Over-55 (pre-quarterfinals): Randeep Barua bt M. Kantimahanthu Roop 5-7, 7-6(2), 6-1; Rakesh Kohli bt Atigur Rahman 6-0, 6-0; Bhushan Akur bt Naresh Vij 6-0, 6-0; Over-65 (league): Murthati Suresh bt Narahari Kadekar 6-0, 6-1; Vinayak Gujrathi bt Rymbai Hydar Ali 6-1, 6-4: Mridulal Barkakoti bt Narahari Kadekar 6-0, 6-0; Narender Janweja bt Rymbai Hydar Ali 6-1, 3-2 (retired).

Rohit punches his way to glory

Varinder exudes class to retain his title; Shiva Thapa reigns again

NATL. BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI VIJAYNAGAR

Delhi teenager Rohit Mor punched above his weight to Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin and win his maiden title in the National boxing championships at the Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS) here on Tuesday.

Nineteen-year-old Rohit, a 2020 Khelo India champion, heavily relied on his fabulous footwork and defensive skills to beat Hussamuddin, the 69kg defending champion, 5-0 in the 71kg final.

Using his height

Rohit used his height to his advantage as he boxed from a long range. He moved swiftly and ducked smartly when Hussamuddin dashed forward to attack in the first two rounds. A frustrated Hussamuddin went all out to catch up in the final round, but could not succeed.

"I had done my homework well and my footwork really helped. I need to work on my strength and punching," Rohit said.

Defending champion Varinder Singh was a class act as he retained the 60kg



better of Mohd. Hussamuddin. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

crown. Moving like a dancer, the Asian bronze medallist entertained by dictating the displaying superb counter-punching and showcasing some gamesmanship. He outwitted the talented Etash Khan Muhammed of Services 5-0

Championships World bronze medallist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) claimed his fifth National title, while 'Best Boxer' Deepak Kumar (51kg) took his second.

The results (finals): 48kg: Govind Sahani (RSPB) bt Kuldeep Kumar (Chd) 5-0; 51kg: Deepak (RSPB) 5-0. Kumar (SSCB) bt Ankit (Har)

54kg: Akash (SSCB) bt Rajpinder Singh (Pun) 3-2; 57kg: Rohit Mor (Del) bt Mohd, Hussamuddin (SSCB) 5-0; 60kg: Varinder Singh (RSPB) bt Etash Khan Muhammed (SSCB) 5-0.

63.5kg: Shiva Thapa (Asm) bt Dalveer Singh Tomar (SSCB) 5-0; 67kg: Akash (SSCB) bt Aditya Pratap Yadav (UP) 5-0; 71kg: Nishant Dev (Kar) bt Amit Kumar (DDNH) 5-0; 75kg: Sumit (SSCB) bt Rohit Tokas

80kg: Sachin Kumar (SSCB) bt Vinit (Har) 4-1; 86kg: Lakshya (SSCB) bt Prayag Chauhan (RSPB) 5-0.

92kg: Sanjeet (SSCB) bt Naveen Kumar (Har) 5-0; 92+kg: Narender Kumar (SSCB) bt Sagar (Chd) 4-1.

Best boxer: Deepak Kumar (SSCB): Best promising boxer: Nishant Dev (Kar); Team championship: Winner: Services: Runner-up: Railways.

'We need to put all effort for a good 2024 Games'

BFI president Ajay Singh stresses on a better identification programme

Y.B. SARANGI VIIAYNAGAR

With an objective to achieve a better performance in the 2024 Paris Olympics, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) is thinking of making some changes and resuming competitions, including the India Open and the boxing league, sooner than later.

Speaking to The Hindu here on Tuesday, BFI president Ajay Singh said the review of the Tokyo Olympics would be done with an aim to get better results in Paris.

"We are doing the review. Also we are looking at 2024. Part of the reason we are here is to see how our boxers are doing and identify some good support staff. We need to look at 2024 and 2028 and see what best we can do. "The performance in the

Olympics was not as good as we wanted it to be. Certainly we will make some changes. We need to put all our energy and effort to ensure we've a good 2024 Games," said Ajay Singh.

The BFI chief said some steps, including changing the boxer identification programme and conducting the boxing league again, would be on the priority list.

"We want to ensure that we have a better boxer identification programme in terms of having more Open championships so that we are not dependent only on the National structure for boxer identification. We want to promote the (Indian) Boxing League and Fight Nights in a big way.

"We want boxing to be part of India's sporting culture. In the long term that's the vision and that's what will get us medals like some other countries. I think India is on the cusp of medals in boxing, whether that happens in 2024 or 2028.

"We are discussing with the licensees of the League. We are also discussing a proposal for the Fight Nights. We should get going really

Ajay Singh said the India Open, which was held up due to COVID-19, would resume soon

"In India Open, we expect to get 25 teams early next year. We can have three or four of our teams and we would get much more training and exposure," he said.

Praggs in second spot

CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

R. Praggnanandhaa returned to winning ways by beating compatriot Aditya Mittal and moved up to the second place behind Germany's Vincent Keymer after 14 rounds of the Hou Yifan Challenge online rapid chess tournament on Tuesday.

Praggnanandhaa (10.5 points from 14 rounds), who won nine rounds on the first two days, went winless on Monday after suffering three losses - to USA's Christopher Yoo, Keymer and fellow Indian Leon Mendonca.

Before suffering his third loss of the day, Praggnanandha drew with USA's Abhimanyu Mishra, the world's voungest Grandmaster.

Keymer (11 points from 13 rounds) defeated Praggnanandhaa's sister R. Vaishali in Tuesday's opening round to stay atop the points table.

Mendonca was fifth with 7.5 points from 13 rounds while Mittal and Vaishali were tied eighth with 6.5 points from 13 rounds.

Ramkumar in pre-quarters

SPORTS BUREAU

Davis Cupper Ramkumar Ramanathan knocked out his doubles partner and fourth seed Tomas Machac of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-2 in the first round of the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament here on

In the Challenger in Bucharest, Sumit Nagal was beaten 3-6, 7-5, 7-5 by Lorenzo Giustino of Italy in the first round.

Other results: \$15,000 ITF men, Cairo, Egypt: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Billy Harris (GBR) & Palaphoom Kovapitukted (Tha) bt Diego Augusto Barreto Sanchez (Esp) & Rishab Agarwal 6-4, 5-7, [10-8]; Emiliano Maggioli & Gian Marco Ortenzi (Ita) bt Cedric Stanke (Ger) & Karan Singh 6-2, 6-4.

Davide Galoppini & Marco Miceli (Ita) bt SD Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-4, 6-3. \$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quar-

Darras (Fra) bt Niki Poonacha & Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 7-6(2), 6-3.

& Ashmitha Easwaramurthi bt Sholokhova (Rus) 1-6, 7-5, [11-9].

Delhi FC stuns Blasters, in quarters

BFC bounces back from a two-goal deficit to beat Indian Navy

DURAND CUP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Second Division side Delhi FC sprang a surprise as it downed former Indian Super League (ISL) runner-up Kerala Blasters FC by a solitary goal in its concluding Group C league match at Kalyani Stadium before progressing to the quarterfinals of the 130th Durand Cup football.

The other ISL side in the

group, Bengaluru FC, did a spectacular turnaround when it erased a two-goal deficit to beat regimental side Indian Navy 5-3 and cemented its position on top of the group standings.

Delhi FC, which ended with a win and a draw, took the second spot in the group to join Bengaluru FC (seven points from two wins and a draw) in the knockout stage. Kerala Blasters and Indian

Navy, which had three points each to their name, crashed out of the tournaThe results:

ment.

Bengaluru FC 5 (Leon Augustine 53, Harmanpreet Singh 61, 81, Ajay Chhetri 75-pen, Huidrom Thoi Singh 90+2) bt Indian Navy 3 (Jijo F. 19, Sreyas V.G. 30. J. Vijay 90 + 4). Delhi FC 1 (Willis Plaza 53) bt

Kerala Blasters O. The quarterfinal line-up: Sept. 23: Mohammedan Sporting vs Gokulam Kerala FC.

Sept. 24: Army Red vs FC Bengaluru United, FC Goa vs Delhi

Sept. 25: Bengaluru FC vs Army

Solaris leads Maximus

BRIDGE

NEW DELHI

Solaris led Maximus by 18 IMPs after two rounds of 10 boards in the quarterfinals of the Team of four Gold event in the 18th HCL International bridge championship played virtually on the Real Bridge platform on Tuesday.

Solaris had 66 points to 48 by Maximus with two more rounds left in the quarterfinals.

quarterfinal In other

matches, Russia led Shree Cement by nine IMPs, Texan Aces was dominating Monica Jajoo by 36 IMPs, and Formidables lived up to its name for a 66-17 lead over Slammers.

Similarly, in the Team of four Silver event, Pravas led Jiya by eight IMPs in the quarterfinals at the end of two of four rounds of ten boards each. In other matches, Dr. SSMC led Sahyadri 59-38, Talluri led Dr. Sanghi 75-65 and Ganga Gomti was 74-49 ahead of Jagoron.

The results: Team of four Gold (pre-quar-

terfinals): Maximus bt Arun Jain 114-66; Russia bt Hope N Prey 148-44; Texan Aces bt Diamond Harbour Slammers bt Podram 105-74; Formidables bt Bedis 65-55: Monica Jaioo bt Leslie 91-87: Shree Cement bt Maya Meera Sneha 96-55; Solaris bt Aristos

Team of four Silver (pre-quar-

Prayas bt Tarun 74-64; Dr. SSMC bt TBA 112-75; Talluri bt Snapdragon 108-18; Jagoron bt Prabhav 154-36: Ganga Gomti bt Surprise 129-42; Dr. Sanghi bt Great Royals 96-79; Sahvadri bt MG Sports 100-56: Jiya bt Spartans 112-70.

Barca held by winless Granada

Coach Koeman under the cosh; Napoli romps to a big win

EURO LEAGUES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Less than a week after a demoralising loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League, Barcelona faltered at Camp Nou again, being held by winless Granada 1-1 in the Spanish league.

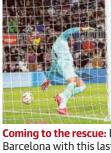
Barcelona needed a 90thminute equaliser by defender Ronald Araujo, sparking jeers by many in the crowd of nearly 27,000 on Monday.

The setback added pressure on coach Ronald Koeman and club president Joan Laporta. The draw left Barcelona in seventh place, five points from leader Real Madrid with a game in hand.

Heading ahead

Coached by former Spain manager Robert Moreno, Granada opened the scoring two minutes into the match with a header by Domingos Duarte off a set-piece.

Barcelona squandered two great chances to equalize before halftime - Sergi Roberto hit the crossbar from inside the area and Araujo's header was brilliantly saved by Granada goalkeeper Luis Maximiano. Memphis Depay and Luuk





Coming to the rescue: Ronald Araujo, jersey No. 4, bails out Barcelona with this last-gasp goal. • REUTERS

de Jong also failed to capitalise on scoring chances in the second half, but Araujo finally broke through with a close-range header in the Veteran defender Gerard Pique played as a striker af-

ter coming into the game in the final minutes. Napoli moved top of Serie A on Monday thanks to a 4-0 stroll at Udinese which

made sure it maintained its 100 percent start to the season.

Perfect 12

Goals from Victor Osimhen, Amir Rrahmani, Kalidou Koulibaly and Hirving Lozano earned Luciano Spalletti's side an impressive win at the Dacia Arena which gives four games, two points ahead of Inter Milan and AC Milan, who sit second and third respectively. Roma is a further point

it a perfect 12 points from

back alongside Fiorentina as Napoli remains the only team to win all of its matches so far this term in Italy's top flight.

Udinese lost for the first time this season and sits seventh, level on seven points with Lazio, Atalanta and Bologna as Napoli gave off early being signs contenders.

The results: LaLiga: Barcelona 1 (Araujo 90) drew with Granada 1 (Duarte 2).

Serie A. Udinese O lost to Napoli 4 (Osimhen 24, Rrahmani 35, Koulibaly 52, Lozano 84).

terfinals): Ajeet Rai (Nzl) & Giorgio Ricca (Ita) bt Andrej Duric (BIH) & Krithik Maknur Shivaram 6-2, 6-2. Ugo Blanchet & Mayeul

\$15,000 ITF women, Cairo, Egypt: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Yasmin Ezzat (Egv) Gloria Ceschi (Ita) & Maria

The man who has kept in touch with his inner child



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Jou tend to remember where you first met your I heroes. Of India's great spin quartet, I met Erapalli Prasanna and Bhagwat Chandrasekhar at the KSCA while attending a camp for schoolboys. Venkatraghavan I met at a movie theatre (showing Murder on the Orient Express, with Albert Finney as Poi-

But I can't pinpoint where I first met Bishan Bedi. It's as if I have known him all my life. In any case he treats you as if he has known you all your life too, so beginnings don't really matter.

I have been fortunate to watch and report cricket while some of India's greatest players, from Tiger Pataudi to K.L. Rahul have been in action. The spin quartet was always special, and I was privileged to work in the cities where they lived and spend hours and hours in their company. Bedi, the youngest and most colourful of them,

turns 75 this week. A book of essays in his honour is

being released, but celebrations will be muted. There are the Covid restrictions for one, while Bedi's health as he recovers from a stroke will not allow him to party. This is a pity because he is the most sociable of cricketers, happiest in the company of other cricket

people, and with a wealth of anecdotes to share. It is never difficult to tell where Bedi is in a crowd – it is where the laughter rings the loudest.

Not only is Bedi a wonderful story-teller himself,

he is at the centre of other people's stories too, many apocryphal. He has become the generic author of spoken against authority; the man most likely to have said something aptly funny, and therefore by extension the man who actually said it.

Bishan Singh Bedi Yet for all his gifts, ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES Bedi has one quality

that outshines others but is seldom commented upon. He venerates cricket, and feels physically hurt if someone or something interferes with the purity or integrity of the sport. In his book, cricket is played a certain way, and

players who do not adhere to this have no place in

it. Skill is to be admired, of course, but even more so

is an attitude of reverence towards the game.

Grace in motion

Those who never saw Bedi bowl - the YouTube videos don't do him justice - have missed one of sport's great sights. His action had all the elements of high art – balance, rhythm, pattern, unity, variety, deception, consistency – all put together like a symphony by a master. The gentle loop sometimes ended in vicious pace off the wicket, the apparently quick delivery came to you long after you had played the drive.

If the quartet were a group of bank robbers, Prasanna would be the one with the plan, Venkat the one who would draw the map pointing out where the dangers lay and how to get past the cameras, Chandra would be in charge of the explosives. Bedi

would be the one with the plans to distract the authorities, tricking them into looking in the wrong

They brought their various gifts together not for harm (except to a few egos) but to provide the sport with some of its most delicious treats. Batsmen sometimes appeared transfixed when the ball didn't appear where it was meant to or went the wrong way or trapped them in front of the wicket at a speed that remained in their nightmares.

Post-retirement, Bedi was the glue that held the quartet together. He is an inveterate letter writer; he calls up friends regularly. The arrival of social media made it all so much easier. He wrote and wrote. All four were protective of one another. When I once wrote something mildly critical of Venkatraghavan, Bedi berated me, mildly but firmly. I am not sure if Venkatraghavan minded so much, but Bedi certainly did.

who he thought was the best batsman in his time, he named the England player Tom Graveney, and gave this as his reason: "For me the best batsman is the one who played Chandra best." Chandra often said, "Pras is like an older brother to me," while Bedi "saw god in Chandra." Venkat

When someone asked Prasanna at a function

"You cannot think of us singly; we were a group," Bedi once said. And it's true. As players they did their best work together, after all.

was the intellectual, the only one to make time to vi-

sit Mohenjo-daro on the quartet's first visit to Pakis-

When boyhood heroes age, they remind us how we have too. But Bedi has never lost touch with his inner child, full of fun and mischief and a love for sweets. One year he took me to the Golden Temple and explained things with a deep understanding. Bedi the bowler was great, but Bedi the man is greater still.





Founder & Senior Partner, AZB & Partners





Wednesday, 22nd September 2021 @ 5:00 PM

Inviting parents and students planning

their career to register for the webinar at https://bit.ly/SAILAWTH

