





Kin of those who killed selves due to COVID-19 eligible for aid: govt.



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Some taxpavers still face problems on I-T portal, admits Infosys Tripathi, Venkatesh and bowlers put KKR in the top four page 13



IN BRIEF

Hit-and-run on Dhanbad judge was deliberate: CBI

The CBI told the Jharkhand High Court on Thursday that the hit-and-run involving the Additional Sessions Judge of the Dhanbad court in Jharkhand was deliberate. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 9

Police force mourns

death of former chief NEW DELHI Former Delhi Police Commissioner Y.S. Dadwal breathed his last on Wednesday night at 70 after a prolonged illness. CITY ▶ PAGE 2



Modi meets Adobe, Qualcomm CEOs on first day of U.S. visit

PM, Biden to discuss Afghan situation, terror

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON DC

Prime Minister Narendra Modi kicked off his first visit to the U.S. in two years, with meetings with CEOs of Fortune 500 companies in the morning and bilateral meetings with Vice-President Kamala Harris and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan and Scott Morrison of Australia scheduled for the afternoon.

Mr. Modi's motorcade arrived at the Willard Intercontinental, a short distance



Investor talk: PM Narendra Modi meeting CEO of First Solar Mark R. Widmar in Washington DC on Thursday. • ANI

from the White House, just before 7.30 p.m. on a wet and windy fall evening in Washington. On Thursday morning, he met with the CEOs of five companies that have invested in India or

have significant investment potential: semiconductor and wireless technology manufacturer Qualcomm, renewable energy company First Solar, software company Adobe, energy systems and arms manufacturer General Atomics, and investment management company the Blackstone Group.

The main events for his DC trip, however, are Friday's bilateral talks with U.S. President Joe Biden to discuss India's 'Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership', and a Quad summit with Mr. Biden, Mr. Suga and Mr. Morrison

Mr. Modi and Mr. Biden will discuss a range of issues, including Afghanistan and counter-terrorism. They are also expected to discuss trade and climate cooperation.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Minor girl sexually assaulted near Mumbai, 26 arrested

2 minors among those held, search on for 3 more accused

STAFF REPORTER

In a shocking crime, a minor girl was sexually assaulted over a period of nine months. The Manpada police in Dombivli, a town neighbouring Mumbai, have booked 29 accused and arrested 26, including two minors, under the Indian Penal Code as well as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO).

The arrested have been remanded in police custody till September 29. The minor offenders have been sent to a juvenile remand home. Police teams are searching for three others.



Some of the accused seen at the Manpada police station.

The 15-year-old victim's statement said her boyfriend recorded a video of them in an intimate act in January 2021, which he later used to blackmail her and force her into physical relations with some of his friends.

"The victim reached the police station on Wednesday night. According to her statement, the accused sexually assaulted her repeatedly at various locations from January to September this year," said Additional Commissioner of Police (east region) Datta Karale.

A Special Investigation Team, headed by Assistant Commissioner of Police (Administration) Sonali Dhole, has been formed to probe

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

2 die in Assam eviction drive

11 injured as mob clashes with police in Darrang

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Two persons were killed and 11 others, including nine policemen, were injured when a large mob clashed with the police during an eviction drive in northern Assam's Darrang district on Thurs-

The incident happened at Dholpur 3, one of four areas



A policeman kicking a man in Dholpur on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

evicting about 800 families of Bengali-speaking Muslims "illegally occupying" about 4,500 bighas of government land. A similar eviction drive on September 20 passed off

peacefully, with some families dismantling their houses and moving elsewhere, offi-

"Two civilians are proba-

bly dead and two more injured, along with nine police personnel. A mob of not less than 4,000 resisted the eviction drive by throwing stones at the police and attacking them with sharpened bamboo sticks," Darrang's Superintendent of Police Sushanta Biswa Sarma told The Hindu.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC may form panel to look into snooping charges

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Thursday indicated the Supreme Court's intention to form a committee to examine allegations that the government used Israeli-based Pegasus software to spy on citizens.

The revelation came when the CJI informed senior advocate C.U. Singh, who represented one of the petitioners in the case, that the court wanted to pass or-

ders this week but could not do so because some of the members it had shortlisted for the committee were unavailable due to personal reasons. The CJI said the court would now pass orders sometime next week.

The court decided to pass an interim order after the government expressed reservations over filing a "detailed" affidavit responding to the allegations.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Panel set up to monitor Delhi riots probe

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana has ordered the setting up of a Special Investigation Cell (SIC) to expedite and streamline the investigation and scrutiny of north-east Dehi riots cases.

Last week, a Delhi court came down heavily on the city police for its "lackadaisical approach" and said no steps for the proper prosecution of the 2020 riots cases had been taken by the Police Commissioner and other top officials. The order, dated September 20, said the SIC will be constituted under the chairmanship of Special Commissioner of Police (Central Zone) with Joint Commissioner (Eastern range), Deputy Commissioner (East) and Additional DCP (East) as members.

Mr. Asthana said the panel shall take stock of pending investigations and trial of riots cases and chalk out a strategy to ensure swift investigation and effective prosecution. Officers should be guided to complete the probe timely, the order said.

In the order, the Commissioner said the SIC should follow up with the Forensic Science Laboratory where case results are pending on

'Need SPPs in court'

Emphasising the need for Special Public Prosecutors to be present in court in all matters, the order said the court should be informed in advance in case they are not in a position to attend and suitable adjournment taken.

"In such cases, Senior Police Officers will remain present in the Court to effectively present the facts," the

No space for anger in politics, says Congress

Party hopes Amarinder Singh will reconsider his remarks against Gandhi siblings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Describing former Puniab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's comments against Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as one made in anger, the Congress on Thursday hoped he would reconsider his words as it didn't suit his stature and there was no place for "anger in politics".

Responding to those comments, Mr. Singh was quoted by his media adviser as asking if there was "space for humiliation and insult in politics".

Addressing a press briefing, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate was asked a series of questions on Mr. Singh's outburst against the Gandhi siblings on Wednesday and if he was planning to leave the party after his "unceremonious exit".

Ms. Shrinate said the party had no comments if some-



Supriya Shrinate We hope he [Amarinder] will rethink his own words while showing prudence, as he has remained a stalwart of the

SUPRIYA SHRINATE Congress spokesperson

one wants to leave and that Captain Amarinder is an elder and may have stated things out of anger.



Amarinder Singh

"He is our elder and the elderly often get angry and say a lot of things. We respect his anger, age and experience. We hope he does reconsider his words. But there is no space in politics for anger, envy, enmity, vendetta and personal attacks and comments against political opponents," she told reporters.

We hope he will rethink his own words while showing prudence, as he has remained a stalwart of the Congress party, which made him the Chief Minister for vears and nine nonths," Ms. Shrinate said.

"Yes, there's no space for anger in politics. But is there space for humiliation and insult in a grand old party like the Congress? If a senior party leader like me can be treated like this, I wonder what the workers must go through!" Mr. Singh was quoted by Raveen Thukral, who served as the media adviser to the former Punjab Chief Minister.

On Wednesday, Mr. Singh, in a series of media interviews, had called the Gandhi siblings as 'inexperienced' and made it clear that he would strongly oppose the Punjab unit chief, Navjot Singh Sidhu, whom he accused of behaving like a "super CM" with the newly appointed Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi "simply nodding along".

Toxic air



Danger zone: An aerial view of Old Delhi on Thursday, a day after the World Health Organization set new norms for air quality levels. According to Greenpeace India, Delhi's PM2.5 levels in 2020 were 16.8 times more than the revised threshold. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Caste census of Backward Classes difficult, Centre tells SC

Census of Backward Classes

is administratively difficult

and cumbersome; it has suf-

fered and will suffer both on

It has suffered, and will suffer, both on account of completeness and accuracy of the data, says govt.

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that a caste census of the Backward Classes was "administratively difficult and cumber-

While replying to a writ petition filed by the State of Maharashtra to gather Backward Classes' caste data in the State while conducting Census 2021, the Centre took the issue a step forward to clarify that "exclusion of information" regarding any other caste - other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes - from the purview of the census is a "conscious policy decision".

This comes amid a growing clamour by political par-

...the view has consistently been that the caste Census of Backward Classes is administratively difficult and cumbersome; it has suffered and will suffer both on account of completeness and accuracy of the data, as also evident from the infirmities of the SECC 2011 data, making it unusable for any official purposes and cannot information for population data in any official document SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT MINISTRY IN THE SUPREME COURT The Centre reasoned that are "replete with technical

even when the census of castes were taken in the pre-Independence period, the data suffered in respect of "completeness and accuratime, the view has consistently been that the caste cy". It said the caste data en-

"The issue has been examined at length in the past at different points of time. Each ficial

and accuracy of the data, as also evident from the infirmities of the SECC 2011 data, making it unusable for any official purposes and cannot be mentioned as a source of information for population data in any official document," the affidavit filed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment said.

account of completeness

Grave danger

The government said castewise enumeration in the Census was given up as a matter of policy from 1951. It said there was a policy of "ofdiscouragement of

On the specific issue of

collecting caste data during

Census 2021, the Centre ex-

plained that a population

census was not the "ideal in-

"grave danger" that the "basic integrity" of census data would be compromised. Even the fundamental population count may "distorted". Besides, the Centre said, it

was too late now to enumerate caste into the Census 2021. Planning and preparations for the census exercise starts almost four years earlier. The phases of Census 2021 had been finalised after detailed deliberations with ministries, data users, recommendations from technical advisory committees, etc. Preparatory work was already in place.

strument" for collection of

details on caste. There is a

The census questions were finalised in August-September of 2019. Instruction manuals were ready.

In Odisha, no-shows for second dose

28% of beneficiaries have missed their date so far, show data

not turning up for the se-

cond dose is a sizeable one.

As of now, 2.83 crore people

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHUBANESWAR

India's vaccination drive may be making steady progress but Odisha has a peculiar problem at hand. Many recipients of the first dose are failing to turn up for their second. Reason: the long interval between the first and second doses has meant that several have forgotten their scheduled date for full vaccination. Several such instances have been noticed in vil-

lages across the State of late. The interval prescribed for two doses of Covishield is 12-16 weeks, while for Covaxin it is 28 days. In Odisha, Covaxin is being administered only in two major urban centres, Bhubaneswar and Berhampur, and Covishield in the rest of the State.

"The number of people

have been inoculated. About 67% of the State's eligible population has taken the first dose. But 72% of people whose second dose is due have been vaccinated whereas 28% beneficiaries have not come to vaccine centres," said Bijay Panigra-

hi, director, Family Welfare,

and nodal officer for the vac-

cination drive. Dr. Panigrahi said though the reminder for the second dose is generated from the CoWIN portal automatically, beneficiaries have not been paying the requisite attention. The State government has come out with a list of people whose second doses are due. Front-line health

workers have been instruct-

ies to vaccine centres. 'Enough vaccine stock'

ed to bring these beneficiar-

The State has administered

the vaccine to 1.60 lakh pregnant women. "We have enough vaccines (around 20 lakh) stocked with us. For the past three days, we have been administering 4 lakh doses a day. We are also increasing the vaccination sites. As many as 1,775 vaccination centres were identified on Thursday," he said.

The vaccine and vaccination site distribution has been done in such a way as to reflect the State's population spread. "Since beneficiaries in rural areas are more than that in urban areas, we are focusing on villages and setting up centres up to the gram panchayat level," he said.

ties for a caste-based census, and the ruling BJP's silence.

for official purposes as they

umerated in the Socio-Eco-

nomic and Caste Census

(SECC) of 2011 is "unusable"

Over 500 CCTVs installed in Tihar jail

Security upped after violent incidents

STAFF REPORTER

Tihar prison complex has stepped up security after a series of violent incidents in central jail number 3, a senior officer said.

The senior officer said that in August, when an inmate, Ankit Gujjar, was murdered, CCTV cameras were still being installed across jail and now they've been fully installed and function-

"Over 500 CCTV cameras have been installed in jail number 3. This will invoke a sense of fear amid both inmates and jail staffers that they're under surveillance," the officer said, adding that there's a control room where officials monitor it 24X7.

Sources said that officials have been changed across ranks to ensure a healthy environment in the jail.

Another step which has been taken is to increase the frequency of searches on inmates. "Whenever there is an input, inmates are checked for weapons. The number of surprise checks have also been increased," the officer said.

'Troublemakers' shifted Sources said that inmates

who are "troublemakers and notorious" have been identified and transferred to other jails as a measure to Whenever there is an input, inmates are checked for weapons. The number of surprise checks have also

prevent violence in the iail.

been increased

Two Tihar jail inmates were injured after they attacked each other with sharp-edged objects inside the cell on September 18 in jail number 3.

This was the fourth such incident reported in Tihar jail this month.

Clash between inmates

On September 11, two inmates of Tihar jail number 3 were injured after a clash broke out between them. The inmates returned to the jail after treatment. The police had registered an attempt to murder case.

On September 12 and 13, two undertrial prisoners sustained injuries when they were attacked with sharp objects by fellow inmates in separate incidents.

On September 12, inmate Vikas Dhull was attacked by Vikas Chopra using a surgical blade.

A day later, undertrial prisoner, Vijay was attacked by fellow inmate Dinesh. He suffered injuries and was shifted to DDU Hospital.

Rai asks neighbouring States to switch to CNG

Minister suggests promoting e-vehicles to curb pollution

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday said that the Delhi government has suggested neighbouring States to shift their public transport in the National Capital Region to CNG and also promote electric vehicles to control air pollution

Govt.'s online meeting

"To tackle the problem of pollution in Delhi-NCR in the winters, the Union Environment Ministry organised an online meeting of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, and Rajasthan governments. Public transport in Delhi runs on CNG. We have requested the Union Minister to ensure that all public transport in NCR be run on CNG so that we can curb vehicle pollution, without which Delhi's efforts are meaningless," Mr. Rai said.

He said that all industrial units in Delhi are operated



A CNG-filling station in the Capital. • FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR

We have requested the Union Minister to ensure that all public transport in NCR be run on CNG so that we can curb vehicle pollution

on PNG and he appealed that industrial units operating in NCR also be operated on PNG so that increasing air pollution can be reduced.

"This target has been gi-

ven to other States as well, but due to loose monitoring and inefficient transferring of work between units, we have requested them to hurriedly work on this to curb industrial pollution," Mr. Rai He also said that the

neighbouring States need to ban crackers to curb pollution on Deepawali and air pollution hotspots of U.P., Haryana should institute onground task forces to manage the situation better

Over 19,000 electric vehicles registered since policy launch

E-rickshaws account for lion's share since August 2020

NEW DELHI

Over 1,300 electric vehicles were registered in the Capital every month since the launch of the Delhi government's ambitious Electric Vehicle Policy last year.

Private e-rickshaws providing last-mile connectivitv. two-wheelers and e-rickshaws functioning as goods carriers account for the majority of EVs registered in line with the government's vision of boosting the city's economy, reducing pollution levels and generating employment in the city's transport sector, a senior Transport Department official said.

According to departmental statistics, a total number of 19,007 EVs were registered in the Capital between the notification of the policy on August 7, 2020 and September 22 this year.

While e-rickshaws account for the lion's share of 9,369 of the total, 3,898 twowheelers, 3,474 e-rickshaws

Two-wheelers which constitute the second-most number of EVs in

the Capital is a welcome development

Secretary and Commissioner, Transport

with carts for goods carrying purposes, 1,222 cars and 772 three-wheelers were also registered during the period.

"Two-wheelers account for the largest segment of vehicles on the streets of the city; so the fact that they constitute the second-most number of EVs in the Capital is a welcome development," said Ashish Kundra, Secretary and Commissioner, Transport.

"While 30 buses were registered during the period, we have worked out the modalities of transforming the entire bus fleet into an electric one in the near future," Mr. Kundra added

Sources said the city government, which will soon receive 300 e-buses under the cluster scheme, is also going to float a tender for the engagement of 465 more such vehicles under this scheme in the coming days.

Bus fleet

At least 50% of Delhi's public bus fleet, the source said, is being targeted as an exclusively EV one by the year 2025.

On August 7, following the notification of the policy, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said that the government aimed to ensure that 25% of the newly registered vehicles across the city by 2024 were e-vehicles which, back in that month in 2020, was only

"Delhi is making several strides to encourage the adoption of EVs in all segments. A major step in this direction is the creation of charging infrastructure," Mr. Kundra added.

Police force mourns death of ex-chief

'Dadwal had vision, integrity and knowledge and ensured that CWG was a success'

HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI

Former Delhi Police Commissioner Y.S. Dadwal breathed his last on Wednesday night at the age of 70 after a prolonged illness. He was the Delhi Police chief from July 2007 to November 2010 - till a month after India hosted the Common-Games in the wealth Capital.

His former colleagues mourned his death in their own ways on Thursday. While some shared their thoughts as WhatsApp status, others took to Twitter and Facebook.

Standing orders

"He will always be remembered as the rare officer who had vision, integrity and knowledge," said an IPS officer who worked closely with Dadwal when he was the police chief, adding that there can probably be no officer in the force who has all three qualities.

Dadwal was very clear in



Y.S. Dadwal was Delhi Police chief from July 2007 to November 2010.

no ambiguity, the IPS officer said with a smile recalling his senior.

"His knowledge of policing was phenomenal – be it field or administrative. As a result, he revised maximum standing orders. By the time he left the force, there was probably no standing order that was pending," he said.

His biggest achievement was the smooth arrangement for the Commonwealth Games, remem- cal demands with an air of bered all the officers, *The* nonchalance – an attribute his direction... precise with *Hindu* spoke to. "The man which had made him com-

had visited other such events during his earlier postings. He was the Commissioner at the time we hosted CWG and he made sure that everything was done in the right order. After CWG, enquiries were opened against so many departments but not Delhi Police. 'You are finding it hard now but you'll realise later how important it is', he would say while putting down everything in detail on paper," the officer said.

Political demands

Holding Dadwal in high regard, an IPS officer who had worked with him believed that Dadwal was the epitome of integrity and the closest to late IPS officer Kanwar Pal Singh Gill that the Delhi police has had in terms of "leadership, resolve and non-servility towards political masters".

"On various occasions, he had brushed aside politi-

Tender Name

(MPBSCDCL/TENDER

mand respect from the force as against the demands for the same," the officer said.

Promoted merit

Dadwal promoted merit, the officer recalled, and it was in his tenure that most of the then inspectors "who had never thought of being posted as SHOs in absence of 'influence' got their first chance to serve". The officer remembered Dadwal as someone who almost never attended any official ceremonies post retirement as he disliked them for being pompous.

"He was the least likely to be heard as having called up any of his former colleagues or subordinates seeking personal favours of any kind," the officer said.

IPS Chinmoy Biswal, 2008-batch officer, who is now Deputy Commissioner of Police joined as a young Assistant Commissioner of Police in 2010 during Dadwal's tenure. "He has always been very proper," he said.

Irked HC raps man for plea against Asthana

'It is a copy-paste of another petition'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday came down heavily on a man who had challenged the appointment of IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner saying his petition was a "copy-paste" of another petition filed by NGO, Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL) on the same issue.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh got particularly irked at the counsel for the petitioner Sadre Alam, as he could not explain certain averments made in the petition.

'Don't repeat'

"If you are copying, you do it 5% and write 95% of your own. Here, 97% to 99% is copied even with all the full stops and commas. Don't do this in the future we have tolerated it this time," the Bench remarked.

Date and

Time of

Purchase of

Tender End

about the meaning of "Super Time Scale" which was referred to in the petition. Mr. Alam, in his petition, had argued that Mr. Asthana has already reached the "Super Time Scale" in his home cadre, which makes him ineligible to avail intercadre deputation.

The Bench enquired

Alam's However, Mr counsel was unable to explain the concept and sought time to check and come back.

The HC also told advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the CPIL, "You people are also distributing your copies everywhere. Don't do this. He [Mr. Alam's counsel] does not know what super time scale is. You are doing it in good faith but it becomes a weapon. I have asked the question deliberately. What as sistance we will get?" The High Court will hear the case again on September 27.

Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency Ref. No.: 1649/I1-02(xvi)/ITCO/URRDA/21

M.P. STATE EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE COUNCIL

Narmada Bhavan, Arera Hills, Bhopal (M.P.)

CORRIGENDUM

Invitation For

Expression of Interest For Empanelment of Knowledge Partners under

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

In Madhya Pradesh "M.P. State Employment Guarantee

Council" (MPSEGC) is the State Level Nodal Agency for

implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employmen

Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGC) under the aegis of

Panchayat & Rural Development Department-Govt. of Madhya

Pradesh. MPSEGC invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from

the competent, skilled, experienced and qualified national leve

organizations read as CSOs/NGOs/CSR foundations/CSR wings of corporate institutions for empanelment as

'Knowledge Partners". The details about eligibility of

organizations and scope of works has been mentioned ir

expression of interest which can be downloaded from web

The interested and eligible agencies are requested to submit

their proposal for empanelment as "Knowledge Partners"

The proposal along with all relevant documents

commissioner.nregs@gmail.com, psprd@mp.gov.in and

icp.nregs@gmail.com .The date of submission of proposa

is open ended. Received proposals will be scrutinized by 20th

of every month throughout the year and empanelled

organizations will be informed by 30th of the month.

M.P. Madhyam/102066/2021

should be submitted by e-mail on e-mail-id

portal www.nregsmp.org and www.prd.mp.gov.in

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice

The Executive Director, WAPCOS Limited on behalf of URRDA, Government of

Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of BRIDGES under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Almora for 07 number of package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 23.61 Crore and District of Bageshwar for 12 number of Package with estimated cost totaling Rs. 31.41, including their maintenance for Five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement 27.09.2021

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB at WAPCOS Ltd, plot No. 209, Phase-I, Basant Vihar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. on a date mentioned in SBD, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 18.10.2021, 01:00 PM. For further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in.

Chief Engineer

COMMISSIONER

URRDA, Dehradun Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders mus get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the

Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2976077 number may be

Government Of Gujarat Narmada, Water Resource,

Supply, Erection, Testing &

No. 0265-247833 FAX No.

0265-2429170

Water supply & Kalpsar Department, Gandhinagar E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 16 OF 2021-22

ı		Commissioning of Passenger
ı		Cum Goods Lift at Panam
ı		Dam, Dist-Panchmahal.
ı	(2) Estimated Cost:	₹ 52,23,429/-
ı	(3) Pre-Bid Meeting (Offline)	Dt. 04/10/2021 @ 14.00 hrs.
ı	(4) Last Date/Time for	Dt-14/10/2021 up to 16.00 hrs.
ı	receipt of tender (ON LINE)	
ı	(5) Name & Address of the	Ex. Engr. Irri. Mech. Division
ı	Executive Engineer	No. 1, E-814, Kuber Bhavan,
ı	Concerned:	Kothi Compound, Raopura,
ı		Vadodara-390001 (Gujarat) Ph

(6) Further details can be seen at

(1) Name of Work:

www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in & www.nprocure.com Any kind of amendments will be published only online & it will be consider final & binding to all bidders INF-VAD-737-21-22 **National Health Mission** Uttarakhand 🛹 Invites SPECIALISTS 🖘

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PUBLICATION - DEMAND NOTICE Notice under Section 13(2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and inforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 - Sent on 02-08-2021 by Registered Post with

cknowledgement due and the same was returned by All. Hence this No.1) Mr. Kamal Kumar, S/o. Ramesh Chand, at Chausana Vishat, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar 247778. No.2) Mrs. K. Rekha, W/o. Kamal Kumar, at C-157, New Seemapuri, Jhilmil, Delh Municipal Corporation (U), Delhi - 110092, No.3) Mr. Sunil Kumar, S/o, Mon Singh, a H.No.S-2, Second Floor, Plot No.10, East Jyothi Nagar, Shahdara Mandoli, Delhi - 110093.

Sub: Loan account / Overdraft with City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi - Laxmi Naga Branch in the name of Mr. Kamal Kuma

The Bank issued notice under the SARFAESI Act on **02-08-2021** calling upon all of you to repay the outstanding amount of Rs.10,49,403. (Rupees Ten Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Three Only) as on 01-08-2021 with further interest for 501312030013945 (SWAYAM GRIHA - BUS BR) at 11.00% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded) with nonthly rests from 02-08-2021 till the date of repayment. The notice sent to you by Registered Post have been returned by All.

herefore, we hereby once again call upon you all to pay Rs.10,49,403/- (Rupees Ten Laki Forty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Three Only) with further interest for 501312030013945 (SWAYAM GRIHA - BUS BR)at 11.00% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded) with monthly rests from 02-08-2021 till the date of repayment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be Constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This Notice is published/issued without prejudice to any other right/remedy available to the Bank. Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank

(Property Owned by Mr. Kamal Kumar, S/o. Ramesh Chand) Upper Ground Floor (Backside portion) bearing Flat No.UG-2, Plot No.B-1/82, D.L.F. Housing Colony, Dilshad Extn-II, Brahmapur at Bhopura, Pargana Loni, Ghaziabad - 201005 (U.P. having 400.00 Sq. Ft. area <u>Bounded as under</u>: East : Road 40 Feet Wide, West : Plot No.B-1/97 North: Plot No.B-1/81, South: Plot No.B-1/83. Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 20-09-2021

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

BHOPAL SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

Earnest

Money

Zone - 14, Bhopal Municipal Corporation, BHEL, Govindpura, Bhopal-462023 (M.P.) Phone: 0755-2477770, Email: tenderqueries@smartbhopal.city/www.smartcitybhopal.org/ Bhopal, Date: 23.09.2021

Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Limited की ओर से निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु MPBSCDCL TENDER No. - 211 & 213 ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं :-

Cost of Bidding

Document

	No211 & 213)	(non- refundable)	Deposit/Bid Security	Pre-bid meeting	Date
1.	"Consultancy services for Periodically Compliance of Environmental Conditions and Monitoring of Environ- mental Clearance for ABD Project BSCDCL" (MPBSC- DCL/TENDER No 211)	Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand only)	Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand rupees only)	30.09.2021 15:00 Hrs.	25.10.2021 17:30 Hrs.
2.	"Empanelment of Agencies for Translocation of trees for Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Limited" (MPBS- CDCL/TENDER No 213)	Rs. 11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight hundred Rupees only)	Rs. 6,00,000/- (Six Lakhs Rupees only)	29.09.2021 at 15.00 Hrs	25.10.2021 at 23:30 Hrs.

RFP दस्तावेज एवं निविदा संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती हैं। मुख्य अभियंता म.प्र. माध्यम/102063/2021

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

Public Works Department.

Executive Engineer, Publice Works Divison No.2 .Jalgaon-425001 (Phone No. 0257- 2232322) email-jalgaon2.ee@mahapwd.com

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 09 FOR-2021-2022 **Tender Notice**

Online tenders (e-tender) in "B-1" form for 1 (One) (Const. of Major Bridge) Works are invited by the Executive Engineer P.W. Division No.2, Jalgaon for and behalf of Government of Maharashtra. Electronic tender Management System http://mahatenders.gov.in from Reputed and experienced firms / Contractors who fulfil the terms and condition of tender and having experience of similar type of work The rights are reserve to reject all or any tender by Superitending Engineer/ Executive Engineer. Conditional tenders are not acceptable.

The details can be viewed and downloaded online from dated 27/09/2021 at 11.00 Hrs. to dated 21/10/2021 at 17.00 Hrs. directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering Protal http://mahatenders.gov.in and Pre-bid meeting above works will be held on dated 04/10/2021 at 12.00 Hrs. in the Office of Chief Engineer, P.W. Region, Nashik This detailed tender notice is available on portal http://mahatenders.gov.in also on www.mahapwd.com and on Notice Board of the Office of Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.2, Jalgaon. Sd/-

(Navnath P.Sonawane) **Executive Engineer,** Public Works Division No.2, Jalgaon

Five-year-old electrocuted while playing

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A five-year-old boy died of electrocution and two minors sustained injuries after they came in contact with a live electric wire in South Delhi's Neb Sarai, the police said on

Thursday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Thakur said that the deceased and the injured boys, aged five and six respectively, are residents of a slum cluster in Khanpur.

The police said that they were playing near the slum cluster when they came in contact with the live wire on Wednesday. "The three boys were rushed to Max Hspital where the five-yearold boy was declared brought dead while the two others are undergoing treatment. They are stated to be out of danger, he said.

The police said that a case has been registered under Section 304 A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code and further investigation is under way.

In another incident, a five-year-old boy died and his mother sustained minor injuries after a tree fell on an auto-rickshaw near IP Extension in East Delhi on Wednesday. The police said that the boy along with his parents and a relative was travelling in the autorickshaw when the incident happened.

A ND-NDE

DGIPR/2021/2022/2068

Government work, and then homework

Hundreds of teachers roped in for pandemic-related work despite not being relieved from teaching duties

time, even when they were

put on election or census-re-

Arun started reporting for

duty at the SDM office after

getting an SMS from the DM

office. "I had to do duty at

the airport in March and

then again in July, just after

the second wave hit. We had

to check whether passengers

had a RT-PCR negative re-

port. If they didn't, then we

had to take them for check-

ing. We were not given face

shields or PPE kits and we

were coming in contact with

a lot of international flyers.

Every day, we would find out

that five-six passengers from

the previous day had tested

positive for the virus," he re-

called, adding that all the pe-

ople on duty used to worry

the time I reached home af-

"It used to be midnight by

about their families.

lated duties.

NIKHIL M BABU

Arun (name changed), a 38year-old primary school teacher, wakes up around 6.30 a.m. every day so he can start preparing study material for his class by 8 p.m..

He even manages to get some household chores done before he leaves for work at 11 a.m. But he does not head for school.

In fact, Arun has not been to school for the last one year. He was roped in for CO-VID-19 duty by the District Magistrate (DM) office in September last year and he has not been relieved since

"Officially, we are relieved from school duty when we join COVID-19 duty at the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) office. But since no one replaced me at school, I have to manage teaching students too," said Arun, who teaches at a municipal corporation school.

"For the last one year, in addition to COVID-19 duties, I have been teaching and I am still the in-charge of a section in Class V, which has 38 students. We had asked the principal to tell the civic body about the situation, but the authorities do not care," he added.

Hundreds of teachers have been pressed into service by the government for work related to the pandemic, including conducting surveys and issuing challans,



Tough task: About 90% of teachers who are on COVID-19 duty are still teaching, either online or offline, says Ajay Veer Yadav of the Government School Teachers' Association (Delhi). ■FILE PHOTO

and many have been juggling both COVID-19 duties as well as teaching.

'Pressure from school'

"About 90% of teachers who are on COVID-19 duty are still teaching, either online or offline. Officially, they don't have to do it. But there is pressure from the school," said Ajay Veer Yadav, general secretary of the Government School Teachers' Association

A Delhi government spokesperson did not offer a comment. "Once teachers are attached to COVID-19 duty, it is not mandatory for them to do school-related work as they will be automatically relieved from the school as per the rules," a Delhi government official

Teachers said they never had to do two duties at one

mily," he said.

the 28 teachers in Arun's school were attached to CO-VID-19 duty. "The principal asked me to handle my class. Unofficially, everyone is doing it. It has increased work pressure, but not to the level that we can't handle it," he said, adding, "We prepare worksheets for students and send them to parents over WhatsApp. The students send us the completed work, which we then evaluate. We also send videos and audio via WhatsApp, but I don't take live classes."

would go to the washroom

and take a shower straight

away before meeting my fa-

At one point, around 25 of

Thirty-three-year-old Priya (name changed), who teaches primary students at a Delhi government school, said she was first attached to the DM office for COVID-19 duty in November last year and currently, she has been associated since July 1. "I am teaching my students now, and also last year when I was doing COVID-19 duty," she

In-charge of students

While being on COVID-19 duty for the last 80 days, she has also been in-charge of 40 Class IV students.

"Every day, after coming back from COVID-19 duty, I cook dinner and then prepare for the next day's school work. I prepare the worksheet and make videos

ers would be sound asleep. I or audio to explain the material. I do this generally before dinner. Around 10 p.m., I sit down to correct the worksheets sent by students. If it is only a day's worksheet then it takes around 40 minutes, but sometimes it goes on till midnight," said Priva, who has a son.

She said that five out of nine teachers in the primary section of her school are currently on COVID-19 duty. "Last year, when we were doing a door-to-door survey, we had to work on Sundays public holidays. Throughout COVID-19 duty, I have been managing school work too."

Priya said that earlier, when they were put on election or any other duty, it was understood that they did not have to do school work, but the situation has changed. "Now, there is an environment where everything is online, so we have to manage both. If I say no, then the pressure on colleagues will increase," she added.

Most of the teachers are managing both duties but it is strongly affecting students' studies. She also said that work pressure has increased. "But my husband has been really supportive and I have been able to manage both duties. The other teachers also complain about workload, but we have to do it; we can't do anything about it. Also, I can't just leave my students, right?"

Sixth serosurvey to start today; 28,000 samples to be collected

City sees no new COVID-19 fatality for sixth consecutive day



A health worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine dose to a beneficiary in Rajouri Garden, Delhi,

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi government will start the sixth serological survey on Friday to find out how much percentage of the population have antibodies against COVID-19, either through natural infection or vaccination, as per an official order. The government aims to collect 28,000 blood samples of random people from all 272 wards of the city for the survey.

In April, the government had started the sixth serological survey, but due to the second wave it had to be cut short. The government never made public the result of the over 12,000 samples collected in April, despite the What is serosurvey?

 Blood samples collected from across the city are 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

team submitting the results to the government.

The current survey is actually the seventh such survey, but as per the government order, it is termed the and developed immunity against it or has developed antibodies after vaccination.

· The first such survey done in the city in June-July last year had shown that 23.4% people surveyed had developed antibodies against the virus. Similar surveys in August 2020 showed that 29.1% people had antibodies, 25.1% in September 2020, 25.5% in October 2020, and 56.13% in January 2021.

Meanwhile, the city on Thursday reported no new COVID-19 death in 24 hours for the sixth consecutive day and the total number of fatalities stood at 25,085, as per a

BJP condemns 'controversial'

conduct of

volunteers

NEW DELHI

Capital.

civil defence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Adesh Gupta on Thurs-

day wrote to Lieutenant

Governor Anil Baijal over

the allegedly criminal

and overall "controver-

sial" conduct of civil de-

fence volunteers in the

According to the BJP,

Mr. Gupta said that in

view of reports of invol-

vement of civil defence

volunteers in crime and

their "indecent beha-

viour", it was important

to verify their credentials

and to change the colour

'Association with AAP'

"On one hand there are

of their uniforms.

State president

Highlight unsung heroes associated with freedom movement, says L-G

He reviews plans for celebration of 75th anniversary of Independence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Unsung heroes and the significance of lesser-known monuments in the Capital associated with the freedom movement should be highlighted as part of the upcoming 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotprogramme being organised by the Delhi go vernment, Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal said on Thursday

Mr. Baijal issued these instructions at a meeting held to review the ongoing programmes and plans in Delhi for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Independence. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and senior government officials were present.

According to Raj Niwas, the L-G was informed that a comprehensive plan has

RISE 06:11 SET 18:16

RISE 20:21 SET 08:58

RISE 06:11 SET 18:14

RISE 20:55 SET 09:53

RISE 06:12 SET 18:13

25

RISE 21:32 SET 10:48

Timings

FRIDAY, SEP. 24

SATURDAY, SEP. 25

SUNDAY, SEP. 26

Delhi Weather

Delhi Palam Today

34°C Slight warm and humid

day would prevail with cloudy

sky. A few spell of light rain

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

remain warm and humid

35°C Light rain or thundertorm

may occur with partly cloudy

sky at few places. Day would

READ

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Delhi City

Safdarjang

DELHI



Anil Baijal

"It was emphasised that necessary steps should be taken to amend the **Recruitment Rules** of various posts as required to remove anomalies and attract quality

drawn including theme-based events, information campaigns, and exhibitions in line with five themes – Freedom Struggle, Actions @75, Resolve @75, Achievements @75 and Ideas

talent

"Advised the officers to highlight the contribution of struggle and focus on lesser known monuments in the city associated with the freedom movement for informing and inspiring the new generation" the L-G tweeted.

The L-G added that he had directed that for maximum outreach and impact, a convergence approach may be adopted with effective use of technology to spread the message while complying with COVID-19 protocols.

The L-G also reviewed the status of vacancies in the Department of Education and the Department of Training and Technical Education.

According to Raj Niwas, the L-G advised the officials to ensure that vacant posts, both in the promotion and direct recruitment category, are filled up in a time-bound manner.

"It was emphasised that necessary steps should be taken to amend the Recruitment Rules of various posts as required to remove anomalies and attract quality talent," the L-G tweeted.

Areas with poor groundwater quality to get RO plants

Private companies will bear a major share of the expenditure, says Water Minister

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi government is planning to install reverse osmosis (RO) plants in areas where groundwater levels are shallow, but not usable due to high salinity and hardness, to solve the water shortage in the city, Water Minister Satyendar Jain said on Thursday.

The government also promised that every slum in the city will get a RO plant.

"He (Mr. Jain) instructed officials to install small RO plants in the areas where water is supplied through tankers so that people don't have to wait for water tankers to arrive. One small RO plant will be installed for every 500 households to ensure that drinking water is available round the clock. Additionally, every jhuggi will be given at least one RO plant and wherever the population is more than 2000, more than one RO plant will be provided," a statement from the Minister's office said.

Private companies will



penditure for setting up the RO plant and the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) will buy clean drinking water at a fixed rate from them, the government

Authorities said that based on initial studies done by DJB officials, the cost of water, in this case, will be equal to the existing cost of water treatment through conventional means.

In the first phase, RO plants with a total capacity of 363 million litres per day (MLD) will be installed in

bear a major share of the exareas where surplus groundwater is available, the Minister said. Over 7.25 lakh households are expected to benefit from the project.

"Raw water will be supplied from the groundwater to these RO plants, after which purified water will be supplied to the households. The Delhi government is targeting to install these RO plants only in those areas where surplus groundwater is available but its poor quality makes it unfit for use," the statement said.

Okhla, Dwarka, Nilothi-

Nangloi, Chilla and Najafgarh will be targeted in the first phase of this project and is expected to be completed in

According to the Central Ground Water Board report, Delhi's groundwater has over 22 lakh million gallons litres of saline water. This water can be converted into drinking water after RO treatment and can be supplied with the existing water supply of DJB, as per the Delhi government.

DJB is currently supplying 4,230 MLD water against a demand of 5,130 MLD in the city. This project will augment an additional 363 MLD, hence reducing the deficit of 900 MLD to 540 MLD.

DJB is also working on other initiatives such as extraction wells, groundwater recharge through lake rejuvenation, ammonia treatment plants etc. to augment the water supply. All these projects are part of the broader umbrella of the Delhi government aimed to achieve round-the-clock wa-

complaints of of these volunteers' association with Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), while on the other there are a large number of complaints related to

Most enrolled volunteers, Mr. Gupta alleged, had a "very poor education level" and their "character background" too was "suspicious."

their behaviour with pu-

blic," Mr. Gupta said.

"It is believed that to monetarily strengthen the AAP cadre, they are being enrolled in civil defence as paid volunteers and the enrolment process lacks transparency," Mr. Gupta alleged.

'Extortion complaints' During last one year, he said, there had been "hundreds of com-

plaints" of extortion by civil defence volunteers misusing COVID-19 regulations while in addition to their reported involvement in heinous crimes as well. The Delhi BJP presi-

dent urged the LG to order a departmental review of the enrolment process of the civil defence volunteers and the police re-verification of all enrolled volunteers in addition to modifying the colour of their uniforms.

Rao Inderjit Singh calls for 'Battle of Panipat'

The Gurugram Lok Sabha MP declares it is time to expand beyond Ahirwal

ASHOK KUMAR

Hinting at his plans to play a bigger role in Haryana politics, Gurugram Lok Sabha MP and Union Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh on Thursday emphasised the need to step outside the Ahirwal region (Gurugram-Rewari-Jhajjar belt) and fight the "Battle of Panipat". He also asserted that his self-respect and that of his people and region was "not negotiable".

Mr. Rao was speaking at a rally, "Shaheedi Diwas Samaroh", to mark the martyrdom of Rao Tularam, one of the key leaders of Indian rebellion of 1857 in Haryana.

Time to step up

Taking a dig at the State leadership for the poor show in the Assembly elections in 2019, Mr. Rao said a slogan "Abki Baar, 75 Paar" came from nowhere during the elections and everybody became complacent, but when the results came they even lost a few seats in the Ahir-



Rao Inderjit Singh at a rally to mark the martyrdom of Rao Tularam. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

wal region such as Rewari. He added that since the State leaders had failed to deliver what they had promised, it was now time for them to step outside the Ahirwal region and help them. "Will we confine ourselves to just fighting for the Ahirwals, or step outside the region to fight the 'Battle of Panipat?," asked Mr. Rao, a five-time

He, however, praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that it was the blessings of "Narendra Bhai" and the support of Ahirwal region that the BIP formed

its first full-majority government in Harvana in 2014. "Congress was so popular in Ahirwal region, but they did not get even a single seat in this region in 2014. Why was it so? We have contributed to the formation of two successive BJP governments, but have we been rewarded enough? I don't want an answer to it, and leave it vour wisdom," said Mr. Rao.

Leader of masses Mr. Rao, who started his

speech saying that he will speak his heart out in the last five minutes, said that he was the leader of the masses and not a "parachute leader". He also cautioned his party that he did not want anything from it, but his selfrespect and that of his people and region was not "negotiable"

Though Mr. Rao did not elaborate, his remarks are being seen in the context of 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' by newly-appointed Union Cabinet Minister Bhupender Yadav

in the Ahirwal region, amid speculations that the BIP might give Mr. Yadav bigger responsibility in the State. Mr. Rao also advocated the need to resume talks with the farmers.

The septuagenarian leader also announced that he had no plans to retire. "I was in dilemma, but thanks to my foes, who were constantly pushing me to retire, I have now decided not to retire," said Mr. Rao, amid loud cheers.

His daughter Arti Rao Singh, who was denied the BIP ticket last year due to the party's policy, announced that she would contest election next time with the blessings of the people of the region. She, however, added that it was not clear as to how and from where she would contest the election.

State BIP chief Om Prakash Dhankar, three Haryana Lok Sabha MPs, two State government Ministers and two MLAs from the region were also present.

AAP accuses BJP of 'lying' about house tax, licence fees

STAFF REPORTER

on Thursday alleged that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders are "lying" to people that the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) has reduced house tax and several licence fees, but in fact the BJP increased many licence fees by 17-25 times.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

"The corporation hiked the factory licence fee by almost 20 times. In the pandemic, when everyone is rolling back such fees, they have the guts to enforce such an increase. Similarly, general trade licence fee was increased by 17 to 25 times," AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj

He said that on the one hand, people are stressed about the loss of business, while on the other, the BJP has "doubled" the property tax on commercial properties. "A year later, in August 2021, they got articles published saying all these fee hikes have been rolled back.

They said they've rolled back all these licence fees and also house tax for plots up to 50 square yards," the AAP leader said.

Mr. Bharadwaj said that throughout North Delhi, the BJP has put up boards and advertisements and Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta is congratulating himself on reducing the taxes that he had increased one year ago.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor termed Mr. Bharadwaj's allegations "politically immature conduct" allegedly seeking to mislead people on the withdrawal of hiked trade licence fees apart from a waiver on property tax.

"NDMC's general house and standing committee has already approved withdrawal of hiked charges and property tax waiver which are now awaiting notification by the administrative wing. Such notifications take a few weeks' time and are likely to happen anytime next week," Mr. Kapoor

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MUNSIFF COURT.

KOTTAYAM, KERALA

O.S no. 387 of 2019

Poovakattu House, Pampady

Plaintiffs:

1. Thomas George,

PO, Kottayam

Defendants:

2. Alex George

S/o. Late P.Y. George.

1. Florance Masish.

Tower 3, Flat No. 1608,

Panchasheel, Wellington,

Crossing Republik, Dadri

District, Uttarpradesh. 2. Sunil Rao S/o. Abid Masih

Tehsil. Gautham Budhha Nagar

whereas the plaintiff had

instituted the above suit against

you for permanent prohibitory injunction and other reliefs and

you are hereby summoned to

appear in this court in person or

by a pleader on the 4th day of

October 2021at 11 am to answer

the same failing which the suit

03-09-2021 Adv. Bobby John K.A

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Annual General Body

Meeting of the Jawala

Co-op. Urban T/C Society

will be held on Sunday,

the 26th September, 2021

at 9 a.m. in the Society

Office. No gift will be

distributed on that day, Gift distribution from

18-10-21 between 11:30

to 5 PM in Society Office.

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

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Hony. Secretary

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W/o. Abid Masih,

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OFFLINE/ONLINE BATCH 20th OCT.

EMPOWER IAS 11- 49409261, 8470940655

नुख्य परीक्षा **2021** 45 दिवसीय <mark>बैच</mark>

11 अक्टूबर प्रातः 10.00 बजे से

CHANGE OF NAME

I. ATEEQUR RAHMAN S/O ABDUL RAHMAN born on 3th January,1965 residing at F-171 Third Floor Near Shaheen Masjid, Shaheen Bagh Jamia nagar Okhla New Delhi, have changed my name to ATIQUR RAHMAN vide affidavit dated 18th of September 2021, at New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Seneral public is informed that Mrs. Parneet Birgi intends to purchase property bearing Apartment no. 12-07-04, CWG Village, adjacent to Akshardham Temple, New Delhi. Any person having any right, title or interest by inheritance or any claim against the above property should send their claims in

writing to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence within seven (7) days of this notice, failing which such claims shall be deemed to be waived, Issued in public interest on 24.09.2021 by Parneet Birgi, d/o Mahinde Singh r/o 601, Tower 29, CWG Village, New Delhi 110092 Phone: 9989489455 Email

wlsindia@gmail.com

SITUATION VACANT

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with contact phone no. email ID & address. ON OR BEFORE 11th OCTOBER 2021

BJP's brainstorming meet plots plans for 2023 Assembly polls

Vasundhara Raje missing, party emphasises on ending factionalism and infighting

MOHAMMED IQBAL

A two-day brainstorming meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party's Rajasthan unit, held at Kumbhalgarh, addressed the issues of weaknesses as an Opposition party and internal differences, while discussing strategies for the 2023 Assembly election. The performance of all the 71 BIP MLAs was also evaluated on the occasion.

Senior BJP leader and former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was conspicuous by her absence.

The party's national general secretary, B.L. Santosh, presiding over the 'Chintan Shivir', reviewed organisational structure and activities and laid emphasis on ending the perception about "factionalism infighting".

Power continuity

The BJP's State office-bearers and core group members discussed the plans for booth management to be carried out till the elections. The party sources said a con-



party's meeting at Kumbhalgarh. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sensus emerged in the meeting, which concluded on Wednesday, for highlighting the social welfare schemes of the Narendra Modi government without projecting any individual leader as the Chief Ministerial candidate.

BJP State president Satish Poonia said after returning to Jaipur that the party would try to break the belief that power shifts alternately between the Congress and BJP after every five years. "We will ensure that the BJP returns to power in 2023 and

forms the government each time. The party workers will be more vocal on political issues," he said.

No factionalism

Mr. Poonia denied that factionalism was adversely affecting the BJP and said it was the ruling Congress that was witnessing infighting and contradictions because of "two power centres". He affirmed that the BJP was following an ideology rather than an individual. The BJP has been giving

importance to Ms. Raje's detractors for the last several months and has even appointed some of them to important organisational posts. Senior leaders such as Mr. Poonia, Gulab Chand Kataria, Rajendra Rathore, Gaiendra Singh Shekhawat and Arjun Ram Meghwal are said to be nursing Chief Ministerial ambitions.

The launch of an outfit in support of Ms. Raje - Vasundhara Raje Samarthak Rajasthan Manch - had created ripples in the political circles earlier this year amid speculations that it was floated at her own behest after her marginalisation by the party's top leadership. Signals of internal feud

have been coming from the remarks of Ms. Raje's supporters, who have asked the top leadership to announce her as the party's CM candidate for the 2023 polls, saying she was the "most popular face" of the BIP in the State. Ms. Raje's absence at the 'Chintan Shivir' has only confirmed internal diffe-

Khowai ruckus: HC orders stay in probe against TMC's Banerjee, 5 others

No issuance of notices till Nov. 11: court

SYED SAJJAD ALI AGARTALA

The Tripura High Court on Thursday ordered an interim stay on the ongoing investigation against senior Trinamool Congress leaders, including party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in connection with their visit at the Khowai police station on August 8 last.

Chief Justice Akil Kureshi passed the order after hearing a petition filed on behalf of Mr. Banerjee and five other TMC leaders who were booked for allegedly creating ruckus at the Khowai police station and obstructing police officers from discharging duty.

Other leaders

Other leaders who were named in the FIR are West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu, MP Dola Sen, party's West Bengal General Secretary Kunal Ghosh and two local leaders. The High Court of Tripu-

ra on September 2 admitted a petition that sought



court's order to quash the complaint bearing FIR No. 77 of 2021 registered with the Khowai police station for offence punishable under Section 186 (with sub section 34) of the Indian Penal Code.

Mr. Kureshi held a hearing in the case on Thursday and issued an interim stay on the investigation till November 11 2021. "In the meantime there shall be no further investigation or issuance of the notices against the accused persons," the order read.

The Chief Justice also ordered the listing of the next hearing on November 11.

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR **LOK NAYAK HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI-110002** (ESTABLISHMENT-III)

NOTICE

Sh. Yogesh Kumar Sharma, Nursing Officer, ID No. 118804/82173218, is hereby informed that he has availed Earned Leave from 16.04.2018 and since then he is continuously absenting himself from duty to till date without authentic reason / intimation.

And whereas correspondence has made by this office vide Memorandum no. 4867 - 71 dated 09.10.2018 with the direction to report for duty immmediately. Further due to continuous absence from duty a final show cause notice was issued vide no. 986 - 87 dated 25.04.2020 but the official neither reported for duty nor submitted any intimation. Thus, this act of unauthorised absence is unbecoming of govt servant and thus official has violated the provision of CCS (Conduct) Rules and CCS (Leave) Rules and deemed fit for disciplinary action against him.

Now, therefore, Sh. Yogesh Kumar Sharma, Nursing Officer, ID No. 118804/82173218 is hereby accorded last opportunity to join his duties within 15 days from publishing of this notice failing which necessary strict disciplinary action under CCS Rules 1965 shall be initiated against him without any further correspondence.

General Public is hereby informed that a

male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o

Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about. 30-

35 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion:

Wheatish, Built: Strong, Face: Round,

Wearing: Black Shirt with white dots and

blue jeans black belt and sliver colour

kadaa in right hand found in the Ganda

Nala of Village Singhu, New Delhi. In this

regard, DD No. 21 dt 13.09.2021 has

Ph.: 011-27202290.27202265.

Appeal for Identification

been lodged at PS Alipur, Delhi. The Dead Body has been

preserved at Mortuary of Babu Jagjivan Ram Hospital,

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out

Any, person having any information or clue about this male may

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department

Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

PUBLICATION - DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Section 13(2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 – Sent on 02-08-2021 by Registered Post with

No.1) Mr. Raj Kumar Yadav, S/o. Dal Chand Yadav, at House No.4C 443, Near Mewa

Institute, Vartalok Vasundhra, Ghaziabad - 201012, No.2) Mrs. Aruna Yadav W/o. Raj Kumar Yadav, at House No.4C 443, Near Mewar Institute, Vartalok Vasunc

Sub: Loan account / Overdraft with City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi - Laxmi Naga Branch in the name of Mr. Raj Kumar Yadav.

The Bank issued notice under the SARFAESI Act on 02-08-2021 calling upon all of you to repay the outstanding amount of Rs.20,09,520/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Only) as on 01-08-2021 with further interest for 501312030016971 (SWAYAM GRIHA - SAL BR) at 11.25% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a (not compounded) with

monthly rests from 02-08-2021 till the date of repayment. The notice sent to you by Registerer

Therefore, we hereby once again call upon you all to pay Rs.20.09.520/- (Rupees Twenty Lak)

Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Only) with further interest for 50131203001697 (SWAYAM GRIHA - SAL BR)at 11.25% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded) with

monthly rests from 02-08-2021 till the date of repayment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be Constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security

interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This Notice is published/issued without prejudice to any other right/remedy available to the Bank.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule A (Property Owned by Mr. Raj Kumar Yadav, S/o. Dal Chand Yadav &

Mrs. Aruna Yadav, W/o. Raj Kumar Yadav)

Unit No.101, First Floor, 2 BHK, Plot No.A-095, Pocket-A, Type-G, Khasra No.838 admeasuring 850 Sq.Ft., Shouryapuram, Shahpur, Bhameta NH-24, Ghaziabad - 201002 (U.P.). <u>Bounded as Under</u>: East: Plot No.A-99, West: Road 9 Mtr., North: Plot No.A-94, South: Plot No.A-96.

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District,

Tamil Nadu - 612 001. CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287

Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

ace: Kumbakonam, Date: 20-08-2021

acknowledgement due and the same was **returned by All**. Hence this

information about this male but no clue has come to light so far.

Jahangir Puri, Delhi for 72 Hours for identification.

kindly inform to the following.

DP/1306/ON/2021

CUB

Ghaziabad - 201012.

DIP/Shabdarth/0314/21-22

LOK NAYAK HOSPITAL

Doctors' shortage: pharmacists in Odisha allowed to prescribe drugs

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHUBANESWAR

In a bid to overcome difficult situations due to the absence of doctors, the Odisha government has allowed pharmacists to dispense drugs to patients for 12

"Many of the single doctor hospitals in the State are managed by the pharmacists in the absence of doctors due to some reason or other. It is difficult to manage the hospitals without any

specific government orders entrusting the pharmacists for treatment of patients and list of ailments to be treated by them," said the Department of Health and Family Welfare in a communication.

It said, "In order to overcome the difficulties, the government after careful consideration has been pleased to decide that in partial modification to earlier department order, the pharmacists are entrusted to dispense the

drugs for ailments for treatment in absence of doctors." Pharmacists can dispense

drugs to patients suffering from upper respiratory tract infection, malaria, fever, scabies, ring worm, helminthiasis, diarrhoea, minor injuries without medico legal cases, superficial burns, drainage of abscess and some disease control programmes. They cannot prescribe drugs that are not available in Niramaya – a free drug supply scheme.

THEMAHINDU

ARULMIGU MEENAKSHI SUNDARESWARAR TEMPLE, Madurai, Tamilnadu.

(Phone No. 0452 - 2344360), email: info@maduraimeenakshi.org) TENDER NOTICE (PRE QUALIFICATION AND ITEMWISE RATE) -

TWO COVER SYSTEM) THIRD CALL Tender Reference No & Date : 6202 / 2018 / F1 dated : 22.09.2021 ender invited by: The Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer, Arulmigu Meenaksh undareswarar Temple, Madurai – 625 001, Tamilnadu

Sundareswarar rempie, Madural – 625 001 . Tamilinadu
Name of work: Dressing and fixing in position of Cut stone members – Pillars
Bothigai with Simma Beedam, Simmam, Uthiram, Kabothagam, Kodivalai,
Nadagachattam, Padangu, Pavukal etc., for Re Construction of Fire damaged
Veera Vasantharayar Mandapam in Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple,
Madurai (Cutstones will be supplied by the Temple at free of cost) robable value of work and E.M.D. Rs. 10.00 Crores and Rs. 5,10,000/-

Cost of Tender Documents sue details of Tender Documents Pre-Bid Meeting date and place

ligibility criteria of Contractors As per Para No. 3.1 to 3.7 of Part I of Tender Document

Rs. 15,000/- + GST Rs. 1,800/ Refer Page V of Part I of Tender Documen 08.10.2021 at 11.00 AM - Temple Office ast date for receipt of filled tender 27.10.2021 upto 3.00 PM Date and Time of Tender Opening

27.10.2021 upto 4.00 PM
(Pre Qualification cover only)

The Tender Documents can also be downloaded from www.tn.tenders.gov.in and

www.tnhrce.gov.in at free of cost. Corrections / modifications if any regarding ab ender, it will be notified only in the above website. Karumuthu T. Kannan K. Chelladurai, M.A.B.L.

Fit Person DIPR/2765/Tender/2021 "சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்தீரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்தீரம் படைப்போம்"

Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer



SHO

P.S., Alipur, Delhi

7065036325

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

PUBLICATION - DEMAND NOTICE Notice under Section 13(2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets

and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 - Sent on 02-08-2021 by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due and the same was returned by All. Hence this No.1) Mr. Vivek Kumar Alias Vivek Gautam, S/o. Tejveer Prasad Gautam at RC 685. andona Enclave Extn., Khora Colony, Near Archana Builder, Ghaziabad, U.P - 201001

No.2) Mrs. Manju Gautam, W/o. Vivek Kumar at RC 685, Vandona Enclave Extn., Khora

Colony, Near Archana Builder, Ghaziabad, U.P - 201001. Dear Sir/ Madam, Sub: Loan account / Overdraft with City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi-Laxmi Naga Branch in the name of Mr. Vivek Kumar Alias Vivek Gautam

The Bank issued Notice under the SARFAESI Act on 02-08-2021 calling upon all of you to

repay the outstanding amount of Rs.9,08,001/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Eight Thousand and One Only) as on 01-08-2021 with further interest for 501812080038926 (CUB OSL TERM EMI-BR) at 13.00% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded) with monthly rests from 02-08-2021 till the date of repayment. The Notice sent to you by Registered Post have been returned by All.

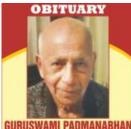
Therefore, we hereby once again call upon you all to pay Rs.9,08,001/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Eight Thousand and One Only) with further interest for 501812080038926 (CUB OSL TERM EMI-BR) at 13.00% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded) with monthly rests from 02-08-2021 till the date of repayment within 60 days from the date of this Notice failing which Bank will be Constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the Schedule hereunder. This Notice is published/issued without prejudice to any other right/remedy available to the Bank.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank (Property Owned by Mr. Vivek Kumar Alias Vivek Gautam, S/o. Tejveer Prasad Gautam) Part of One Kita Residential Vacant Plot No.98, Area 17-Square Yard i.e. 14.21 Square Metres

Nimn Seema Related Khasra No.309/6, situated at Residential Colony, Nehru Garden Hadbast Village, Khoda Pargana, Loni Tehsil, and District Ghaziabad. Bounded as Under East: Rasta 30 Feet, West: Plot Gyaneshwari Chauhan, North: Plot Anil Kumar, South: Plot Sandeep Gautam. Place: Kumbakonam, Date : 20-09-2021

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE



affectionately addressed as Paddu, went to his heavenly abode on Sentember 20, 2021 after a brief illness.

Please join his family in celebrating his rich life with Nalini, Venki, Padma, Paul, Jayanthi, Dakshin, Veda, Vyas, Anjali and Ann. Contact: 91761 47752

New Delhi: 011-43579797 Rate for New Delhi: (Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines Extra Line - Rs.160/-) (B/W Display): Rs-60/Per Sq.cm

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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. PC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Ajit S/o Jhumman Singh R/o H. No. 936, PKT-7, Sec-A10, Narela, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to has committed) the offence in case FIR No. 212/21, U/s 302/201/34 IPC has been registred at Police Station - Narela, Delhi which is punishable and a warrant of arrest issued thereupon has been returned unexecuted stating that the said accused Ajit could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ajit has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ajit is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 31.10.2021.

By Order Ms. Divya Malhotra

DP/1272/ON/2021

L.D. Metropolitan Magistrate-01, Room No. 116, 1st Floor, Rohini Court, New Delhi

READ

EVERY FORTNIGHT

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

IS sleeper cells working in Kerala?

NIA has filed chargesheet against 3 persons for running propaganda channels

The arrest of several persons from Kerala by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with terror-related cases recently has raised concerns about suspected sleeper cells of the Islamic State (IS) operating in

A fortnight ago, the NIA filed a chargesheet against three persons, Mohammed Ameen, aka Abu Yahya of Malappuram, Mushab Anwar of Kannur, and Rahees Rasheed of Oachira in Kol-

The agency also registered a suo motu case against seven known and a few unknown persons for involvement in the terrorist acof Mohammed Ameen and his associates, accused of running Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (IS) propaganda channels on social media platforms, in-

IN BRIEF

Telangana CM KCR to

leave for Delhi today

Telangana Chief Minister

leave for New Delhi on

Jal Shakti Gajendrasingh

and attend a meeting

K. Chandrasekhar Rao will

Friday. A release said Mr. Rao

will meet Union Minister for

Shekhawat on September 25

convened by the Union Home

Ministry at Vignan Bhavan on

September 26. The same day,

he will meet Union Minister

for Food and Civil Supplies

Piyush Goyal to discuss



Terror trail: A file photo of Shifa Harris and Mizha Siddeeque,

cluding Telegram, Hoop and Instagram, for propagating violent jihad and radicalising recruiting

Officials said that after the decline of the IS Caliphate in Syria and Iraq, Mohammed Ameen visited Kashmir in March 2020 for 'hijrah' (religious migration) and engaging in terrorist acts. He was engaged in raising and distributing funds in connivance with Rahees Rasheed and

A loud blast followed by a

fire that ripped through the

congested bylanes of New

Tharagupet in Bengaluru's

Chamarajpet left two per-

sons dead and four injured

The blast occurred at a

transit godown of a tran-

sport firm due to suspected

mishandling of a consign-

ment of firecrackers stored

The impact of the blast

was so intense that Mano-

har, 28, hailing from Tamil

Nadu, a driver at the firm

who was reportedly loading

the consignment onto the

on Thursday.

there.

Kashmir-based accused Mo-

Incidentally, the NIA last month arrested two women – Mizha Siddeeque and Shifa Harris from Kannur - on charges of associating with Mohammed Ameen for spreading IS activities through social media. Mizha had also travelled to Tehran along with her associates to

vehicle, and Aslam Pasha, 45, who runs a puncture

shop next door were flung

onto the street. Their bodies

were found several metres

Harish Pandey, Deputy

Commissioner of Police

(South), said preliminary in-

vestigations indicated that

the blast and subsequent

fire were triggered by mis-

"There was a large consign-

ment of 80 carton boxes of

crackers. While transport-

ing them, one box seems to

have fallen down, triggering

sustained injuries.

Four persons in the area

from the accident site.

SC reserves judgment on bail plea of Fasal

Student held for alleged Maoist link

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its judgment on a plea for bail filed by Thwaha Fasal, a journalism student in his twenties, accused under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for having Maoist links.

A Bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and A.S. Oka reserved its verdict also on an appeal filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) challenging the bail granted to Alan Shuhaib, a third-year law student and Fasal's coaccused in the case.

The duo from Kerala was arrested in November 2019. While the trial court granted them bail, the Kerala High Court cancelled Fasal's bail while not interfering with Shuhaib's

A chargesheet filed by the NIA accused the youth of harbouring and associating with the banned outfit.

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, for the NIA, argued that the duo, by inference, were "members" of the banned organisation. Members, if found guilty, were sentenced up to life in prison under UAPA. In contrast, association or supporting a banned organisation attracts either fine or only a few years in prison.

Mr. Raju said the NIA would apply for sanction under Section 20 of the UA-PA, which deals with punishment for being a member of a terrorist organisation.

But the court on Thursday made it clear that it would examine the two petitions regarding bail with the charges arraigned in the chargesheet. "You can do whatever you want, but we have to go with what is provided to us," Justice Rastogi

. 15....30.1... 23.6 61 29 2 22 4 . 14....15.5....14.3 Srinagar.

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

observation made at

4.00 p.m., Yamunanagar, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 132 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI

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

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



who were arrested by a team of NIA sleuths in Kannur.

Two killed, four injured in

Crackers catch fire outside godown

Bengaluru explosion

hammad Waqar Lone, aka Wilson Kashmiri, for propagating the activities of the IS

Verdict in Kerala Assembly ruckus case on October 6

Discharge petition filed by Sivankutty and five others

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

join the IS in Syria. She had

created a page on Instagram to propagate, motivate, radi-

calise and recruit Muslim

youth for the IS. It was found

that Shifa had transferred

funds to Lone for IS

The NIA says its investiga-

tions have revealed that the

tacles in India through pro-

paganda online. Gullible

youth are targeted on open

social media platforms.

Once a person shows inter-

est, he/she is enticed to com-

municate with online han-

dlers based abroad using

encrypted social media

The handlers then use the

person for uploading online

content, translation of IS

texts to the local language,

conspiracy, preparation of a

module, collection of arms

and ammunition, prepara-

tion of IEDs, terror funding

and even attacks

activities.

platforms.

The verdict in the discharge petition filed by General Education Minister V. Sivankutty and others in the Assembly ruckus case will be passed by the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Thiruvananthapuam, on October 6.

In the event of the trial court allowing the discharge petition, the accused legisla tors will walk free. If found guilty, the MLAs will have to face trial in the court itself. However, the accused can file appeals against the verdict in the High Court.



V. Sivankutty

When the CJM took up the case on Thursday, counsel for the accused contended that the charges levelled against the Minister and five others would not stand the committed the offence of trespass as defined in law. The dais of the Speaker cannot be considered a private property. It is not even a private room, which is in the exclusive possession of the Speaker. He argued that the charge

test of law as they had not

of destruction of public property, as levelled against the legislators, too, would not stand. He questioned the non-inclusion of any legislator as witnesses. Only police officers and staff of the Assembly were made witness-

isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha, Yanam and Karaikal

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over

Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, coastal

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Anda-

man & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at

. 0.2....33.3....25.6 . 0.2....30.1....18.1 . 3....33.4....26.2 Allahahad Bengaluru .. Bhubaneswar..... 0.7....33.0....25.5 7....25.0....24.0

co PM2.5 PM10 CODE .20 ... 92 .123 27 ... 62 ... 51 ...7 .20 .19 ...43 ...62 ...7 .32 .84 .120 .128 17 .10

Visakhapatnam .20 .30 .37 ... 37 ... 63

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

⁺ PM CARES is not govt. fund, Centre tells HC

Plea requests that it be under RTI Act

The Central government has informed the Delhi High Court that the PM CARES Fund is "not a fund of the Government of India and the amount does not go in the Consolidated Fund of India".

The affidavit filed by an Under Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the PM CARES Fund was a charitable trust not created by or under the Constitution or by any law made by Parliament or by any State legisla-

Under Secretary Pradeep Kumar Srivastava said despite being an officer of the Central government, he was permitted to discharge his functions in the PM CARES Trust on an honorary basis.

PM CARES functioned with transparency and its funds were audited by an auditor, who is a chartered

accountant drawn from the panel prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, he stated. "To ensure transparency, the audited report is put on the official website of the trust along with the details of utilisation of funds received by the

The Centre's affidavit came in response to a petition filed by Samyak Gangwal before the court seeking to declare PM CARES as a "public authority" under the Right to Information (RTI)

trust," he said.

It said that irrespective of whether the trust was a 'State' or other authority within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution or whether it was a 'public authority' within the meaning of provisions of the Right to Information Act (RTI), it was not permissible to disclose third party information.

T.N. college girl stabbed to death in broad daylight

Assailant attempted to harm himself

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A college girl, M. Swetha, was stabbed to death by a youth near the Tambaram railway station on Thursday afternoon. The assailant, G. Ramachandran, 25, attempted to harm himself with the same weapon, a kitchen knife, but was overpowered by members of the public and handed over to the police. He told the police that he had a strained relationship with the 20-year-old student.

A police officer said Swetha, doing a diploma in medical laboratory technology at Madras Christian College, was walking towards the railway station to go home in Chromepet, when Ramachandran accosted her. He wanted to speak to her near the railway quarters.

The police officer said that during the initial interrogation, Ramachandran, working at a private company at Maraimalai Nagar, told them that he and Swetha had be come friends while travelling in the suburban train. But a few weeks ago, the girl stopped meeting him and did not respond to his phone

calls, stating she wanted to end the relationship. On Thursday, when both were having a verbal spat, he suddenly took out the knife from his bag and stabbed her multiple times. On hearing her cries, the locals rushed to her rescue.

In the meantime, the accused attempted to die by suicide. Even before the people could take Swetha to a nearby hospital, she died,

the police officer said. (Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050.)

HC for probe into Manika Batra's plaint

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Thursday stayed the mandate of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) on compulsory attendance at the National Coaching Camp in order to be selected for international events.

The court's order came on a petition by star table tennis player Manika Batra, who was left out of the Indian contingent for the upcoming Asian Table Tennis Championships in Doha due to the mandate.

Justice Rekha Palli also asked the Centre to conduct an inquiry into Ms. Batra's complaint against the TTFI. Ms. Batra had alleged that on one occasion, national coach Soumyadeep Roy put pressure on her to "throw away a match" to enable one of his personal trainees to qualify for the Olympics 2020.

Kerala Crime Branch probing possible kidney racket

Preliminary probe under way based on media reports

STAFF REPORTER ALAPPUZHA

es, he submitted

The Crime Branch (CB) has launched a preliminary investigation following reports that scores of people in the coastal areas of Ambalappuzha in Kerala's Alappuzha district had sold their kidneys through intermediaries in recent years.

Officials said here on Thursday that at least 24 people, including women, from poor economic backgrounds, in two wards of Ambalappuzha South grama panchayat had "donated" their kidneys for money.

The CB has not yet registered a case. "We have not yet received any complaints. The preliminary probe is being conducted based on media reports," said a CB official.

Officials said the investiga-



tion was primarily focused on the involvement of intermediaries. "The donors have given their kidneys voluntarily. But they have received sizeable sums of money. The probe is looking at whether the middlemen lured them into selling their kidneys by exploiting their financial struggles. It is to be ascertained whether the intermediaries have benefited financially. If that is the case, an FIR will be registered and

the matter will be pursued. the official said, adding that the lack of complaints may impede the investigation.

Deal gone wrong

"After media reports started to emerge, we have been receiving calls from different parts of the region. In one, a woman, a divorcee, said that she recently backed out of a deal that she had struck with a middleman in Kozhikode to sell a kidney due to a lack of agreement over the amount. The woman, who has undergone medical examinations ahead of undergoing donor nephrectomy at a hospital in Ernakulam, was initially promised ₹15 lakh by the intermediary. However, the middleman later reduced the amount to ₹10 lakh, which she did not accept," said a CB official.

Kerala to revise list of COVID-19 deaths; new guidelines soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala will bring out a revised and comprehensive list of COVID-19 deaths in accordance with the new Central guidelines on the definition of what constitutes a COVID-19 death, Kerala Health Minister Veena Ge-

orge has said. The State guidelines on COVID-19 deaths are being revised and the new guidelines will be finalised and published within a few days.

New clarification

They will take into account the new clarification provided by the Centre that even if a patient was COVID-negative at the time of death, it would be treated as death due to COVID-19 if the death



Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital on Thursday.

occurs within 30 days of the patient testing positive for COVID. The new list of CO-VID-19 deaths that have occurred in the State would be comprehensive and would not leave out any deaths related to COVID-19, Ms. George told mediapersons here on Thursday, while visiting new ICUs being opened at the Thiruvananthapuram

Government Medical College Hospital. The Health Department has decided to conduct an inquiry into CO-VID-19 deaths and will take necessary steps to resolve any anomalies in reporting. Steps have been taken to receive all complaints on noninclusion of deaths due to COVID-19 in the State's official list of deaths.

Kerala plans extra cover for ivory

Around 200 kg of sandal oil will also be moved to State Forest Headquarters

K.S. SUDHI

Ten tonnes of ivory in the possession of the Kerala Forest Department will be shifted to a high-security centre

Besides ivory, around 200 kg of sandalwood oil, seized by officials from illicit sandal oil distilling units earlier, will also be moved to the treasure chest that has come up on the premises of the State Forest Headquarters.

The State Board for Wildlife had declined permission twice to destroy the ivorv stock in Kerala, forcing the department to set up the new facility. A proposal to set up an ivory museum too failed to find favour with authorities. The Forest Department in some other



police displaying ivory seized by them. ■н. vівни

States, including Assam, destroyed the rhinoceros and elephant ivory in its possession recently.

The ivory and sandal-

wood oil would be stored in the strongroom, which has security features matching the currency chest of the Reserve Bank of India, says P.K. Kesavan, Head of Forest Force, Kerala. The ivory of wild ele-

phants that died of natural causes and the ones seized from wildlife offenders adds to the stock. These days, State Treasury officials are reluctant to accept ivory to be stored in their strongrooms as it is a space-consuming affair, says Mr.

The ever-growing stock of ivory has been a cause of perennial worry for the Forest Department. There were instances when ivory stored in the strongroom of the department was stolen. Ivory involved in wildlife crimes would be kept in the respective forest range offices. Later, it would be shifted to the Forest Headquarters with the permission of courts, says another forest official. All wild animals and its

meat and trophy, including ivory, are considered government property under the Wildlife (Protection) Act. The value of ivory cannot be fixed as its trade is banned in the country. Only those persons who inherit an elephant and have its ownership certificate could keep its ivory once the animal is dead. Those inheriting such a trophy should make a declaration regarding the inheritance to the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State, notes the Act.

Focus on curbing drug menace: Jagan

STAFF REPORTER

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has directed the officers of the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) to focus on curbing the drug menace and conduct awareness programmes in universities and colleges on the consequences of drug abuse.

stringent action be taken against those cultivating and transporting cannabis (marijuana), and smuggling liquor. To reduce liquor con-

He has also directed that

sumption, the government had increased the alcohol prices and closed almost one-third of the outlets across the State, he said.

Another grouping

AUKUS presents both challenges and opportunities for India as a Quad member

n its first reaction to AUKUS, the new partnership between Australia, the U.S. and the U.K., India has ■ made it clear that it does not welcome the announcement, nor does it wish to link AUKUS to Indian interests. Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla said that AUKUS, which was launched a week before the first in-person summit of leaders of the Australia-India-Japan-U.S. Quadrilateral, will not affect plans to strengthen the Quad. He called them two very different groupings, describing AUKUS as a security alliance, and indicating that security is not the Quad's main focus. Brushing aside criticism from China and Iran on the plans within the partnership for the U.S. and the U.K. to develop nuclear-propelled submarines for Australia, he said that India does not see AUKUS as nuclear proliferation. But New Delhi has noticed the protests from others, especially France, that has lost a lucrative submarine deal in the bargain, prompting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to reach out to their French counterparts. France has recalled its Ambassadors to the U.S. and Australia, accusing them of betrayal by negotiating their defence partnership with the U.K., and without informing European allies. The EU and ASEAN countries have been reserved in their reactions. U.S. President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson have now spoken to French President Emmanuel Macron, but it remains to be seen whether the damage to ties can be reversed.

Given the different reactions and widespread impact of the AUKUS partnership, India's non-committal note is not surprising. There are two sides to it. The promising possibilities of the alliance include strengthening the Quad's agenda to keep the Indo-Pacific region free, open and inclusive. The alliance could also extend itself to bolstering the Quad's efforts on maritime exercises, security and efforts in countering COVID-19, climate change, cooperating on critical technologies, and building resilient supply chains. More broadly, the U.S.'s three-fold messaging on AUKUS seems to be in line with India's hopes: that "America is back" after four years of retrenchment from global issues; is as engaged with its Indo-Pacific flank as it is with its Transatlantic flank, and is focused on partnerships with fellow democracies in particular. But the concerns over AUKUS are considerable too: that the timing of the announcement of the deal just before the Quad leaders meet could overshadow the latter, and also signal that the U.S. is relegating the Quad to less substantive issues in the Indo-Pacific. With the sudden announcement of AUKUS, a worry for New Delhi is that the U.S. is now promoting a security partnership with its "Anglo-Saxon" treaty allies that it is excluded from, possibly upsetting the balance of power in the region, and setting off new tensions to India's east, adding to the substantial turbulence in India's west caused by the developments in Afghanistan.

Vital relief

The court-mediated decision for COVID-19 death compensation will help the poorest

Tt took an assertive Supreme Court to persuade a reluctant Centre, and in a welcome turn of events, fa-■ milies of those who died of COVID-19 are to get ex gratia financial relief of ₹50,000 per deceased individual within 30 days of submitting the necessary documents. The staggering impact of the pandemic cannot be meaningfully addressed with a token sum, but it nevertheless provides immediate succour to families that have lost breadwinners and productive members. No other scourge in living memory has taken a toll of tens of thousands of lives in 18 months, although India has high chronic and invisible mortality due to disease and road traffic accidents. As of September 13, WHO recorded 4,45,768 COVID-19 deaths in India and 3,35,31,498 confirmed cases, indicating that the current ex gratia outlay would be of the order of ₹2,300 crore. The relief amount proposed by the National Disaster Management Authority is to be paid out of the State Disaster Response Fund, which represents a dedicated facility to deal with notified disasters, including COVID-19; State authorities will create a people-friendly claims mechanism. Fresh audits and recertification of deaths have become an important factor, given the move by several States to keep virus mortality numbers low, attribute a significant number of deaths to co-morbidities rather than the infection, and the indisputable undercounting of lives lost in the two phases of the pandemic.

The ex gratia payment decision puts the issue of compensation on a sound footing, and provides clarity for future cases, but the task before the States is to ensure that the process is easy, accurate and empathetic. It should be possible for such claimants to submit a simple form electronically. More challenging will be the issue of resolving cases where the medical certification of cause of death has not acknowledged it as COVID-19. In fact, such disputes have already entered the realm of litigation, with families seeking judicial relief, because doctors refuse proper certification and cite underlying conditions of patients based on Government instructions. Also, the Centre must consider providing additional compensation in the future, treating COVID-19 on a par with other disasters such as cyclones, major accidents, building collapses and industrial mishaps, where the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund has been sanctioning ₹2 lakh for death and ₹50,000 for serious injury. In a positive move, the demand for inclusion of COVID-19 cases for compensation where people took their own lives due to mental agony has been accepted. Going forward, the Centre must now quickly set up risk insurance for disasters as suggested by the XV Finance Commission, to which States will readily contribute.

A disease surveillance system, for the future

Diseases and outbreaks are realities and a well-functioning system can help reduce their impact



CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

defining moment in the history of epidemiology was the removal of the handle of a water pump. This is a spectacular story. In 1854, when a deadly outbreak of cholera affected Soho area of London, John Snow (1813-1858), a British doctor and epidemiologist, used the health statistics and death registration data from the General Registrar Office (GRO) in London, to plot on a map of the area, the distribution of cholera cases and deaths. He observed that a majority of cases and deaths were in the Broad Street area, which received supply from a common water pump, supporting his theory that cholera was a waterborne, contagious disease.

The collection of health data and vital statistics by the GRO had improved over the previous decade-and-a-half due to untiring efforts put in by another medical doctor, William Farr (1807-1883). Based upon the data on the time, place and person distribution of cholera cases and deaths, supplemented by a map, Snow, on September 7, 1854, could convince the local authorities in London to remove the handle of the water pump, which they reluctantly did. The cholera outbreak was controlled in a few weeks. It started the beginning of a new era in epidemiology. John Snow is often referred to as the father of modern epidemiology and William Farr as founder of the modern concept of disease surveillance system.

A nodal point

In the years to follow, epidemiology became a key discipline to prevent and control infectious diseases (and in present context for non communicable diseases as well). The application of principles of epidemiology is possible through systematic collection and timely analysis, and dissemination of da-

ta on the diseases. This is to initiate action to either prevent or stop further spread, a process termed as disease surveillance.

However, in the late 19th century, with the emergence of understanding that germs cause the diseases, and then in the early 20th century, with the discovery of antibiotics and advances in modern medicine, attention from epidemiology somewhat shifted. The high-income countries invested in disease surveillance systems but low- and middle-income countries used limited resources for medical care. Then, in the second half of Twentieth century, as part of the global efforts for smallpox eradication and then to tackle many emerging and re-emerging diseases, many countries recognised the importance and started to invest in and strengthen the diseases surveillance system. These efforts received further boost with the emergence of Avian flu in 1997 and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syn-(SARS) outbreak in 2002-04.

Surveillance in India

A major cholera outbreak in Delhi in 1988 and the Surat plague outbreak of 1994, nudged the Government of India to launch the National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases in 1997. However, this initiative remained rudimentary till, in wake of the SARS outbreak, in 2004, India launched the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP). The focus under the IDSP was to increase government funding for disease surveillance, strengthen laboratory capacity, train the health workforce and have at least one trained epidemiologist in every district of India. With that, between 2004 and 2019, nearly every passing year, more outbreaks were detected and investigated than the previous year. It was on this foundation of the IDSP (which now has become a full fledged programme) that when COVID-19 pandemic struck, India could rapidly deploy the teams of epidemiologists and public health experts to respond to and guide the response, coordinate the contact tracing and rapid-

ly scale up testing capacity.

The disease surveillance system and health data recording and reporting systems are key tools in epidemiology; however, these have performed variably in Indian States, as we know now from available analyses, be it seroprevalence-survey findings or the analysis of excess COVID-19 deaths. As per data from the fourth round of sero-survey, Kerala and Maharashtra States could identify one in every six and 12 infections, respectively; while in States such as Madhva Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, only one in every 100 COVID-19 infections could be detected, pointing towards a weak disease surveillance system. The estimated excess deaths are also higher in those States which have weak disease surveillance systems and the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems.

In a well-functioning disease surveillance system, an increase in cases of any illness would be identified very quickly. An example is Kerala, arguably the best performing disease surveillance system amongst the India States, as it is picking the maximum COVID-19 cases; it could pick the first case of the Nipah virus in early September 2021. On the contrary, cases of dengue, malaria, leptospirosis and scrub typhus received attention only when more than three dozen deaths were reported and health facilities in multiple districts of Uttar Pradesh, began to be overwhelmed. The situation is not very different in States such as Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, where viral illnesses, most likely dengue, are causing hospitalisation but not being correctly identified or are being reported as mystery fever. This is a bit concerning as 18 months in-

to the COVID-19 pandemic and a lot of political promises of strengthening disease surveillance and health systems, one would have expected a better performance. It raises the question: if the pandemic could not nudge the governments to strengthen the disease surveillance system, then what will? Or is it that difficult to strengthen the disease surveillance system?

What should be done

A review of the IDSP by joint monitoring mission in 2015, conducted jointly by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Government of India and World Health Organization India had made a few concrete recommendations to strengthen disease surveillance systems. These included increasing financial resource allocation, ensuring adequate number of trained human resources, strengthening laboratories, and zoonosis, influenza and vaccine-prevendiseases surveillance. Clearly, it is time all these recommendations are re-looked and acted upon. At a more specific level, the following should be considered by health policy makers.

First, the government resources allocated to preventive and promotive health services and disease surveillance need to be increased by the Union and State governments. Second, the workforce in the primary health-care system in both rural and urban areas needs to be retrained in disease surveillance and public health actions. The vacancies of surveillance staff at all levels need to be urgently filled in. Third, the laboratory capacity for COVID-19, developed in the last 18 months, needs to be planned and repurposed to increase the ability to conduct testing for other public health challenges and infections. This should be linked to create a system in which samples collected are quickly transported and tested and the reports are available in real time. Fourth, the emerging outbreaks of zoonotic diseases, be it the Nipah virus in Kerala or avian flu in other States as well as scrub typhus in Uttar Pradesh, are a reminder of Pandemic

the interconnectedness of human and animal health. The 'One Health' approach has to be promoted beyond policy discourses and made functional on the ground. Fifth, there has to be a dedicated focus on strengthening the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems and medical certification of cause of deaths (MCCD). These are complementary to disease surveillance systems and often where one is weak, the other is also functioning suboptimally. Sixth, it is also time to ensure coordinated actions between the State government and municipal corporation to develop joint action plans and assume responsibility for public health and disease surveillance. The allocation made by the 15th Finance Commission to corporations for health should be used to activate this process.

Check the right pump

The emergence and re-emergence of new and old diseases and an increase in cases of endemic diseases are partly unavoidable. We cannot prevent every single outbreak but with a well-functioning disease surveillance system and with application of principles of epidemiology, we can reduce their impact. Sometimes, the control of a deadly disease could be as easy as the removal of a handle of a water pump. However, which handle it is to be can only be guided by coordinated actions between a disease surveillance system, a civil registration system and experts in medical statistics, and, finally, informed by the application of principles of epidemiology. Indian States urgently need to do everything to start detecting diseases, which will prepare the country for all future outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics. This is amongst the first things, which Indian health policy makers should pay attention to.

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, a physician-epidemiologist, is a public policy and health systems expert and India's Fight Against The COVID-19

A climate change narrative that India can steer

The Glasgow COP26 meet offers New Delhi a chance to update its Nationally Determined Contributions to meet targets



SYED MUNIR KHASRU

n a keynote speech on September 8 in a seminar organised by a think tank, R.K. Singh, Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy stated, "Environment is something we are trustees of and have to leave behind a better environment for our children and great grand children." However, a recent report, "Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region" by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) reveals that India has warmed up 0.7° C during 1901-2018. The 2010-2019 decade was the hottest with a mean temperature of 0.36° C higher than average. Heatwaves continued to inno signs with diminishing greenhouse gas emissions despite lower activity since the novel coronavirus pandemic. Prolonged exposure to heat is becoming detrimental to public health, especially the poor unable to afford support for coping with the heat. Assessment by the MoES shows that India may experience a 4.4° C rise by the end of this

India has also suffered two of the 10 most expensive climate disasters in the last two years. Super-

cyclone "Cyclone Amphan" that hit India in 2020, cost more than USD13 billion even as the country was just recovering from "June-October Monsoon Flooding" that cost USD10 billion and around 1.600 lives. It was India's heaviest monsoon rain in the last 25 years ≥ and the world's seventh costliest. In early 2021, India suffered two more cyclones: Cyclone Tauktae hitting the west coast and Cyclone Yaas from the east.

India's rising IDPs

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, India's Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs) are rising due to damaging climate events. Uttarakhand residents began deserting their homes after the Kedarnath floods in 2013 due to heavy precipitation that increases every year. Within 2050, rainfall is expected to rise by 6% and temperature by 1.6° C.

To make things worse, India lost about 235 square kilometres to coastal erosion due to climate change induced sea-level rise, land erosion and natural disasters such as tropical cyclones between 1990-2016. About 3.6 million out of 170 million living in coastal areas were displaced between 2008-2018. Recent figures are more alarming with 3.9 million displaced in 2020 alone, mostly due to Cyclone Amphan.

India's Deccan plateau has seen eight out of 17 severe droughts since 1876 in the 21st century



rashtra and Karnataka (the heart of the Deccan Plateau), families deserted homes in 2019 due to an acute water crisis. Hatkarwadi, a village in Beed district of Maharashtra State, had as few as 10-15 families remaining out of the previous population count of 2,000

Good policies, weak practices India held the top 10 position for the second year in a row in 2020's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI). The country received credit under all of the CCPI's performance fields except renewable energy where India performed

medium. India vowed to work with COP21 by signing the Paris Agreement to limit global warming and submitted the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with a goal of reducing emissions intensity of GDP by 33%-35% and increasing green energy resources (non-fossil-oil based) to 40% of installed

2016. Either all States

measures in their

permitted by the

or none should.

should introduce similar

jurisdiction (as correctly

Constitution Bench in 2018)

A better system to provide

insist on a service bond of

one to two years provided

the bond period is not too

States. This alone will be

fair to students from all

required manpower.

DR. V. SURESH,

Tirupati

States while providing the

widely variable across

super-specialty care in

State-run hospitals is to

electric power capacity by 2030. resources- which aims at mobilising USD1 trillion in investments for the deployment of solar energy at affordable prices by 2030. Despite leading ISA, India performed the least in renewable energy according to the CCPI's performance of India. The question is, are these global alliances and world-leading policies being practised or are merely big promises with little implementation?

Experts agree that India can achieve the 2° C target of COP15 Copenhagen in 2009. But it also observes that the country is not fully compliant with the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal of the NDCs and there are still risks of falling short of the 2° C goal. According to India's carbon emission trajectory, the country is en route to achieve barely half of the pledged carbon sink by 2030. To achieve the Paris Agreement's NDC target, India needs to produce 25 million-30 million hectares of forest cover by 2030 – a third of current Indian forestation and trees. Going by the facts, it seems India has overpromised on policies and goals as it becomes difficult to deliver on the same.

Why COP26 matters The Glasgow COP26 offers India a great opportunity to reflect on the

vears since the Paris Agreement India cofounded with France at and update NDCs to successfully COP21, in 2015, the International meet the set targets. India is ex-Solar Alliance (ISA) – a coalition of pected to be the most populated about 120 countries with solar rich country by 2027, overtaking China, contributing significantly to the global climate through its consumption pattern. India is in a rather unique position to have a significant influence on global climate impact in the new decade.

Alok Sharma, President of the COP26 met Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yaday in August to persuade India to deliver a more ambitious NDCs for 2030 to which the Minister responded by stating, "India believes that climate actions must be nationally determined... UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement for developing countries should be at the core of decision-making....'

Being one of the observer states of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) as well as an influential member of COP26, India has the ability to improve its global positioning by leading a favourable climate goal aspiration for the world to follow. The country has the opportunity to not only save itself from further climate disasters but also be a leader in the path to climate change prevention.

Syed Munir Khasru is Chairman of the international think tank, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG), New Delhi, with a presence in Dhaka Melbourne, Vienna and Dubai

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.

China vs AUKUS

China is weaving a web of alliances through its many multilaterals, BRI-Maritime and Digital silk route projects in the Indian Ocean Region. The Chinese muscle-flexing and wolf-warrior diplomacy is one of the prime reasons that made India to forge closer maritime ties with the U.S., Japan, and Australia in the Quad. It is well known that the Indian Ocean forms one of the world's most important maritime routes. China has shown an undue interest in the Bay of Bengal, Indian

Ocean, and the Arabian Sea. With China planning to be the dominant power in Asia, only India and the AUKUS partnership have the potential to face China. H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,

Medicine and quota

The writers of the article, "Rulings that impact a State's medical infrastructure" (Editorial page, September 23), by arguing in favour of a State service quota for super-specialty admissions in Tamil Nadu, have not given adequate thought to

the concept of equity and fairness. How is it fair that while students of Tamil Nadu can compete for all vacant seats in any other State (e.g. Andhra Pradesh or Maharashtra), their own State does not reciprocate in a similar fashion to aspirants from other States? Does not the introduction of a 50% quota for in-service doctors amount in effect to reserving 50% of the seats for locals, thus reintroducing the concept of domicile? This was something that was frowned upon by the Supreme Court of India in

Duty time

The suggestion made by the Minister for Road Transport and Highways ("Truck drivers must have fixed hours, says Nitin Gadkari". September 22) may be opposed by truck owners on multiple fronts. But, before a decision is made, some ground realities must be addressed. Truck drivers prefer night driving as there is no two-wheeler traffic and the almost negligible presence of pedestrians which enable them to cover the distance marginally faster. Night driving also reduces the number of road

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accidents involving two-wheelers and pedestrians. There is less heat and drivers are not exhausted that quickly. For shorter destinations, goods are loaded in trucks only after sunset so that they reach their destinations before daybreak and this is one reason for the increased number of trucks plying at night. All these can be set at rest if every truck is ordered to have two drivers. V. LAKSHMANAN, Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

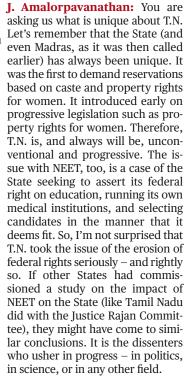
Does NEET privilege the privileged?

PARLEY

Has Tamil Nadu's stand on the medical entrance exam raised valid questions?

With the Tamil Nadu government seeking to 'dispense' with the requirement for candidates to qualify in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate medical courses in the State, the controversy over NEET is alive again. T.N.'s position is rooted in the conclusions of the Iustice A.K. Rajan Committee report, which claims that NEET has undermined diverse social representation in MBBS admissions. J. Amalorpavanathan and Sumanth C. Raman discuss whether NEET has adversely affected the disadvantaged groups, in a conversation moderated by Ramya Kannan. *Edited excerpts:*

T.N. has been opposing NEET since the inception of the test in 2013. While the other States that opposed NEET then have subsequently come to terms with the exam, T.N. continues its crusade. What is the reason for this? Is it simply a question of politicking or one of ensuring social justice?



Sumanth Raman: The reason for a common entrance test is that different States have different modes of

education and all of them are not necessarily benchmarked against each other. While some States have stringent criteria, others do not. So, the thinking behind NEET is that for certain areas like professional courses – typically, medicine, engineering and law – there needs to be a common entrance test.

The decision of having a common entrance exam was, in fact, taken by the UPA [United Progressive Alliance] government of which the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] was an integral part. Of course, the difference was that at that time, the modalities or the mandatory nature of this exam had not yet come into force. In fact, it was said that some States would adopt it and some States may not.

The Justice Rajan Committee report is, in fact, an example of why an entrance test like NEET is probably necessary. I don't think he [Justice Rajan] thought that a lot of the data that he put out as part of the report would actually support the pro-NEET arguments.

Look, nobody is saying NEET is 100% fair. But you have to look at it in the context of the earlier system, which was grossly unfair and which was deemed as social justice, where 220 students would get admission from one school and close to 30% of the seats would be cornered by eight to 10 schools. The unfortunate part is that the Tamil Nadu government maintains that Class 12 exam results are infallible and are the right way of evaluating students.

Unfortunately, NEET became a political issue. And once it became political, it has continued to be used for political objectives rather than economic ones.

Both of you mentioned the A.K. Rajan Committee report. Its data point to a lower absorption of first-generation graduates, Tamil students, and rural students into MBBS courses. Do you think the report has been fair to the actual position in the State?

SR: I'm not even very sure that he has applied his mind to the data, which he says was provided by the government. For instance, he says 99% of all students who got admis-



The issue with NEET is

States' seeking to assert their

federal right on education,

running their own medical

institutions, and selecting

candidates in the manner

JA: I must confess that I have not

read the entire report, but I have

read the data put out by The Hindu,

culled from the Rajan report. The

statistics may vary a little bit here

and there. And according to the da-

ta you have shown, there is a serious problem in terms of a high percen-

tage of students who repeat the tests

and the proportion of first-genera-

tion learners, and Tamil medium

I would continue to oppose NEET

because of the larger question of

States' rights being taken away: the

right to run medical institutions and

select students according to the

healthcare needs of that State and

according to the requirements of

the State's primary healthcare

I have data from two papers pu-

blished - one in The New England

Journal of Medicine and one in The

Lancet. The NEJM paper talks about

the checkpoints for a medical pro-

gramme and how they affect diversi-

ty - namely, the class and race of se-

lected students. It called for closing

the gap and making school admis-

sions more equitable. Medical

schools can prepare the workforce

to care for socio-economically di-

vided, racially and ethnically di-

verse populations by redoubling

their efforts to recruit applicants

from under-represented groups.

But to do so, however, schools will

have to fundamentally change the

of admissions to medical school.

There is some evidence to support

The Lancet talks about a review

way they evaluate the applicants.

centres and district hospitals.

students have dropped drastically.

that they deem fit.

sion into MBBS underwent NEET coaching. The source of the data is not mentioned here. The government has a duty to explain where all the data came from.

It has become apparent that there is cherry-picking of the data. The classic example of this is that for students who got admission into MBBS courses from government schools, the data are only given from 2014 and not from 2010, unlike all other data. The reason for that, which we subsequently found, is that the number of government school students had started dropping from 2010 itself, but there was no NEET then.

The biggest concern is that the outlier data of 2017-18 have been used to justify preconceived conclusions. The previous AIADMK government had given 7.5% reservation for government school students, but the data had started to trend towards the pre-NEET levels from 2019-20, the year before the introduction of the 7.5% quota.

The report says the CBSE students have now claimed 26.8% of all seats, whereas earlier they were claiming 0.11%. You will also have to look at the number of students who applied. In 2010-11, 489 CBSE students applied for MBBS courses compared to the 17,518 applicants from the State Board. In 2015-16, the number of CBSE applicants rose to 1,151 and the number of State Board applicants peaked at 30,777. In 2020-21, the number of CBSE applicants went up further to 7,808, whereas the number of State Board applicants almost halved from the 2015-16 figure, to 15,556. So, is it not logical that when the number of State Board students remains more or less constant or starts to go down, and the number of CBSE applicants goes up, the number of seats that CBSE students take up the contention that the marks required for entry into medical school can be lowered substantially, to ensure diversity, besides keeping students motivated. I would say that measuring merit alone is a very bad indicator for selecting students into medical schools.

A key issue that has been raised repeatedly here is the standard of State Board education. The recommendation to State Boards is that they should up their game, and the poor quality of teaching in schools is attributed to children going to coaching centres. Is this a fair assessment?

JA: This understanding that State Boards promote learning by rote, whereas CBSE encourages analytical thinking is superficial. This is not based on any scientific study. The best way to make an assessment is to do a random double-blind control study with medical students who graduate, drawn from the State Board and CBSE. Find out who has more analytical capacity and who has less. Until then, I won't accept that the State Board is inferior.

SR: I agree that we should do such a study. The government has proposed an exit test that can benchmark students, but that is also being opposed by those who oppose NEET. A number of State Board students who were getting MBBS seats before NEET were to a large extent from coaching institutions/coaching schools from one district, and they paid several lakhs for the schools. The school itself might have doubled up as a coaching institution.

We need to look at the annual AS-ER reports. The 2017 report said that more than 50% of Class 5 students could not read Class 2-level Tamil texts. We need to ask ourselves whether the quality of education in the State Board is adequate or not. We can choose to ignore these figures, but if there is something that we need to correct, we have to accept it.

Education is on the Concurrent list, allowing the Central government to legislate on it. That makes this a constitutional issue. So, are we at an impasse? If the Centre and

T.N. stick to their stand, will

there be a resolution at all? Do

you see any possible scenarios that suggest a way out of this?

SR: Honestly, I don't see a possibility of this getting reversed. There has to be an extremely good reason for giving one State an exemption. But this is a land of possibilities. We have seen the Supreme Court change stance on an issue after a period of time, we have seen governments do political deals to facilitate assent. Former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa managed to push through 69% reservation and get constitutional protection for it.

But do I think it is probable? No, I don't think this will get presidential assent. And even if it does, will it stand the scrutiny of the court? This means that NEET is likely to continue, at least in the near term.

But in the meantime, don't make false promises to students saying that we will abolish it next year, until you get a written order saying that it is not going to be held. As long as NEET is there, ramp up the coaching in government centres for the exam. It is the duty of the government to make sure that as many students as possible, especially those from weaker sections, have the infrastructure and government support to crack the exam. Importantly, please do not politicise suicide and do not give compensation to the families of students who reportedly died due to NEET. This has to stop, and adequate counselling should be provided to students. If students don't crack NEET this year, they have two more opportunities, and if they don't crack it then, there are other career options available.

JA: Yes, I have a strong belief that the President might give his assent because this is an extraordinary situation where two subsequent governments have passed the Bill. I think the Central government will accord consent. It is like what we achieved in the jallikattu issue. Exemption was given for this State alone. Ultimately, democracy has to accede to people's genuine legal rights and legal demands within the framework of the Constitution. There is a High Court case demanding that education be brought back to the State list. Let us wait for the judgment. And even if the judgment goes against the plea, the parties can still go to the Supreme Court and agitate the matter. Therefore, +there's a long legal way ahead.



Amalorpavanathan is Member, Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission



C. Raman is a doctor and political analyst



listen to the full interview online

Make departments smart, first

E-governance holds the promise of improving local governance, but only if we pay attention to the basics

ADITYA BATRA, AMEYA ASHOK NAIK, & KRISHNAKUMAR THIAGARAJAN

As India grows more urban, the importance of effective governance and service delivery by city governments becomes central to the well-being of Indians. We hope to live in 'smart cities', where digital systems enable the use of data – generated by people living and working in the city itself – to continuously improve how the city

A smart city requires good data to inform decision-making. The only reliable way to get good data is to design 'smart systems' that generate such data by default. Given the complexity of our cities, and the various entities that are involved in their governance, this journey will have to be undertaken one step at a time.

More precisely, it will be one function at a time, then one department a time, finally building up to the city as a whole. A department refers to a specific administrative entity, with the mandate to deliver a defined set of services, and the resources it is assigned for delivering them; a function is any such set of services and the people who deliver them. A smart city is a network of smart functions and departments.

Digitisation

What makes a department smart? In a recent white paper, we lay out a five-level framework for assessing where a given function, department, or city stands in its journey of e-governance. This framework looks at how the department has been able to apply digital technologies across three domains – processes, human resources, and citizen-centricity – in order to work more smartly.

The core insight of our paper is that even the most advanced e-governance systems stand on the foundation of a simple behavioural change: when doing their work, local government employees have to switch from using pen and paper and records to using digital tools and systems. This is the first step in the e-governance journey. The reality in most local government offices in India is that records are kept on paper; if they do get digitised, it is as part of a post-fac-

to data entry exercise. This creates scope for errors and manipulation.

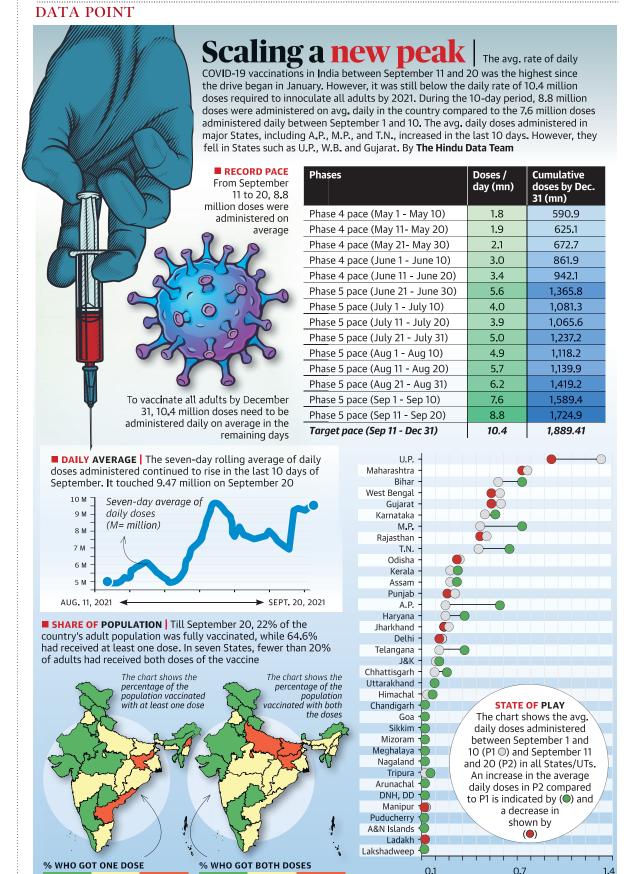
To ensure digitisation, city leaders must use a combination of expectation-setting and incentives. They can demonstrate the time saved and ease of work gained when digital tools automate away record creation and retrieval. In Andhra Pradesh, for instance, ULB employees reported saving an average of 11 hours every week after a digital system was adopted. At the same time, leaders can set phased targets for adoption of the new tools, and ensure adequate technical support and education for employees during the transition. These changes are reflected in the 'process' and 'human resources' levers of the framework.

Citizen centricity lever

In implementing such changes, however, administrators must ensure that e-governance is not reduced to an exercise in performance management alone. The framework incorporates a 'citizen centricity' lever to emphasise that urban local bodies are service delivery organisations, and that internal reforms have to reflect in better experience and empowerment for citizens.

All the benefits we associate with e-governance – the ease of interaction, the gains in efficiency through both performance management and process reform, and the potential for data-driven preventive maintenance of infrastructure - hinge upon adoption of the system by local government employees and citizens themselves. In turn, adoption leads to the richer datasets that will bring various departments in a city to collaborate with each other – and indeed with non-governmental partners as well to create a virtuous cycle of co-creation, learning, and efficiency. This is how smart cities emerge, not from the top down, but from organic collaboration between departments, employees, and citizens, who are simply looking to do their own jobs more effectively.

Aditya Batra is Associate; Ameya Ashok Naik is Senior Manager; and Krishnakumar Thiagarajan is Vice President, eGovernments



15-25%

Avg. doses in millon

50-70%

The Man Rindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 24, 1971

Mao portraits vanish from streets

Though not a single shred of direct evidence has emerged from China so far to prove that Mr. Mao Tse-tung is dead or that his name is being denigrated, one cannot also ignore the number of bits of circumstantial evidence which simply cannot be without meaning or be sheer cases of coincidence. For one thing, reports from Peking have noted how portraits of Mr. Mao have been quietly disappearing from different parts of the city. In Hong Kong a big neon sign atop the Bank of China building which carried a well-known Maoist saying for many years has been mysteriously removed without any explanation. Monitors of Chinese broadcasts in Japan reported to-day [Tokyo, Sept. 23] that for the first time in many years this morning's nationwide domestic broadcast from Peking in the Chinese language did not open with the usual sayings of Mr. Mao. One point seems to be becoming fairly clear that whatever the conflicts that might have possibly developed within Chinese leadership hierarchy or whatever turmoil or disturbance may be rocking the country for some reason, which still remains to be determined, China has decided to denigrate Mr. Mao's name and to eliminate his personality cult which had been so assiduously built up over the years.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 24, 1921

The Great Explosion

Mayence, September 22: The catastrophe at Oppau was due to excess of pressure in two adjoining gasmeters which caused the explosion. It is now estimated that the death toll may reach 1,500. It was at Oppau during the war that the Germans made poison gas. The manufactory has lately been making nitrogen compounds for agricultural fertilisation. A large hole one hundred and thirty yards wide and forty nine deep marks the former site of the gasmeters which blew up. Invaluable assistance was rendered by French troops under General Degoutte, Commander-in-Chief. The fact that several tombstones in Oppau cemetery weighing at least five kilogrammes were lifted up and hurled sixty feet shows the force of the ex-

Berlin, Sept. 22: The explosion at Oppau killed some French soldiers who were guarding the works and injured a number of others who were boating on the Rhine. The management of the Badische works assess damage to works at 150,000,000 marks.

M K

FROM PAGE ONE

Modi meets Adobe, **Qualcomm CEOs**

Technology, energy and defence were the focus of Mr. Modi's talks with industry heads on Thursday. Mr. Modi discussed technology, especially artificial intelligence, at the meeting with Adobe, according to Shantanu Narayen, the company's head. Their discussion also included the "ever changing nature of media" and startups, he said.

Mr. Modi's discussion with Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon included semiconductors and technology.

"If you look at it from a year-on-year basis, American investments coming into India is growing substantially. India needs \$100 billion investment annually to achieve its objective of being a \$5 trillion economy. At the moment, the number is close to \$70-75 billion annually, so the appetite is tremendous, and it is tied closely to the de-risking of supply chains from China and as the economic prosperity of India increases, so does the allure of the Indian market and hence the alacrity of American investors," said Mukesh Aghi, president and CEO, U.S. India Strategic Partnership Forum.

On the importance of the

Quad summit, Mr. Aghi said, "It is significant because to preserve the freedom of global rules and laws of operations, it is important that the four democracies coalesce and support each other, and they are collaborating on areas of alternative technology, on de-risking of supply chains, on healthcare, on 5G technology, on cybersecurity, so it is a collaboration that is a win-win situation for the world itself."

Mr. Modi will not have large diaspora events due to COVID-19 measures.

Minor girl sexually assaulted, 26 arrested

According to the victim's statement, sexual assault was committed repeatedly in various locations.

According to police sources, the video used to coerce the victim is not yet in the police's possession. "We checked the mobile phone of the girl and also of the 20-year-old boy with whom she was in a relationship previously. In both the phones, no such video as claimed was found. We will be sending the mobile phones for forensic analysis," Senior police inspector Dadahari Choure, Manpada station, said.

Several students held

"All the accused are between the ages of 16 to 23 years and most of them are students. After the case was registered, our focus has been on arresting the accused," Mr. Karale said.

The girl had recently spoken of the abuse to her aunt.

"In the conversation, the girl narrated the ordeal that nad started from January.

social worker in the area, who then suggested that a trap be laid to nab the accused," a police official said.

The girl made a call to the accused and arranged a meeting. Some of the accused picked her up in an autorickshaw while the social worker and victim's aunt and uncle followed them.

The autorickshaw in which the relatives and social worker were travelling had a punctured tyre, as a result of which they lost track of the first vehicle. They then called the police. The girl, meanwhile, sent her aunt her location by GPS. The police reached the location. By then, the girl had been gang-raped by six men, who fled when they learnt of police presence. The police nabbed two of them; the rest were caught on Thursday.

"After learning about the crime had the family approached the police, at least the incident of Wednesday could have been avoided. The aunt got in touch with a the officer added.

2 killed during eviction drive in Assam

One of the injured policemen was rushed to the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, about 60 km away, while the other injured were admitted to the district

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the police had to take action as the mob attacked them with sticks, machetes and spears. He said the eviction drive would continue on Friday.

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led government had recently decided to use the land for agricultural purposes after evicting the settlers.

The incident attracted flak. Many reacted to a viral video showing a cameraman stomping on the body of a man who was shot by the police.

Assam DGP Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta said the cameraman has been arrested and a case registered with the

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "Assam is on state-sponsored fire. I stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the State - no children of India deserve this"

CPI (M-L) politburo member Kavita Krishnan questioned the police firing. "What protocol orders firing to the chest of a lone man coming running with a stick @DGPAssamPolice @assampolice? Who is the man in civil clothes with a camera who repeatedly jumps with bloodthirsty hate on the body of the fallen (probably dead) man?" she asked.

SC may form panel to look into snooping charges

The Centre had said such an affidavit would be public and compromise national security.

The petitioners had asked for an affidavit from the Cabinet Secretary or for the court to form a committee led by a sitting judge to the snooping

On September 13, a Bench of Chief Justice Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli made it clear that there would be no more "beating around the bush" on the issue.

The CJI had said the court had given the government a fair opportunity to file a detailed affidavit in order to get a clear idea of its stand in the Pegasus case. "We thought the government would file a counter-affidavit... Now we will pass our interim orders,"

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for senior journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar, had found the government's refusal to file a detailed affidavit "unbelievable".

SC card unlikely to be a game changer for Cong.

With sharp divisions within, Scheduled Castes are not a homogenous group voting en bloc for any one party in Punjab

VIKAS VASUDEVA

The Congress party hopes for a surge in its popularity ahead of the 2022 Assembly election in Punjab following the selection of a Scheduled Caste (SC) Sikh as Chief Minister, but the electoral impact of the decision may be limited.

In Punjab, the SC community has traditionally been with the Congress, alongside Hindus and Jat (farmers) Sikhs, and it may be optimistic to count on additional Dalit support for the party following Charanjit Channi's elevation as CM. At 32%, Punjab has the highest proportion of SC population of all States.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) is a 'Panthic' party of the Sikhs and also garners support from Jat Sikh voters. In the 2017 Assembly election in the Doaba region, which is largely SC dominated, the Congress won as many as 15 seats of the 23, which is indicative of the Congress's hold in the SC belt. So, garnering more support may not be an

Breaking it down | The SC population makes up nearly 32% of Punjab's population, according to the Census 2011. The second table shows the five communities with the highest share of the SC population of the State

	Caste	population (%)				
	SC Sikhs	19.4				
. WUUUU.	SC Hindus	12.4				
	SC Buddhists	0.1				
Community		Share of SC population (%)				
Mazhabi, Mazhabi Sikh	Mazhabi, Mazhabi Sikh					
Ramdasi, Ravidasi, Rar	Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Rehgar, Raigar, Ramdasi, Ravidasi, Ramdasia, Ramdasia Sikh, Ravidasia, Ravidasia Sikh					
Ad Dharmi	11.5					
Balmiki, Chuhra, Bhan	gi	9.8				
Mahatam, Rai Sikh	5.8					

easy task although the party is likely to retain its vote bank following Mr. elevation.

All the major political parties in Punjab have been trying to win over the SC vote in the run-up to the Assembly election. The SAD has announced that it will appoint an SC Deputy Chief Minister, if voted to power. The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) leaders have been talking about choosing an SC for the post of Chief Minister. But the ruling Congress has already taken the lead in appointing an SC Chief Minister.

Mr. Channi, as the first SC to head the government in the State, has been socially wel**NEWS ANALYSIS**

comed and admired by the community, but that this will politically benefit the Congress with a huge mandate may be a far-fetched conclusion as the SCs in Punjab, with sharp divisions within, are not a homogenous group who vote en bloc for any one political party. Punjab is also the birthplace of the BSP founded by the late Kanshi Ram.

Political plank

The BSP's steady decline in Punjab supports the view that SCs in Punjab hardly ever vote as one bloc. The BSP used SCs as a political plank for the first time in 1992 but since then, the party's fortunes in the State have declined. In 1992, it secured over 16% votes, winning nine seats in Punjab, but this dropped to around 4% votes in the 2012 Assembly poll. In 2017, its vote share percentage hit a further low of

Moreover, the impression among the SCs that Mr. Channi's appointment is only a stopgap arrangement against the backdrop of the party's Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat's remark that the Congress would contest the Punjab Assembly poll under Navjot Singh Sidhu's leadership has only added to uncertainty in the community. Although the All India Congress Committee later announced that both Mr. Channi and Mr. Sidhu will be the faces of the party in the State, Mr. Rawat's remark is likely to be exploited by the Congress' opponents over the course of elec-

There are 39 SCs in the State, which are further divided into at least 64 'dera' sects, segregated into different faiths and religions. Most of the deras are politically aligned, and being immensely influential among their followers, they play a significant role during the elections in swaying votes.

toral canvassing.

"I don't think the Congress has played the SC card purposely. The move, in fact, seems to be borne out of compulsion. Firstly, Ambika Soni declined the offer of the Chief Minister's post, then the party couldn't arrive at a consensus on Sunil Jakhar and Sukhjinder Randhawa. Mr. Channi's name was not even in contention. His name came up for discussion only after the party ran out of its primary options-"'said Des Raj Kali, wellknown Punjabi novelist and political analyst. He added: "Having said

that, there's no doubt that the decision has socially been accepted in the community, who are enthused, but I have my reservations over whether the SC votes will be transferred entirely to the Congress... Nonetheless, with this decision, the Congress is likely to keep its existing vote bank intact, which otherwise could have split on account of the anti-incumbency factor the government is facing. The decision will benefit the party but it's not going to be something huge that will singlehandedly impact the election

'Gogra grazing areas off-limits'

Chinese nibbling away at territory that was never disputed: Chushul councillor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Villagers have lost access to a vast grazing area near Gogra in eastern Ladakh owing to growing Chinese presence in the area, Konchok Stanzin, a councillor from Chushul, has

Gogra is one of the several friction points in eastern Ladakh where Indian and Chinese troops have been engaged in a stand-off since April-May 2020. The troops have disengaged from the north and south banks of the Pangong Tso and Gogra sector, creating "no zones" in areas along the undemarcated Line of Actual Control (LAC) that was regularly patrolled by Indian troops prior to April 2020.

Mr. Stanzin told The Hindu that the Army had stopped the villagers' access to the Kiu La pass that was till a few years ago frequent-



Difficult terrain: ITBP personnel participating in a cycle rally at Gogra on August 27. • PTI

ed by the villagers of Lukung, Phobrang and Yourgo for cattle-grazing. "A group of

marched to the Kiu La pass a few days ago but they were denied access by the Army. There used to be a bunker on the upper reaches, but it is no longer there. We fear that the Chinese are nibbling away at our territory. This was never a disputed area,"

Mr. Stanzin said.

He said the area did not have hone or Internet connectivity and the villagers had decided to go there on their own initiative.

No connectivity

Since April 2020, Chinese troops have blocked Indian troops from reaching at least 10 patrolling points (PPs) in eastern Ladakh – running from Depsang plains in the north to the Pangong Tso lake in the south. In all, there are more than 65 PPs from the base of the Karakoram to Chumar. Mr. Stanzin said that China had constructed permanent structures and roads close to the LAC, while the Indian side boasted only a few roads. "There is no mobile connectivity in border areas and despite repeated pleas, the administration has not acted. It is frustrating. They fix the phone lines for a few hours whenever a VIP arrives here. It's back to square one once they leave,"

On April 2, in a communication to Mr. Stanzin, the Defence Ministry said, "due to the present operational situation in Ladakh, grazers have been asked to restrict their cattle movements". Army authorities when contacted declined to comment.

Centre, States outline plans to stem pollution

results."

Uttar Pradesh to deploy 'decomposer'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Environment Ministry convened a meeting on Thursday with representatives from Delhi and neighbouring States that see pollution levels soar during winter.

While meteorological conditions exacerbate pollution, emissions from vehicles, thermal plants and the burning of rice chaff in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh ahead of the winter sowing of wheat are key man-made reasons for the noxious winter that puts the national capital and several cities in these States on global lists of the places with the worst air.

Though no new measures were announced following Thursday's meeting, the focus appeared to be on strengthening programmes.

The Haryana government will be spending ₹200 crore to dissuade farmers from burning the rice stubble. Uttar Pradesh is deploying an organic chemical, a "decomposer", that will dissolve the collected straw and turn it into manure. Though small pilot projects were launched last year, this year the State will be deploying it in at least six lakh acres, the Haryana government in one lakh acres, Punjab five lakh acres and Delhi 4,000 acres.

Other measures which are being reinforced this year are mandating the use of biomass with 50% paddy straw as a supplement fuel in coal plants in the National Capital Region (NCR), and setting up a committee which will look at ways to repurpose the



Burning of rice chaff is one of the key reasons for the noxious winter. ■ FILE PHOTO

stubble as fodder for cattle in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The Commission for Air Quality Improvement in NCR and Adjoining Areas, which became an executive body through an Act of Parliament in August, is frequently following up with these States to ensure that these plans are adhered to.

"Clean air is in the interest of all States and these are issues beyond politics. In to day's meeting, all representatives are agreed on implementing plans that will aid the farmer and not vitiate the air," Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav told reporters.

Switch to PNG

The air quality panel on Wednesday had said that Delhi had completely switched over to piped natural gas (PNG)/ cleaner fuels in 1,635 identified industries.

In NCR, Haryana has so far shifted 408 industrial units out of 1,469 identified industrial units, in U.P. 1,167 out of 2.273 industrial units and 124 out of 436 such units in

Protest against monetisation plan on Oct. 7

Joint platform of 10 Central trade unions term the policy anti-national

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A joint platform of 10 Central trade unions on Thursday said they would hold protests across the country on October 7 against the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), a plan to lease government assets announced in August.

The unions termed the policy "anti-national" and "destructive".

They would carry out a continuous campaign to

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Three heavily armed mili-

tants were killed and a huge

cache of ammunition was

recovered near the Line of

Control (LoC) in the Uri Sec-

tor of north Kashmir, where

an operation was on for the

past six days. A militant was

also killed in Shopian in

group of militants in Hath-

langa area of Uri at 6 a.m.

The group was challenged

and three militants were

killed in a brief exchange of

fire," General Officer Com-

manding, 15 Corps, Lieute-

nant General D.P. Pandey

One slain militant was

identified, who is from Pa-

kistan. "The identity of the

other two is being ascer-

tained." The Army said it

was the second such infiltra-

"The Army spotted a

south Kashmir.

stated.

SRINAGAR

3 heavily armed men

killed in Uri, says Army

Huge cache of ammunition recovered

impact of the monetisation policy on common people. October 7 would be observed as "national protest day" with agitations at district-level.

spread an awareness of the

A national convention of workers would be held in Delhi after Dusshera and before Diwali to decide the future course of action, they

"The so called 'National Monetisation Pipeline' was announced by the Union Fi-

tion bid from across the LoC

in Uri since September 18.

"The September 18 bid of

the infiltrators was foiled

and the militants were

pushed back. The combing

operation in Uri has also

been called off [after six

The Army said it reco-

vered five AK-47 rifles, seven

pistols, five AK magazines,

24 (under-barrel grenade

launchers) UBGl grenades,

38 Chinese grenades, seven

Pakistan made grenades, ₹

35000 Pakistani currency

and eatables from the slain

militants. "The Army was al-

ert and was anticipating a

change in the behaviour of

Pakistan in September. We

were expecting infiltration

ahead of the onset of winter.

I would not like to connect

this with the geopolitics,"

Lt. Gen. Pandey said.

the Army officer

days],"

nance Minister on August 23, 2021, to raise ₹6 lakh crore over the next four years...It is claimed that the funds so generated will be invested in expanding infrastructure. This is nothing but a nefarious design to hand over all infrastructural assets to private hands virtually free for revenue generation by them without any obligation of capital cost and share a small part of that huge revenue with the government," their

The joint platform comprises the Centre of Indian Trade Union, the All-India Trade Union Congress, the Indian National Trade Union Congress, the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, the All-India United Trade Union Centre, the Trade Union Coordination Committee, the Self Emploved Women's Association, the All-India Central Council of Trade Unions, the Labour Progressive Federation and the United Trade Union Congress.

₹7,523-cr. order for Arjun Mk-1A tanks

Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi, will make 118 of these indigenous tanks

DINAKAR PERI NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry on Thursday placed an order with the Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi, for the supply of 118 indigenous Arjun Mk-1A main battle tanks for the Army at a cost of ₹7,523 crore.

"The state-of-the-art MBT Mk-1A is a new variant of Arjun tank designed to enhance fire power, mobility and survivability. Infused with 72 new features and more indigenous content from the Mk-1 variant, the tank would ensure effortless mobility in all terrains, besides precise target engagement during day and night," the Defence Ministry said.

The MBT Arjun Mk-1A was designed and developed by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), along with the other laboratories



In action: The Arjun Mk-1A tank. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) In February, Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi formally handed over Arjun Mk-1A to Army chief General Manoj Naravane in Chennai. The Army has two regiments of Arjun Mk1 tanks in service inducted between 2005 and 2010. "This production order to Avadi factory opens up a large avenue in defence manufacturing for over 200 Indian vendors including MSMEs, with employment opportunities to around 8,000 people," the Ministry As reported by *The Hindu*

earlier, the Arjun Mk-1A has 14 major upgrades over the Mk1 variant, which were formulated and approved in October 2018 and subsequently limited user validation trials were carried out of all the

upgrades. The Mk1A will be without missile firing capability and will be incorporated as and when the development is complete, an official said. An Arjun hub has been set up in Jaisalmer where 248 rotables have been deposited to ensure quick support and maintenance for the fleet.

The DRDO has also taken up indigenisation of various assemblies and sub-assemblies including the Commander's Panaromic Sight (CPS) and Gunner's Main Sight (GMS).

The CPS has already undergone various rounds of trials while the GMS is in the process of being integrated. Once the indigenous CPS and advanced GMS are incorporated, the indigenous content of the MBT Ariun Mk-1A will go up from 41% to 54.3% during production, officials said earlier.

'CoWIN adheres to WHO specifications' Hit-and-run on Dhanbad

R.S. Sharma says U.K. has not expressed any concern on the certification process of the platform

NEW DELHI

No concern whatsoever has been expressed by the government of the United Kingdom on the certification process of CoWIN, R.S. Sharma, Chairman of the Empowered Group for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration, told The Hindu on Thursday.

He called reports that the U.K. had agreed to recognise Indian-made Covishield (CO-VID-19 vaccine) and add it to the list of recognised vaccines, but refused to recognise vaccine certificate issued by India for Indian "baseless travellers controversy".

"There has been no communication from the U.K. about the COVID-19 vaccination certificate process. The recent talks were about the U.K.'s interest in the CoWIN platform. The technical teams of both the countries have been in touch since ear-



Point of concern: The immigration area at the international airport in New Delhi. ■v.v. KRISHNAN

ly September," Dr. Sharma

CoWIN was an opensource platform, Dr. Sharma said. The External Affairs Ministry had been in talks with countries that were interested in this platform. "Talks are at various stages and I will not be able to give specific details. But yes, several countries have shown an interest in the platform," he

WHO standardisation

Responding to a query whether the Indian CO-VID-19 vaccination certificate conformed to the World

Health Organization's (WHO) specifications, he said India adhering to specifications.

'We have looked at our certificate while keeping in mind the WHO standardisation. There is a minor technical rectification where India uses vear of birth, while WHO prescribes date of birth. For those wanting this change for travel needs, the same can be rectified," said Dr. Sharma.

'No concerns raised'

On Wednesday, U.K. High Commissioner to India Alex Ellis had said that his countrv had no issues with the Covishield vaccine, but the question was on certification.

On Thursday he tweeted: "Excellent technical discussions with Dr. R.S. Sharma. Neither side raised technical concerns with each other's certification process. An important step forward in our joint aim to facilitate travel and fully protect the public health of the U.K. and India."

Dr. Sharma responded to the tweet. "Echoing his ex-@AlexWEllis's cellency views, this will be instrumental in resuming socioeconomic activities between India and UK. We also look forward to deepening ties between @AyushmanNHA and @NHSX, as we collaborate to build a digital contihealthcare nuum

To a query on the controversy, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said on Thursday at a press conference that India and U.K. officials were in a dialogue. "And we are hopeful that the issue will be resolved soon. We stand by the External Affair Ministry's position on the issue. This is discriminatory and we have the right of reciprocity," he said.

judge was deliberate: CBI

He was knocked down by an autorickshaw on July 28

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) told the Iharkhand High Court on Thursday that the hit-and-run involving the Additional Sessions Judge of the Dhanbad court in Jharkhand was deliberate.

A video of judge Uttam Anand, 49, being hit and killed by an autorickshaw as he was taking a morning stroll in Dhanbad town had made media headlines. He was hit from behind by the speeding autorickshaw on July 28 at Randhir Verma Chowk. He was declared dead at the hospital.

The State government recommended a CBI probe on July 31. The agency took over the case on August 4 and formed a 20-member investigating team.



Uttam Anand

Soon after the video was shown in several news channels, the Supreme Court took notice of it and said the incident had wider "ramifications". The Jharkhand HC took suo motu cognisance of the incident and a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan Sinha and Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad has been monitoring the case. The Jharkhand HC had also expressed displeasure at the slow progress of the investigation.

The CBI, sources said, has informed the court that the "probe is in the final stage as forensic reports are being corroborated with physical evidences". The agency had earlier arrested two persons the driver of the autorickshaw, Lakhan Verma, and his helper, Rahul Verma. They were subjected to brain mapping and narco tests. The autorickshaw was registered in the name of a

Judge Uttam Anand was said to be hearing several cases related to the killings by mafias in Dhanbad and had rejected the bail petitions of some gangsters. Dhanbad is infamous for mafias operating with impunity in the coal belts of the district.

In Chhattisgarh, problem within Congress escalates

Bilaspur District Congress committee expels MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Amid a flare-up in the tensions between Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Health Minister T. Singh Deo, the Bilaspur District Congress committee expelled Bilaspur MLA Shailesh Pandey for alleging that the Chhattisgarh police's first information report (FIR) against Congress leader Pankaj Singh for "manhandling" a paramedic at the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences was to intimidate Mr. Deo's supporters.

Mr. Deo has staked claim to the Chief Minister's post as part of a 2018 arrangement of rotational tenure that he claims was agreed between him and Mr. Baghel. He has been in Delhi since Monday. Mr. Deo said it was a personal visit. So far, he has not met former Congress president Rahul Gandhi or any other functionary at the headquarters, to avoid speculation of renewed efforts by him to lobby for the post. He is leaving for Raipur on Friday.

Mr. Gandhi is expected to visit the State next week. He

Heightened tensions: Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel and Congress leader P.L. Punia in New Delhi in August. • PTI

is coming on an invitation from Mr. Baghel.

The Bilaspur police had filed the FIR on Wednesday against Mr. Singh based on CCTV footage from the hospital that shows the assault. Mr. Singh has described it as an act of revenge. He claimed that he was only intervening because the hospital staff refused to conduct an MRI on a poor patient. The FIR was also filed days after the incident, his supporters claimed. The complaint against Mr. Singh was

filed on September 19.

Mr. Deo's supporters held a demonstration outside the Kotwali police station in Bilaspur on Wednesday in protest.

Mr. Pandey said the action was unfortunate and it had been taken only because Mr. Singh was a supporter of Mr. Deo.

"This FIR is just the tip of the iceberg, the police have been told to dig up dirt on everyone who is supporting Mr. Deo," a Congress leader close to Mr. Deo stated.

Congress demands probe into Pegasus

Party welcomes court observation on setting up expert panel to probe charges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court's observation that it would set up a technical expert committee to probe allegations of snooping using the Pegasus spyware, while the Congress demanded a "full investigation" monitored by the top court.

"On behalf of all progressive parties, I welcome the Supreme Court's decision to set up a committee to investigate the #Pegasus snooping scam. Given its grave nation-

The Pegasus Spy scandal is not an issue to protect national security but an assault on national security and privacy by the Modi government

al security & privacy implications, every Indian hopes for an efficient & transparent probe. Satyameva Jayate!" Mr. Kharge said on Twitter

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted, "The Pegasus Spy scandal is not an issue to protect national security but

an assault on national security and privacy by the Modi government. The solution is simple - A SC-monitored full investigation. SC observation of setting up a 'technical committee' is a right step in this direction."

At a press briefing, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said a probe into the matter would ensure that "national security is not compromised". "We will only say that

there has to be a full-fledged probe by the Supreme Court under its supervision... Anything less than that is not going to be satisfactory as far as national security is concerned," she stated. "The reality is that snooping was done on persons who were in elected positions of power, which also compromises the Official Secrets Act. There has never been a bigger compromise on national security than Pegasus."

Two BSF men killed in south Tripura brawl

A CORRESPONDENT

Two Border Security Force (BSF) personnel were killed and another injured after they opened fire following a brawl at a border location in south Tripura on Thursday evening.

Police officials said the incident occurred at a border outpost in the Silachari area of Gomati district at around 7 p.m. The officials said the incident was the fallout of an altercation between a constable and a havildar over duty-related

Venkaiah pushes for attendance at panel meetings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Ahead of the reconstitution of the 24 Department-Related Standing Committees (DRSC), Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu sent a detailed record of participation by the members in committee meetings over the past year to the political parties, calling them to nominate members only based on their participation and in-

Only 16 members of the

Rajya Sabha (out of 243 MPs) attended all the scheduled 361 meetings held in 2020.

Six of these 16 members were chairpersons of their respective committees. Opposition parties have routinely slammed the governbypassing ment parliamentary scrutiny by not sending key legislation to the standing committees.

On direction from Mr. Naidu, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat collated details on the participation by 243 mem-

bers of the Rajya Sabha from 32 political parties as well as Independents and nominated members, in 361 meetings of these committees held in the period of September 2020-August 2021.

The report noted that 115 members clocked an attendance of 50% or more. In all. 131 members, accounting for 54% of the House, reported an attendance of 50% or more in the meetings of the DRSCs.

The attendance of about

Dated: 22.09.2021

one-third members of the House had been below 30%. The data showed that the

average attendance of 92 BJP members of the Rajva Sabha in these meetings had been 56%, while the same for 38 Congress members was 42%. For the parties with five to

13 members, the average attendance of the YSR Congress Party was 66%. The Biju Janata Dal was a close second at 62%. The attendance of Trinamool Congress MPs, who have been at

National Biodiversity Authority

Government of India

7

3rd Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme (BSIP) 2021-22

Call for Interns

The National Biodiversity Authority and UNDP wish to engage

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1. Tender No.KRDCL/6/2021(IREPS)-Construction of ROB/RUB in lieu

of LCs- Tender closing date extended to 05-10-2021 (Corrigendum (2) issued). For more details visit https://www.ireps.gov.in/ireps/works/

2. K-rail is inviting quotations for various reaches for digitisation

of Field Measurement Book (FMB) For more details visit

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the forefront of the protests by the Opposition on the Pegasus spyware and other issues, was only 24%. The Janta Dal(U), though, had the lowest tally with just 16%

Rajya Sabha sources said the attendance of members in various committees was sent to leaders of the respective parties to gauge the interest of the members and factor in the same while nominating them to different committees.

10th October 2021

Dt: 24.09.2021

Will raise people's issues with govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the Leader of the Opposition in the Haryana Assembly, on Thursday announced the start of the 'Vipaksh Aapke Samaksh' campaign from October 10, in a bid to draw the State government's attention to the "pain and problems" of the people.



eprocure/app Traffic Manager (I/c) PPT/PR/112/21-22 Dt.23.09.2021

DIRECTORATE OF CHILD PROTECTION Govt. Shishu mandir Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, Near Kidwai Hospital Bengaluru - 560029 No. G.S.M.B(U).Pub.Res/2021-22

Name: Ganesha. Age: 01 year 08 months. Father or mother name: Unknown. Enrolled by: Or 22-01-2020, mother Kavitha enrolled the child in Govt. Shishu mandir for patronage. Place of birth Unknown. Height: 83 cms. Body colour moderate black. Face identified: - Condition of body and mind : normal. Contact Superintendent, Govt. Shishu mandir

Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, Bengaluru - 560029 ,9986264898. https://icps.karnataka.gov.in Sd/- Superintendent, Shishu Mandir, Women and child development department

Bengaluru Urban District.





Name: Aryan. Age: 02 years. Father or mother name: Unknown. Enrolled by: On 19-02-2020, mother enrolled the child in Govt Shishu mandir for patronage. Place of birth Unknown. Height: 86 cms. Body colour moderate black. Face identified: - Condition of body and mind : normal. Contact

Superintendent, Govt. Shishu mandir, Dr. M. H Marigowda Road, Bengaluru – 560029. Ph. No. 080-26569344 9986264898. https://icps.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Superintendent, Shishu Mandir, Women and child development department, Bengaluru Urban District. DIPR/DDU/RO. No. 1626/2021-22

STOP CORONA, WASH YOUR HANDS, WEAR MASK, MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR PH. 011-29552688 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I OPPOSITE J-BLOCK MARKET, SAKET: NEW DELHI-110017. NIT NO. 24/(S-I) (2021-22) Name of work Date of release of tender | Last date/time of receipt of tende NO. in e-procurement solution through e-procurement solution Replacement of damaged/ rusted up 350mm dia sewer pumping main from SPS C-9 Vasant Kunj to STP Vasant Kunj under EE(South)-I 1.65.70.856/-2021 DJB 208647 1

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on Web Site https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) (Satish Kumar EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I Advt. No. J.S.V. 419 (2021-22)



Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road,

Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telefax: 080-22024000 email: cekrdcl@gmail.com Website: http://www.krdcl.in

No. KRDCL/IFB/2021-22/13

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(on e-procurement basis)

1. Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) invites offer from agencies having experience in respect of following works as per the requirement of Bengaluru City Traffic Police on item rate tender basis in two cover system as detailed below.

SI. No.	Name of Work	Approximate Estimated Cost	Earnest Money Deposit	Period of completion (including monsoon)
1	Up-gradation & Synchronization of 184 Nos. of Existing Traffic Signal System to Adaptive Traffic Control System and Providing, Commissioning & Synchronization of New Adaptive Traffic Control Signal System at 32 Locations with maintenance of 216 ATCS for a period of 7 years in Bengaluru City under B-TRAC / Bengaluru City Road Safety and Traffic Management Project to Bengaluru City Traffic Police bearing tender No. KRDCL/2021-22/BT/WORK_INDENT362/CALL-2	Rs. 37.265 Crore	As per e-portal & also submit the form of EMD Declaration	12 months (Installation & Commissioning)

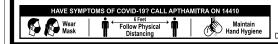
- 2) Interested applicants may download bidding documents from e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and submit the bids & EMD (electronically) through e-Procurement portal only.
- 3) The Calendar of events for various activities are as follows:

a) Pre-bid Meeting will be held on 05.10.2021 at 11.30 Hrs. in the Board Room of KRDCL Office, Bengaluru at the above address.

Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal website.

b) The Last date & time for submission of bids: 25.10.2021 upto 17:30 Hrs.

c) Date & time of opening of Technical bids: 27.10.2021 at 11:00 hrs.



Chief Engineer KRDCL DIPR/DDU/YC/1648/2021-22

nviting Indigenous Competitive Bidding SI. NO Tender ID Description Estimate in ₹ 63309 Annual civil maintenance of buildings, roads & other buildings facilities at BDL. Bhanur in following zones: I. Zone - A - Plant Area 18 Lakh 2. Zone - B - Plant Area 18 Lakh 3. Zone - A-Township Area 18 Lakh 4. Zone - A- Township Area 18 Lakh 63604 Extension of officer's hostel at BDL. 440.58 Lakh Bhanur and facelift of Township Entrance at BDL. Bhanur

Please visit website https://bdltenders.abcprocure.com for further details. Bids should be submitted online only. "Corrigendum if any shall be issued through our e-portal only and not in Newspapers"

Addl. General Manager (Corp Comml)



Meghalaya Cong. must correct course: former CM

Former Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma on Thursday said the State unit of the Congress needs course correction. He also played down speculation on him quitting the party. The veteran Congress leader, sulking after the All India Congress Committee (AICC) reportedly snubbed him while appointing Lok Sabha member Vincent H. Pala as State party president, said he would seek to rectify the "mistakes" and "wrongs" at an appropriate level within the "four walls of the party".

U.P. Cong. vice-president Lalitesh Tripathi resigns

Uttar Pradesh Congress vice-president and former MLA Lalitesh Pati Tripathi on Thursday announced that he had resigned from the party but remained tight-lipped on his next step. Mr. Tripathi is the great grandson of former U.P. Chief Minister Kamlapati Tripathi. Addressing journalists, Mr. Tripathi said he resigned from all posts of the Congress as well as his primary membership. He said he felt he had "lost the right" to continue in the posts.

Ex-chairman of J&K Bank joins Sajad Lone's party

Former J&K Bank chairman Parvez Nengroo joined Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference (PC) on Thursday. Mr. Lone said Mr. Nengroo would play a key role in scripting the party's economic agenda as he "has had an illustrious banking career and is a hands-on leader who has risen from the ranks". "Parvez sahib's experience and expertise in economic matters will immensely benefit the party in formulating a futuristic economic policy to steer J&K from changelessness to change," Mr. Lone said. Mr. Nengroo was arrested on April 3 this year in the 2019 graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, and was granted a bail by a local court.

U.K.-based firm, Indian directors held for fraud

The Central Bureau of booked a U.K.-based company, Molinare Limited, and its Indian directors for allegedly cheating the London branch of Bank of India to the tune of ₹192.48 crore. The company was into post-production services in the entertainment and media industry, The FIR also names its then managing director, Prabodh Kumar Tewari, and his two sons. Anand and Abhishek, as accused. Anand was also a company director. The three accused, who are residents of Maharani Bagh in Delhi, had cheated the bank's London branch of £18.51 million, the CBI stated.

Jabs to be given at home for disabled

Centre gives nod for special provision for those who have restricted mobility and special needs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Persons with restricted mobility, disabilities and those with special needs can get COVID vaccination at home while following all safety protocols, the Health Ministry said on Thursday.

member NITI Aayog (health) V.K. Paul said India had already achieved the milestone of vaccinating 66% of its adult population with one dose of the vaccine.

"The Health Ministry aims to provide maximum vaccine cover to as many people as possible and in the endeavour this is an important step forward. Those who do not have enough mobility, and cannot even access the nearto-home vaccination facility. can be covered under this programme. We have made the provision for at-home vaccination under supervision for this group of persons," Dr. Paul said.

Speaking at the Health Ministry press conference, he said the government was



Improving access: All safety protocols will have to be followed during home vaccination. • PTI

confident that that the system to take vaccines to homes would be safe, effective, nurturing and supportive. "All SOPs will be followed," he said.

"The vaccination drive aims to be equitable and citizen-centric. Hence, the decision to reach those people who are not able to come to the vaccination centre for

some valid reasons has been taken," he said.

Meanwhile, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan cautioned that though the number of new cases

tance but do not have medi-

cal records of COVID-19

treatment to show. The court

would pass formal orders on

the NDMA guidelines on Oc-

declining, people should continue to follow COVID appropriate behaviour and get themselves vaccinated.

Chandi-Lakshadweep, garh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Sikkim had reached 100% COVID vaccination coverage of first dose for its population, he said.

Festival SOP

A detailed SOP had been issued for States and Union Territories for the upcoming festival season, with the direction that relaxations and restrictions be imposed based on weekly case positivity, he said.

"We have advised that mass gatherings be avoided in areas identified as containment zones and in districts reporting more than 5% case positivity. Also, gatherings with advance permissions and limited people [as per local context1 can be allowed in districts with a positivity rate of 5% and below," Mr. Bhushan said

SC introduces FASTER system to send records

Bail orders to be transmitted instantly

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

In a big fillip to the fundamental rights of life, dignity and personal liberty, the Supreme Court has introduced a new system by which crucial decisions, including orders on bail and stay of arrest, can be communicated electronically to prison authorities and investigating agencies through a secure channel.

Following an order on July 16 by a Special Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, the top court introduced the "Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records" (FASTER) system. The Bench approved its use on Thursday.

The system is meant to ensure that undertrials are not made to wait for days on end behind bars to be released because the certified hard copies of their bail orders took time to reach the prison.

The system would also

prevent unnecessary arrests and custody of people even after the court had already granted them its protection. It may even communicate a stay on an execution ordered by the final court on

The process to develop the FASTER system began with the CJI's observations in court on July 16, "In this modern era of technology, why are we still looking at the skies for pigeons to deliver our orders?"

The court hearing was based on a suo motu case.

The suo motu case was taken after The Hindu reported the plight of 13 prisoners in an Agra jail, who suffered imprisonment for up to two decades despite the Juvenile Justice Board declaring them 'juveniles' at the time of commission of their crimes. The top court had granted them bail on July 8, but they were released by the prison authorities after a delay of four days.

PM to launch

on Sept. 27

health mission

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi will announce the na-

tionwide roll-out of the

Pradhan Mantri Digital

Health Mission on Septem-

ber 27, Health Minister

Mansukh Mandaviya said

digital health ID will be

provided to the people,

"Under this, a unique

on Twitter.

Govt. expands compensation ambit

Kin of those who died by suicide 30 days after COVID-19 diagnosis eligible for aid

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Home Ministry informed the Supreme Court on Thursday that the families of those who died by suicide within 30 days of a CO-VID-19 diagnosis would be eligible for financial help under the Disaster Management Act.

The statement came against the backdrop of the guidelines issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), which recommended ₹50,000 each as ex gratia to the families of people who died of the virus. The NDMA has proposed that the States should provide the money from their State Disaster Response

In the previous hearing of the case on September 13, a Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and A.S. Bopanna urged the government to consider ex gratia payment to the fami-

has been done JUSTICE M.R. SHAH lies of people who died by suicide, unable to bear the shock of a COVID-19 positive

On Thursday, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Ministry, stressed that these families were also "entitled to avail financial help as granted under the SDRF" in accordance with the NDMA guidelines of September 11. That is, they too would be eligible for the ₹50,000 ex gratia payment. If the person died by suicide within 30 days of a positive test, it should be deemed

diagnosis

that the person took his own life because of COVID-19, he submitted.

Medical records

Today, we are very happy.

has brought solace to many. This

would wipe away the tears of

This [COVID compensation]

During the hearing, the court suggested that the committees proposed to be formed at the district level under the NDMA guidelines to deal with grievances regarding certification of death should be able to directly access hospital medical records to check claims of CO-VID-19 deaths. This would help resolve cases in which families claim ex gratia assis-

many... We are happy something On June 30, the court, in a judgment based on a petition filed by advocate Gaurav

Bansal, ordered the NDMA to frame uniform guidelines for payment of ex gratia assistance to families of CO-VID-19 patients who had died. On Thursday, Justice Shah observed that the court was "very happy" with the NDMA guidelines extending financial aid to many families of the COVID-19 dead. "Today, we are very happy... This has brought solace to many... This would wipe away the tears of many," he remarked.

'We are happy something has been done," Justice Shah said. Mr. Mehta stated, "What India has done, no other country has done".

Wearing masks saves lives, stresses court

Judge cautions those who fail to do so

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Thursday sent a strong message to people who ridicule wearing masks in public.

A Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and A.S. Bopanna said wearing masks during the pandemic saves not only the person's life but also that of others. The court said every citizen should take care not to be a public risk factor in times of a pandemic that has cost many lives globally.

"It is not just a question of your life only... You have no right to play with the lives of others," Justice Shah observed sternly.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta referred to how mask violations were rampant in several foreign countries. Mr. Mehta said people have started asking for the freedom to not vaccinate and to



Wearing masks is not only for self-protection but also to protect others, says SC.

However, India has been more cautious, he said.

The exchange came during a hearing on the National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) recommendation to provide ₹50,000 each as ex gratia to families of those who died of COVID-19.

which will contain all the health records of the person," he said. The Minister released post-COVID-19 sequelae modules, aimed at capacinot wear masks in public.

ty-building of health workers to manage long-term effects of the disease in those who have recovered. "The modules have been prepared to provide guidance to doctors and healthcare workers to deal with the issue of long-term effects of COVID-19," he observed. Proactive and compre-

hensive treatment of CO-VID-19 was required to ensure minimum side-effects, he said. "We have witnessed in patients the consequences of post-CO-VID-19 effects due to taking higher doses of steroids in cases of mucormycosis. It is important to take medicines with fewer or negligible side-effects. If we are alert beforehand, it will be fruitful in tackling the fu-VID-19," he noted.

sues - needed to be tackled, he added.

₹50,000 as aid is a cruel joke: Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday described the Centre's decision to pay ₹50,000 as compensation to families who lost loved ones to COVID-19 as a "cruel joke".

Addressing a press conference, spokesperson Supriva Shrinate said that every family that lost a member can "easily" be paid ₹5 lakh from the amount collected by the Centre as taxes on pe-

troleum products. Ms. Shrinate claimed that last year the Centre collected ₹4.54 lakh crore by way of taxes on petroleum products and it would need to spend only ₹22,000 core from this amount to cover the official figure of 4.5 lakh deaths during the pandemic.

"We demand a compensation of ₹5 lakh for every life lost to corona, because in India, it was a man-made crisis. Instead of providing

for oxygen cylinders, beds and vaccines and medicines, this government was too busy electioneering," she alleged. The Congress spokesper-

son also claimed that the Narendra Modi government initially did not want to classify the pandemic as a "disaster" under the National Disaster Management Act, 2005, to avoid paying the ex gratia of ₹4 lakh that is mandated to every victim of a

SCAN TO PLAY

disaster. "It is also a good day to ask: where is the PM CARES fund? Why is nobody talking about the PM CARES fund in the government? This is not some private fund of the BJP. This is money that people like us have contributed to and thus is money that has been collected under the seal of the Union Government, in the Prime Minister's name. Why is this money not being put to use?" she asked.

No evidence of any new variant, says INSACOG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

There is no evidence of a new variant of SARS-CoV2 and presently there is no additional or public health concern regarding the Delta sub-lineages, the INSACOG, a genome sequencing consortium, has said.

In its latest bulletin dated September 20, the INSACOG said Delta continues to be

the main variant of concern in India.

'The second wave, driven by the Delta (variant), is continuing at low levels in some States and there is no evidence of a new variant," it said.

There is a small but steady increase in the sub-lineage AY.1 since June 2021, which is being monitored. the INSACOG noted.

ture consequences of CO-Some perceptions related to COVID-19 - such as fear and mental health is-

THEROSSWORD+ 13360 Type your answers in our online grids. On the state of genius of the state o

13 Small conservative banker, someone like Disney? (11)

Display keystrokes of genius.

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

18 We start to basically record our thoughts here (6) 20 We morons created this place in CNN office, perhaps (8)

22 Embarassingly idle at a party (6)

23 True representation of a Gir lion (8) 24 They reportedly attract wealth? (8)

25 Booted king chose to leave quietly (6)

DOWN

1 Loudmouth waving big wand (7)

2 Stars pop out for papers (8) 3 Filmmaker approached the Gunners (6)

4 Sort of global dope (8) 5 Concoct a very intrinsic kind of verse (6)

6 Dance of monk with evil heart (7)

8 Snappy and stylish comic book writer and model, one USA

14 Handle pistol that ricochets and rattles occassionally (8) 15 Part of telephone that is fabricated with a crepe (8)

16 Some serve a large organisation (7)

17 Spread word about mature, rich, old woman (7) 19 Grasped that this King was a tragic character, not heartless (6)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13359 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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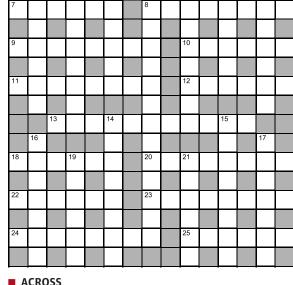
FAITH

Pull of the Ramayana

The Ramayana has a pull, which has remained undiminished over centuries, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. It is perhaps one of the few stories where the hero Himself enjoyed hearing the story. Bhavabhuti, in his Uttara Rama charita, says that in Rama's palace in Ayodhya, scenes from the Ramayana were painted on the walls, and Rama, Sita and Lakshmana enjoyed looking at the paintings. Lava and Kusa had been trained by Valmiki to narrate all the verses of the Ramayana. Their speech itself was sweet, and when they sang the verses before Rama people listened, their attention unwavering. Rama too left His throne and sat among the people. The story continued to be a big draw even after the Rama avatara ended.

While it is common knowledge that Srimad Bhagavatam contains many exploits of Krishna, significantly, it also has Suka talking about Rama's story. When Kulasekara Azhvar heard about Rama preparing to fight Ravana, he forgot that it was a story about the past. He ordered his army to go to the aid of Rama!

Parasara Bhatta, wrote a commentary for the Vishnu Sahasranama, called Bhagavadguna Darpana. Here, before he talks about names referring to Rama, he says that he is going to talk about the name which is like nectar to the dying. The name 'Rama' offers consolation when we are unhappy. It is evident from Nammazhvar's works that Krishna was his favourite deity. And yet, even he remarked in a verse that if at all one wanted to learn something, it should be the story of Rama, for by His very presence, Rama granted moksha even to blades of grass in Ayodhya. Nampillai explained Nammazhvar's Thiruvaimozhi in his discourses. In these explanations, Nampillai gave references from Valmiki Ramayana.



7 Some thoracic adaptations enable it to buzz and click (6) 8 Cold and rain damaged an old warship (8)

9 Long poetic wanderings? (8) 10 Skin covering double black fat (6)

11 Prospect of gold in part of Central America (8) 12 Objective knowledge possessed by a prosecutor (6)

repackaged (13)

21 Why is King going inside for a drink? (6)

China sends fighter jets towards Taiwan

Show of force came after Taiwan said it had submitted an application to join 11-nation Pacific pact

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China sent 19 aircraft towards Taiwan on Thursday amid rising tensions across the straits, in the latest messaging from Beijing to both Taipei and Washington on its posture on the Taiwan issue.

Beijing has in the past used its air force as a form of signalling, for instance recently dispatching fighters to coincide with visits of U.S. diplomats to Taiwan.

The latest show of force came as Taiwan said it had submitted an application to join the 11-nation CPTPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) trade deal, days after China said it had formally applied to join the Pacific pact.

Air patrol forces

Taiwan's Ministry of Defence said on Thursday it had deployed air patrol forces in response to the 19 PLA aircraft that had entered the Air Defence Identification Zone. The PLA aircraft included 12



Air pressure: The PLA aircraft included 12 J-16s, two J-11s, bombers and anti-submarine aircraft. • AP

J-16s, two J-11s, bombers and anti-submarine aircraft, a statement said

China views Taiwan as its province, although both have been ruled separately since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949 when the Kuomintang (KMT) and Chiang Kai-shek fled to the is-

Cross-straits ties have been strained in recent years with Beijing accusing the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and President Tsai Ing-wen, who was reelected for a second term last year, of pursuing "inde-

Prior to the DPP coming to power in 2016, ties had somewhat warmed under the KMT's Ma Ying-Jeou, who held a landmark meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2015 and backed an economic cooperation agreement that was signed in

pendence".

Beijing has increasingly sought to push back against Taiwan seeking a presence in international bodies, wean away the few remaining countries that still maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan, and deploy its aircraft and vessels with growing frequency, particularly in response to the presence of U.S. clear." vessels in the straits.

'Unofficial delegation'

Taiwan is among the many issues that Beijing and Washington have recently clashed over, with the Biden administration, three months after taking office, sending an "unofficial" delegation to Taiwan in April this year as a show of support.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Thursday hit out at the application to join the

"There is only one China in the world, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory," spokesperson Zhao Lijian said.

"The one-China principle is a universally recognised norm governing international relations and the consensus of the international comopposes all official interactions with Taiwan, firmly rejects Taiwan's accession to any agreement or organisation of official nature. China's position on this issue is

Meanwhile, the PLA's Eastern Theater Command said on Saturday it "dispatched naval and air forces to conduct joint patrols and combat exercises in the waters and airspace southwest of Taiwan after a U.S. warship transited the Taiwan Straits to provoke China concerning its sovereignty".

This followed the U.S. 7th fleet staying a missile destroyer had sailed through the Taiwan Straits on Friday.

Senior Colonel Shi Yi said the PLA "organised troops to follow, supervise and monitor the U.S. ship throughout its passage in the Taiwan

He added that "the frequent provocations fully prove that the U.S. is undermining the peace and stability of the Taiwan Straits and

International community must engage with Taliban: Pakistan

Road map needed for diplomatic recognition, says Minister

ASSOCIATED PRESS UNITED NATIONS

Be realistic. Show patience. Engage. And above all, don't isolate. Those are the pillars of an approach emerging in Pakistan to deal with the fledgling government that is suddenly running the country next door once again -Afghanistan's resurgent, often-volatile Taliban.

Pakistan's government is proposing that the international community develop a road map that leads to diplomatic recognition of the Taliban - with incentives if they fulfil its requirements - and then sit down face to face and talk it out with the militia's leaders. Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi outlined the idea on Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press on the sidelines of the General Assembly's meeting of world leaders.

"If they live up to those expectations, they would



Shah Mehmood Qureshi

make it easier for themselves, they will get acceptability, which is required for recognition," he said. "At the same time, the international community has to realise: What's the alternative? What are the options? This is the reality, and can they turn away from this reality?"

He said Pakistan "is in sync with the international community" in wanting to see a peaceful, stable Afghanistan with no space for terrorist elements to increase their foothold, and for the Taliban to ensure "that Afghan soil is never

used again against any country".

Realistic approach

"But we are saying, be more realistic in your approach," Mr. Qureshi said. "Try an innovative way of engaging with them. The way that they were being dealt with has not worked."

Expectations from the Taliban could include an inclusive government and assurances for human rights, especially for women and girls, Mr. Qureshi said. In turn, he said, the Afghan government might be motivated by receiving development, economic and reconstruction aid to help recover from decades of war. He urged the U.S., the International Monetary Fund and other countries that have frozen Afghan government funds to immediately release the money so it can be used "for promoting normalcy in

UN says Myanmar faces risk of escalating civil war

Democracy must be restored: Bachelet

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Myanmar is facing the alarming prospect of an escalating civil war as an uprising against the military junta widens, the UN's human rights chief warned on Thursday

Michelle Bachelet told the United Nations Human Rights Council that time was running out for other countries to step up efforts to restore democracy and prevent a broader conflict.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since Aung San Suu Kyi's government was ousted

by the military in February. Ms. Bachelet said the human rights situation had deteriorated significantly as the effects of the coup "devastate lives and hopes across the country".

"Conflict, poverty and the effects of the pandemic are sharply increasing, and the country faces a vortex of repression, violence and economic collapse," she said.

Faced with the "overwhelming repression of fundamental rights", the armed resistance movement was growing. "These disturbing trends suggest the alarming

possibility of an escalating civil war," she said.

Political process

Ms. Bachelet urged countries to support a political process that would engage all parties, saying the ASEAN regional bloc and influential powers should use incentives and disincentives "to reverse the military coup and desperate spiral of violence".

"Myanmar's stability and path to democracy and prosperity have been sacrificed over these last months to advance the ambitions of a privileged and entrenched military elite," she said. "The national conse-

quences are terrible and tragic - the regional consequences could also be profound. The international community must redouble its efforts to restore democracy and prevent wider conflict before it is too late.

Ms. Bachelet said more than 1,100 people had now reportedly died at the hands of the security forces since the coup, while more than 8.000 others, including children, had been arrested and more than 4,700 still in detention.

U.S. envoy to Haiti resigns, slams migrant deportations

I won't be associated with inhumane decision, says Foote

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The U.S. special envoy to Haiti resigned on Thursday two months after his appointment, denouncing the Biden administration's deportation of Haitian migrants from the U.S.-Mexico border back to their poverty-stricken homeland. "I will not be associated

with the United States inhumane, counterproductive decision to deport thousands of Haitian refugees and illegal immigrants to Haiti," State Department envoy Daniel Foote said in a scathing letter resignation.

In the letter to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Mr. Foote described Haiti as a place where U.S. diplomats "are confined to secure compounds because of the danposed by armed gangs in control of daily life".

"Mired in poverty, hostage to the terror," Mr. Foote wrote, the Haitian population "simply cannot support the forced infusion of thousands of returned migrants lacking food, shelter, and money without additional,



Hunger pangs: Haitian migrants queuing to get food at a shelter in Coahuila State in Mexico. • AFP

avoidable human tragedy". "More refugees will fuel further desperation and

crime," he wrote. The resignation came after the administration of President Joe Biden began last weekend loading Haitian migrants who crossed into the country from Mexico onto aircraft and flying them back to Haiti.

Many of the thousands who crossed the border actually travelled from South America, where many fled years ago from the grinding poverty and violence of Haiti. It underscored the

mounting challenge to Washington from the border, where nearly 209,000 people sought to cross illegally from Mexico in August, more than four times the figure from a year ago.

Many are expelled under COVID-19 controls but an undisclosed number have been registered for court hearings on their status and then released into the country.

Since Sunday, U.S. immi gration officials have sent around 1,400 migrants, including hundreds of children, back to Haiti on 12 flights.

Boeing to make military drones in Australia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. aerospace giant Boeing on Wednesday announced plans to build a new type of drone military aircraft in Australia.

Boeing said it had selected Toowoomba city in Queensland State as the final assembly point for its unmanned Loyal Wingman planes. The first test flights were completed earlier this year. The announcement comes less than a week after the U.S., Britain and Australia announced a new security alliance that will supply Australia with nuclear-powered submarines. The deal was condemned by China and has heightened tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.

Scott Carpendale, managing director of Boeing Defence Australia, said development of the new aircraft is going to plan.

He said it uses artificial intelligence to operate in tandem with manned aircraft and was conceived, designed and developed in Australia. It's the first military combat aircraft to be designed and manufactured in Australia in half a century.

Date: 23.09.2021

Approx.

Lakhs)

Former Gitmo detainees in key positions at Kabul

They get defence, intelligence roles

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

Two former high-profile detainees at the American prison in Guantanamo Bay have taken over the security structure of Afghanistan, which was under the Haqqani Network after the Taliban captured Kabul on August

Mullah Fazel and Abdul Haq Wasiq, who spent 14 years each in prison, have been given key intelligence and security responsibilities by Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Baradar, who reportedly had disagreed with the September 5 visit of the ISI chief to Kabul.

In an order issued on Wednesday, Mullah Fazel was appointed as the Deputy Minister of Defence and Wasiq the Director of Intelligence of the Taliban administration.

Released by Obama

Mullah Fazel will work with Defence Minister Mullah Yaqub, said an Afghan source familiar with the changes. Mullah Yaqub is the son of the Taliban founder, Mullah

Both Fazel and Wasiq were released in 2014 by the Obama administration as part of an exchange deal with the Taliban in which a group of five powerful Taliban figures, known as the "Gitmo-5", were sent back to Afghanistan. The two were accused of atrocities during the previous Taliban rule and the war with the U.S., but got involved in the dialogue with the United States upon their return.

Wasiq was the deputy intelligence chief and Fazel the head of the army during the Taliban regime between 1996 and 2001. Apart from these two, Sa-

dar Ibrahim, who was a friend of Mullah Omar, has been made the Senior Deputy Interior Minister. Ibrahim is known to be anti-Pakistan and his appointment is seen aimed at checking Pakistan's influence.

He was close to the former Taliban leader Mullah Mansour, who was killed in a drone attack inside Pakistan while returning from Iran in May 2016.

Ibrahim reportedly avoided Pakistani contacts after the assassination of Mansour. He had earlier spent several years in the custody of the ISI.

ELSEWHERE



Tunisia's Saied bolsters presidential powers

Tunisian President Kaïs Saied issued presidential decrees bolstering the already near-total power he granted himself two months ago. Wednesday's decrees include the continuing suspension of the Parliament's powers and the suspension of all lawmakers' immunity from prosecution. AF

U.S. authorises Pfizer booster shot for elderly, high-risk adults

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

The United States on Wednesday authorised the use of boosters of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for people aged over 65, as well as adults at high risk of severe disease and those in high-exposure jobs.

announcement means a significant part of the population – amounting to tens of millions of Americans – are now eligible for a third shot six months after their second.

EU plans one mobile charging port for all

"Today's action demonstrates that science and the currently available data continue to guide the FDA's decision-making for COVID-19 vaccines during this pandemic," said Janet Woodcock, acting head of the Food and Drug Administration, in a statement.

The decision was expect-

ed and came after an inde-

pendent expert panel con-

vened by the regulatory

agency last week voted in fa-

vour of recommending the

rejected an initial plan by the White House to fully approve Pfizer boosters to everyone aged 16 and over, in what amounted to a rare rebuke of President Joe Biden's administration.

move. The panel, however,

The group of vaccinologists, infectious disease specialists and epidemiologists concluded that the benefitrisk balance differed for younger people, especially young males who are more susceptible to myocarditis.

eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below. Amount put to Name of the Work tender (Rs. in

Ambedkar Bhavan in Ward No. 158

Comprehensive

No.: EE(VJN)/AE/TEND/07/2021-22

& Construction of Additional 2nd, 3rd 800.00 floor on existing Commercial complex in Chandra Layout in Ward No. 132. Annexure-6. SI 10, 9 (2nd Call) Construction of Multipurpose building at 250.00 Attiguppe in Ward No. 132. (2nd Call) Construction of Ambedkar Samudaya Bhavana at BDA Layout at Avalahalli in

development

Bruhat bengaluru mahanagara Palike

Office of the Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division,

1st Floor, Shasakara Bhavan, 3rd Main, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560 040

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (KW-3 & KW-4)

(Short Term Tender Notification)

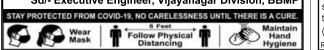
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) - KW4

The Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, BBMP invites

tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from

Ward No. 158. (2nd Call) EMD Declaration: GOK order No.: FD 675 EXP-12/2020 Bengaluru Dt: 22.12.2020. (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from: 30.09.2021. (2) Pre bid meeting will be held on 07.10.2021 at 3:00 p.m. in the office of the Executive Engineer (Vijayanagar), BBMP. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 4:00 p.m. on 11.10.2021 and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on the website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in in the office of the Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division on 12.10.2021 at 4:30 p.m. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website https://eproc. karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, BBMP





NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

NIRD&PR, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt, of India, invites applications from suitable and experienced persons for the position of Consultant - Technology Innovations for the Office of the Director General on contract basis for a period of one year on a consolidated remuneration of Rs. 90,000/- p.m.

For Job Profile, Eligibility Criteria and submission of online application, please

visit: http://career.nirdpr.in/

Last date for submission of online application is 14-10-2021

No.NIRD/AajeevikaSkills/REC/2014-Part (1) Assistant Registrar (E)

DIRECTORATE OF CHILD PROTECTION Govt. Shishu mandir Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, Near Kidwai Hospital Bengaluru - 560029 No. G.S.M.B(U).Pub.Res/2021-22 Dated: 09-09-202 REQUEST TO FIND PARENTS

Name: Sreeram @ Chinnu. Age: 05 years. Father or mother name: Mastani & Latha/Reshma Enrolled by: On 14-08-2017, staff of Basco Child Line enrolled the child in Govt. Shishu mandir fo patronage. Place of birth: Unknown. Height 98 cms. Body colour : moderate white. Face identified: - Condition of body and mind: normal

Contact: Superintendent, Govt. Shishu mandir Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, Bengaluru - 560029. Ph. No. 080-26569344, 9986264898. https://icps.karnataka.gov.in Sd/- Superintendent, Shishu Mandir,

Women and child development department, Bengaluru Urban District





Online tenders are invited in 2 bid system for supply of 70 GSM Maplitho Printing Pape n Reels and Art Card in sheets (150 GSM & 200 GSM) from Type A Manufactures a per IS 1848:2007 on "All India Basis" for the Academic Year 2021-22. Last date for submission of online Tenders is 08.10.2021 upto 4:00 pm. Details can be downloade through www.eprocurement.gov.in from 23.09.2021 at 3:00 pm onwards (Paper Tender ID: 269230)

Sd/- M. Somi Reddy Director, Telugu Akadem R.O. No.: 2177-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22

Apple pushes back, says move will stifle innovation rather than encourage it REUTERS BRUSSELS

The EU aims to have a common charging port for mobile phones, tablets and headphones under a European Commission proposal presented on Thursday in a world first, with the move impacting iPhone maker Apple more than its rivals.

The move has been more than 10 years in the making, with the European Union executive touting environmental benefits and 250 million euros in annual savings for users.

USB-C connector will become the standard port for all smartphones, tablets, cameras, headphones, portable speakers and handheld video game consoles. Chargers will also be sold separately from electronic devices. The EU executive will revise its eco-design regulation

Under the proposal, a

in the near future so that the external power supply is interoperable, which is the last step for a common charge. The commission said it was not targeting Apple and

only acted because compa-

nies were not able to agree on a common solution despite a decade of talks, which have reduced the number of mobile phone chargers to three from 30. Apple pushed back

against the proposal. "We remain concerned that strict regulation mandating just one type of connector stifles innovation rather than encouraging it, which in turn will harm consumers in Europe and around the world," the company said in a

industry Commission

statement.

chief Thierry Breton pointed to the ungainly sight of multiple charging cables. "My job is to kill off these

sea snakes whenever I can," he told a news conference. Mr. Breton also dismissed

Apple's comments as old re-

frains. "I have known these companies for years. Every time we put (forward) a proposal, they start to say 'Oh, it will be against innovation'. No, it's not against innovation, it's not against anyone. Like everything the commission does, it's for consumers," he said.

	23-09-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,885	1.63
US Dollar	73.64	0.31
Gold	45,401	-0.75
Brent oil	77.17	2.35

Brent oil	77.17	
NIFTY 50		
Adani Ports		CHAN
Asian Paints	3320.65	3.
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv		
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL		
Britannia Ind		
Cipla		
Coal India		
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech		
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
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Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd		
NTPC		
ONGC PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
State Bank	449.80.	10.
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma		0.
Tata Consumer		

EXCHANGE RA	TES	
Indicative direct rat except yen at 4 p.m		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.44	73.76
Euro	86.05	86.45
British Pound	100.64	101.11
Japanese Yen (100)	66.82	67.12
Chinese Yuan	11.37	11.42
Swiss Franc	79.40	79.75
Singapore Dollar	54.47	54.72
Canadian Dollar	57.96	58.24
Malaysian Ringitt	17.56	17.65

850.65

.. -3.50



Volkswagen unveils SUV Taigun at ₹10.49 lakh

Volkswagen Passenger Cars India has unveiled mid-sized sport utility vehicle (SUV) Taigun at an ex-showroom price of ₹10.49 lakh for the Dynamic Line (1.0L TSI) variant and ₹14.99 lakh for the Performance Line (1.5L TSI EVO). This is the first product offering developed on MQB AO IN platform under the India 2.0 project with a localisation level of up to 95%, the company said.

Google takes CCI to HC over probe report leak

Google on Thursday said it had filed a writ in the Delhi High Court against the Competition Commission of India (CCI), following the leak of a 'confidential report'. On September 18, an interim fact-finding report submitted by the Director General's office to CCI relating to an ongoing probe into Google's Android smartphone agreements was leaked to the media, the company said.

Casagrand to raise about ₹800 crore via IPO

CHENNAI Real estate developer Casagrand said it aims to raise about ₹800 crore next year via an initial public offering (IPO). The proposed IPO will lead to dilution of 15% stake, the company said Motilal Oswal and JM have been appointed as bankers for the IPO. Recently, Casagrand received a funding of ₹1,200 crore from international investors Apollo Global and KKR.

OYO to file for IPO next week, raise up to \$1.2 bn

Hospitality firm OYO is planning to raise up to \$1.2 billion (about ₹8,000 crore) through an initial public offering and is likely to file the draft red herring prospectus with SEBI next week, sources said. OYO has appointed investment banks such as JPMorgan, Citi and Kotak Mahindra Capital, they added. Comments from OYO could not be obtained at the time of filing the story. $\ensuremath{\text{\tiny PTI}}$

Infosys acknowledges some I-T portal users still facing issues

Usage rising steadily as taxpayer concerns being addressed, says site's developer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The new income tax portal's developer Infosys said on Thursday it was making 'steady progress' on resolving the glitches that have dogged the portal since its unveiling in early June, even as the firm acknowledged that some users continued to face difficulties that it was seeking to fix expeditiously.

In a statement issued eight days after the September 15 deadline set by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the firm to resolve all the problems plaguing the portal's 'current functionalities', Infosys said there had been a steady increase in usage on the portal



Work in progress: Over 15 lakh unique users have logged into the portal daily in September, says Infosys. • S. SIVA SARAVANAN

in the last few weeks, with 'taxpayers' concerns being progressively addressed'.

ber, on average so far, more than 15 lakh unique tax-Tax practitioners had listpayers had logged into the ed out multiple problems portal every day, and more that persisted or had than 1.5 crore returns had cropped up afresh on the eve been filed to date, the firm

said. Over 750 resources had been dedicated to 'complete significant portions of work' in tandem with the Income Tax Department, it added.

"Thus far, over 3 crore taxpayers have logged into the portal and successfully completed various transactions," Infosys said.

More than 16.6 lakh e-PANs had been allocated, 4.3 lakh digital signatures had been registered and more than 3.44 lakh e-proceeding responses to notices had now been completed.

"Over 85% of taxpayers who have filed their returns have also completed their everification, largely through Aadhaar OTP authentication," the company added.

Accounting regulator raps EY arm's audit of IL&FS firm

'Understatement of losses runs up to more than ₹2,000 cr.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has rapped EY group firm SRBC & Co. LLP for failing to detect several problems in the IL&FS group's transport venture while undertaking its statutory audit in 2017-18.

The auditor's lapses had led to losses being understated by more than ₹2,000 crore, incorrect treatment of letters of comfort of ₹2,654 crore and improper valuation of the firm's financial exposure to its associates, subsidiaries and joint ventures amounting to ₹3,346 crore, the accounting and audit regulator said.

In its audit quality review report (AQRR) released on



Thursday, the NFRA also held that SRBC's appointment to undertake the audit of IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd. (ITNL) was 'illegal' as EY group firms had separately taken up other assignments with ITNL.

Responding to the NFRA report, the audit firm in a statement said: "We are disappointed with the conclu-

sions in the Audit Quality Review report of ITNL for FY2017-18. SRBC had performed the audit as per the applicable standards and highlighted the issue relating to going concern in our limited review report for the June 2018 quarter. We are presently doing a detailed review of the report".

"The company's losses during 2017-18 were understated by at least ₹2,021 crore," the NFRA highlighted in its AQRR of ITNL.

The NFRA also said the initial appointment of SRBC and its continuation as statutory auditor, was 'prima facie illegal and void' but that it had examined the firm's audit performance 'without prejudice' to this finding.

Govt. notifies SEIS rates for 2019-20, sets ceiling

Cap of ₹5 cr. on benefits riles industry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bringing some relief to services exporters, the government on Thursday notified the benefits to be given for exports undertaken in 2019-20, but capped entitlements at ₹5 crore per exporter under the Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS).

The flow of SEIS benefits from 2018-19 and 2019-20 will ease the credit burden of such firms, especially for players in the travel, tourism and hospitality sectors that have been hit hardest in the pandemic.

However, the ₹5-crore ceiling needs a rethink, exporters said. "The serviceexport industry was waiting for the rates to be notified



for SEIS benefit since a long time," said Abhishek Jain, tax partner at EY, adding the value cap 'seems to be quite upsetting' for the industry. FIEO president A Sakthi-

vel said the exporters' body would take up the issue of cap with the government.

"Services sectors have been impacted much during the pandemic and require a little more support," he told

RBI to buy, sell G-secs on Sept. 30

of that deadline. In Septem-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday said it would conduct open market purchase of government securities under the Government Securities Acquisition Programme 2.0 for ₹15,000 crore on September 30, 2021.

On review of current liquidity conditions, the RBI also decided to conduct simultaneous sale of governsecurities under ment Open Market Operations for ₹15,000 crore on the same day, it said in a circular. It will purchase three securities that mature in 2029, 2031 and 2035, and sell three having different maturity dates in 2022.

(With PTI inputs)

Will meet 2022 deadline for CEPA, says UAE minister

UAE wants to be part of India's \$1-tn export goal: Al Zeyoudi

VIKAS DHOOT

As formal negotiations for the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) kicked off on Thursday, the UAE's foreign trade minister Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi said the pact was a natural extension of traditionally strong bilateral ties, and exuded confidence about meeting the March 2022 deadline for the CEPA.

"Our relation is beyond the timeline and those agreements. The agreements for us are formalities, a showcase to the whole world," he told *The Hindu*.



Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi

The pact with India is among the first of several that United Arab Emirates (UAE) is exploring, as it completes 50 years and makes a bid to reorient its economic future. The UAE is pursuing similar trade and economic partnership deals with countries such as the U.K., Turkey, Kenya and South Korea, he said. The high-level joint task force on investments, which will meet next week, had already managed to sort out many barriers, he said.

The UAE is hopeful that the CEPA, combined with easier investment flows, will enable the two countries' businesses to tap global opportunities together, given their synergies and complementarities in different sectors. "We want to be part of the 1 trillion dollar exports target that India's Commerce Ministry has set," the minister said.

Financial stocks spur Sensex, Nifty

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The benchmark stock indices on Thursday touched all-time highs in intraday trade spurred by strong buying support in banking and financial stocks.

The S&P BSE Sensex surged to a record high of 59,957.25 before closing at 59,885.36, with a gain of 958.03 points or 1.63%.

Top Sensex gainers in cluded Bajaj Finserv which rose 5.15%, L&T (3.46%), HDFC (3.11%), Axis Bank (3.04%) and State Bank of India that gained 2.46%.

The NSE Nifty 50 index also gained 276.30 points or 1.57% to close at 17,822.95. Intraday, the Nifty 50 index had touched its all-time high of 17,843.90.

Fed signals bond-buying taper 'soon'

REUTERS

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday cleared the way to reduce its monthly bond purchases 'soon' and signaled interest rate increases may follow more quickly than expected, with nine of 18 U.S. central bank policymakers projecting borrowing costs will need to rise in 2022.

The actions, included in ing itself to act against it.

then to 1.8% in 2024.

DFC rejigs PPP model for

Move expected to attract bidders

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

ate concessionaire.

the Fed's latest policy statement and separate economic projections, represent a hawkish tilt by a central bank that sees inflation running this year at 4.2%, more than double its target rate, and is position-

That action may proceed slowly, with interest rates seen rising to 1% in 2023, faster than projected by the Fed in June, and

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Alleging 'coercive efforts' by

Ford to get their channel

partners to sign a non-dis-

closure agreement, the Fed-

eration of Automobile Deal-

ers Association (FADA) has

sought government inter-

vention in the ongoing ne-

tries Minister Mahendra

Nath Pandey to establish a

task force to monitor the

compensation structure be-

ing worked out by Ford for

its dealer partners in the

country, and asked that a

formal discussion be initiat-

ed on an 'Automobile Deal-

that the Ford unit was forc-

ing dealers to first sign a

The dealers' body alleged

ers' Protection Act'.

FADA urged Heavy Indus-

gotiations with Ford India.

To attract bidders for the

The project, which is the first public private participation (PPP) project for the DFCCIL, is now proposed to be developed via a design, finance, build, operate and maintain and transfer (DFBOT) model.

as it will cover major hubs for coal mining and steel industries," said MD R.K. Jain. Mr. Jain added that during discussions on earlier If the private offers an uptime of 20 hours/day, full payment will be given

apprehension over risks related to construction, finance and revenues

"All the bidders were very apprehensive about the traffic projections which we were giving over the 30-year contract period," Mr. Jain said. "So, it has now been decided that we will make payment not on the basis of traffic run in that section, but on the services of the rail system developed by them," he added. "So, if the private concessionaire offers an uptime of 20 hours/ day, full payment will be given irrespective of the number of trains run by us or Indian Railways," he added.

374-km freight corridor

₹12,000-crore project to develop a 374-km stretch between Sonnagar (Bihar) and Andal (West Bengal), the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL) has reworked the proposal to de-risk the priv-

"This stretch is important

proposed PPP models, stakeholders had expressed

non-disclosure agreement

(NDA) before any compen-

sation package could be

Ford's part to get their chan-

nel partners to sign an NDA

with an imposition of unrea-

sonably tight timelines, un-

der economic duress is not

the right approach and ad-

versely impacts dealer inter-

ests," FADA president Vin-

kesh Gulati said.

"Such coercive efforts on

worked out.

FADA seeks govt. help on

compensation from Ford

It alleges 'coercive efforts' by auto firm

Veranda buys Edureka for

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Veranda Learning Solutions on Thursday announced 100% acquisition of Bengaluru-based edtech firm Edureka for ₹245 crore. As part of its strategy to accelerate its foray into the edtech space, the Kalpathi AGS Group-owned firm said it had set aside \$100 million for buyouts over the next six months.

"Veranda is planning an outlay of about \$100 million for acquisitions over the next 6 months to seize opportunities in the edtech space," said executive chairman Kalpathi Suresh. "With the current acquisition, we are poised to expand our footprint in the Europe and North American markets," he added.

₹245 crore



Venkatesh, Tripathi pulverise MI after KKR bowlers set it up

Rapid half-centuries from the pair help Morgan's side chase down 156-run target in just 15.1 overs and climb to fourth on the table

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

Three young Indian batters - an IPL rookie, a seasoned domestic cricketer and a promising international – tore into a fancied attack comprising three world-class pacers to ensure Kolkata Knight Riders converted its bogey game into a facile win on Thursday night.

Thanks to Venkatesh Iyer's mesmerising 53 (30b, 4x4, 3x6), Rahul Tripathi's impressive 74 n.o. (42b, 8x4, 3x6) and Shubman Gill's opening burst (13, 9b, 1x4, 1x6), KKR made mincemeat of a target of 156 set by Mumbai Indians on captain Rohit Sharma's return to the defending champion's line-up at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Cruising home

Such was the onslaught on a pitch that appeared sluggish once the ball got soft in the first innings, KKR cruised

■ Rohit became the first batter to score 1,000 runs against an IPL team





Bold and brutal: Kolkata Knight Riders rode on Venkatesh Iyer and Rahul Tripathi's belligerent knocks to hunt down the target with plenty to spare. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

home with 29 balls and seven wickets to spare.

Venkatesh, after an impressive debut against Royal Challengers Bangalore, rose to the occasion again.

The lanky left-hander made Trent Boult, Jasprit look ordinary on the night. More than his trademark pulls, including a six off Boult in the opening over, it was a back-foot punch during the PowerPlay that stood

By the time Gill played Bumrah onto his stumps off the last ball of the third over. KKR had raced to 40 for one. But Tripathi joined Venkatesh and ensured there was no let up, leaving MI

It wasn't the first time MI had appeared clueless. It lost

dumbstruck.

of its batting essay.

Rohit Sharma and Quinton de Kock got the team off the blocks quickly after being

However, from 56 for no loss in the PowerPlay, MI managed just 65 in the next 11 overs, losing four wickets as KKR's bowlers, led by Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy, wrestled back con-That ensured even the

burly Kieron Pollard couldn't get MI to a challenging total. But even if he had, such

was KKR's batting fury on the

Next assignment

KKR: Sept. 26 vs CSK, Abu Dhabi, 3.30 p.m. IST MI: Sept. 26 vs RCB, Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

night that perhaps no target

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS

(30b, 4x4), Quinton de Kock c Narine b Prasidh 55 (42b, 4x4, 3x6), Suryakumar Yadav c Karthik b Prasidh 5 (10b), Ishan Kishan c Russell b Ferguson 14 (13b, 1x6), Kieron Pollard run out 21 (15b, 2x4, 1x6), Krunal Pandya c Venkatesh b Ferguson 12 (9b, 1x6), Saurabh Tiwary (not out) 5 (2b, 1x4), Adam Milne (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-1, w-6, nb-2): 9; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-78 (Rohit, 9.2 overs), 2-89 (Suryakumar, 12.1), 3-106 (de Kock, 14.5), 4-119 (Ishan, 16.2), 5-149 (Pollard, 19.2), 6-149

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING

Rana 1-0-5-0, Varun 4-0-22-0, Narine 4-0-20-1, Ferguson 4-0-27-2. Prasidh 4-0-43-2. Russell 3-0-37-0.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Shubman Gill b Bumrah 13 (9b. 1x4, 1x6), Venkatesh Iyer b Bumrah 53 (30b, 4x4, 3x6), Rahul Tripathi (not out) 74 (42b, 8x4, 3x6), Eoin Morgan c Boult b Bumrah 7 (8b, 1x6), Nitish Rana (not out) 5 (2b, 1x4); Extras (lb-1, w-6): 7; Total (for three wkts. in

FALL OF WICKETS

1-40 (Gill, 2.6), 2-128 (Venkatesh, 11.4), 3-147 (Morgan,

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING Boult 2-0-23-0, Milne 3-0-29-0. Bumrah 4-0-43-3. Krunal 3-0-25-0, Rahul Chahar 3-0-34-0, Rohit 0.1-0-4-0.

Toss: KKR; MoM: Narine. KKR won by seven wickets

Pressure brings the best out of me: Shreyas

Azharuddeen could don the gloves for Bengaluru side; Dhoni's team injury free

RCB will look to turn it around against CSK

SPORTS BUREAU

After being snot out :against Kolkata Knight fter being shot out for 92 Riders, a lot is riding on Royal Challengers Bangalore's explosive batting lineup when it takes on Chennai Super Kings at Sharjah on

Last year, the venue saw some of the higher scores in the tournament with its short boundaries and the RCB batters will hope to find their groove in what could helpful conditions.

On Wednesday, Virat Kohli was hard at work having an extended net session and coach Mike Hesson sounded confident that the skipper had found his rhythm.

With A.B. de Villiers not donning the gloves, it will be interesting to see if RCB tries out Kerala wicketkeeper-batter Mohammed Azharuddeen, who is known for his power-hitting, to give more depth to its line-up. CSK will



Study in contrast: While RCB floundered against KKR, Ruturaj came good for CSK against MI. be buzzing, coming from a game after completing his

20-run win over defending champion MI after being reduced to 24/4 batting first on Sunday, thanks to opener Ruturaj Gaikwad's unbeaten

Super Kings and Sharjah But last year, CSK struggled at Sharjah, losing all its three matches and will be wary of

All-rounder Sam Curran will be available for Friday's

quarantine and could give the team an option to swap him for Moeen Ali.

Another piece of good news is that both Ambati Rayudu, who took a blow on his arm, and Deepak Chahar, who suffered cramps against MI, are fit and available.

With a settled line-up, CSK will hope to secure its seventh win of the season and take a step closer to the





HEAD-TO-HEAD Played: **Z**/ RCB 9 | CSK 17 | NR 1

In 2021 Played 1 | RCB 0 | CSK 1 STAR SPORTS 1 & SS SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

Hunger to perform has grown, says former Delhi Capitals captain

For Shreyas Iyer, the man who led Delhi Capitals to the 2020 IPL final, "the hunger (to perform) has grown and the appetite (for runs) keeps increasing every match you play."

Back in the mix after missing the first part of the season due to injury, Shreyas finished the job for DC with a six in its eight-wicket triumph over Sunrisers Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Addressing mediapersons following his unbeaten 41ball 47 on Wednesday, Shreyas said, "It's a really good feeling. I wanted to be positive when I went in to bat and I wanted to back my

"I looked to bat till the end and finish the game. I gave ivself some time in the middle and after a while, I was able to pick the lengths of the deliveries."

Asked about how he coped with injury, he said: "I I gave myself some time in the middle and after a while, I was able to pick the lengths

have a very close-knit family and friends and they never made me feel I was going through an injury.

"At first it was really difficult for me to adapt to the fact that I was injured. But family and friends kept me busy and in a positive frame of

ing rehab his confidence that he could come back positive and strong grew, Shreyas He loves to perform under

As he gained strength dur-

pressure. "I feel, the pressure-situation brings the best out of me. "Even today, when I

walked in, there was a bit of pressure. I want to be in that kind of situation and per-



The objective: Shreyas says he looked to bat till the end.

Points Table

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR				
Delhi Capitals	9	7	2	14	+0.613				
Chennai Super Kings	8	6	2	12	+1.223				
Royal Challengers	8	5	3	10	-0.706				
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	4	5	8	+0.363				
Rajasthan Royals	8	4	4	8	-0.154				
Mumbai Indians	9	4	5	8	-0.310				
Punjab Kings	9	3	6	6	-0.345				
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	1	7	2	-0.689				
After the MI-KKR match on Sept. 23									

Indian women battle to stay in series

Injured vice-captain Harmanpreet still unavailable

INDIA IN AUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Indian women's cricket team desperately needs its top order to strike form and its bowlers to show some spark against an in-form Australia in the second One-Day International here on Friday.

Australia won the opening match of the three-ODI series by nine wickets.

Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana have the ability to take on the rival attack and they need to ensure that Ellyse Perry and Darcie Brown do not dominate them the way they did in the series-opener.

The pace duo set the tone for the hosts in the warm-up game in Brisbane as well as in the first ODI here on Monday by cleaning up the Indian top-order as Australia recorded its 25th straight triumph in the format, a worldrecord winning streak.

The middle-order, led by skipper Mithali Raj, also has to show more intent. Flamboyant vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who missed the opening game due to a thumb injury, is still unavailable and in her absence the team needs Deepti Sharma to step up.

Batting coach Shiv Sunder Das confirmed that Harmanpreet had not yet recovered.

"Right now she (Harmanpreet) is not fit. She's not



herself on debut and the confidence should help her continue in the same vein. TWITTER/BCCIWOMEN

available for the next game, that's the current status," the coach said at the prematch press conference.

The 21-year-old southpaw Yastika Bhatia gave a good account of herself on debut and the confidence of having scored against a world-class attack should help her continue in the same vein.

The Indian bowlers, led by veteran Jhulan Goswami, need to make early inroads. Another defeat on Friday would mean a third straight

series loss for India. The teams (from): India: Mithali Raj (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, PuDeepti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Yastika Bhatia, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Shikha Pandey, Jhulan Goswami, Meghna Singh, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Poonam Yadav, Richa Ghosh and Ekta Bisht.

nam Raut, Jemimah Rodrigues,

Australia: Meg Lanning (Capt.), Rachael Haynes (Vice-Capt.), Darcie Brown, Maitlan Brown, Stella Campbell, Nicola Carey, Hannah Darlington, Ashleigh Gardner, Alyssa Healy, Tahlia McGrath, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Georgia Redmayne, Molly Strano, Annabel Sutherland, Tayla Vlaeminck and Georgia Wareham.

Match starts at 10.40 a.m.

Das backs India to fire

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

India's batting may not have clicked in the opening women's ODI against a rampaging Australia, but batting coach Shiv Sunder Das is hopeful of a better show in the second match at Mackay on Friday.

He expressed faith in India's dashing duo at the top of the order, Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma, though neither spent much time in the middle on Tuesday.

"Obviously, (in the) last few games we didn't have a good start, (but) I am very positive as the batting coach," he said. "(I hope)

they'll put up a good start... of about 60-70. We can then carry the momentum into the middle overs."

In the first match, India was troubled by the shortpitched balls from Australia's 18-year-old pacer Darcie Brown, who took four wickets, in only her second ODI. Das said the batters had worked on that in the nets over the last couple of days.

"We have identified a few areas," he said. "All the toporder batters have a plan and I have had one-on-one chats with them.

"Running between the wickets is another area we are working on," Das said.

WTT

SPORTS BUREAU

Archana Kamath became the lone Indian to progress to the quarterfinals of the World Table Tennis Star Contender on Thursday, coming back from a 0-2 deficit to beat Miyu Nagasaki of Japan 11-13, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10, 11-8.

However, Sreeja Akula's run came to an end as she lost to Bruna Takahashi of Brazil 7-11, 4-11, 10-12.

Earlier, Sreeja and Archana had registered stunning wins over higherranked opponents in the



Archana's stunning run continues

Archana and Sreeja... causing a flutter. • FILE РНОТОЅ

second round.

Sreeja, ranked World No. 143, pulled off one of the biggest wins of her career with a sensational 11-5, 7-11, 11-9, 11-7 victory over World No. 21 Suh Hyowon of Ko-



Mo Zhang of Canada 11-8, 15-13, 11-7. Other result: Men (round-

of-32): Andrej Gacina (Cro) bt

G. Sathiyan 11-6, 11-6, 11-7.

Jyothi Surekha delights as India reaches two finals

Women's and mixed compound teams will take on Colombia in the summit clashes

ARCHERY

SPORTS BUREAU YANKTON (USA)

V. Jyothi Surekha shone brightly as India reached the finals of the compound women's and mixed team events at the World archery championships here. The seventh-ranked In-

dian women's trio of Surekha, Muskan Kirar and cadet World champion Priya Gurjar ensured a medal by reaching the final. Then Jyothi combined with Abhishek Verma to book a berth in the mixed team title clash. India, which has never



semifinals. • TWITTER/WORLDARCHERY won a gold medal in the

event, will meet Colombia, ranked first and second in the women's and mixed events, in both finals on Friday. The Indians beat Denmark 226-225, secondranked Great Britain 230-230 (30-28) and host USA 226-225 in the semifinal.

and Abhishek, ranked fifth, beat Russia 157-150, the Netherlands 157-155 before getting the better of the Koreans 159-156 to reach the final. Surekha has the unique

The mixed duo of Jyothi

distinction of being a member of all the Indian compound teams which have won medals – team silver in Mexico in 2017 and team bronze in the Netherlands in 2019 - in the World championships so far. She is the only Indian woman archer to bag an individual bronze (achieved the feat in the Netherlands two years ago).

The men's compound

preet Singh Bisla and Rishabh Yadav went down fighting to Austria 238-235 in the third round. The recurve archers were unable to make the medal

team of Abhishek, Sangam-

rounds. The men's team of Parth Salunkhe, Aditya Choudhary and Atul Verma lost to Chinese Taipei 5-3 in the second round. The women's side, includ-

ing Ankita Bhakat and Ridhi and Komalika Bari, was beaten by Mexico 6-2 in the third round. The mixed team of Salunkhe and Ankita was ousted by Korea 5-1 in the second round.



TV PICKS

Australia Women vs India Women: Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.40 a.m.

IPL 2021: Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. Golf: Ryder Cup, day 1: Eurosport (SD & HD), 8 p.m. World Archery Champion-ships: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12 a.m. (Saturday) Laver Cup 2021: Sony Six (SD & HD), 4.30 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF



Osaka withdraws from Indian Wells tournament

LOS ANGELES Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka has withdrawn from next month's ATP/WTA Indian Wells tournament in California Osaka, the 2018 champion here, had said earlier she planned to take an indefinite break from tennis after an early exit from the US Open.

Ramkumar in quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU BIEL (SWITZERLAND)

Ramkumar Ramanathan defeated Mats Moraing of Germany 6-2, 6-3 to reach the €44,820 Challenger tennis quarterfinals here on Thursday.

The results: €44,820 Challenger, Biel: Pre-quarterfinals: Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Mats Moraing (Ger) 6-2,

\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo: Prequarterfinals: Edorado Lavagno (Ita) bt Rishab Agarwal 6-2. 7-5: Francesco Passaro (Ita) bt Atharva Sharma 6-2,

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: Pre-quarterfinals: Zeel Desai bt Anouk Koevermans (Ned) 5-7, 6-1, 6-1; First round: Zeel Desai bt Weronika Baszak (Pol) 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-3; Marie Villet (Fra) bt Sravya Shivani 6-3, 6-2.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Honoka Kobavashi (Jpn) & Jennifer Luikham w/o Beatrice Ricci (Ita) & Clara Vlasselaer

USA on a mission to reclaim trophy

Europe has won nine of the past 12 editions, including three on American soil

RYDER CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KOHLER (USA)

An American squad featuring nine of the world's 11 topranked golfers tries to reclaim the Ryder Cup from Europe this weekend, aided by 40,000 loud supporters and a home course edge.

The European side, however, has won nine of the past 12 editions of the biennial team matches, including three of the past six on US soil, and brings an experienced line-up to face a US team with six rookies on its 12-man roster.

Underdogs

"Everything is stacked against us," said European talisman Ian Poulter, who has never lost a Ryder Cup singles match. "When you have that, when you can go in as underdogs, when you can turn the tide and actually come out victorious, it means a little bit more," he



Taming the crowd: With the pandemic ensuring that the spectators will mostly comprise home fans. Rory McIlroy of team Europe attempts to win some friends. • AFP

Four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy of Europe says a win "would be massive".

Brisk winds

Brisk winds at Whistling Straits along the Lake Michigan shoreline promise to make the layout, tucked among cliffs and hillsides, formidable for everyone when play starts on Friday.

The US line-up boasts of 2020 Masters winner Dustin Johnson, Tokyo Olympic champion Xander Schauffele, British Open champion Collin Morikawa and US PGA Tour play-off winner Patrick Cantlay – all ranked in the top five, even if the last three are Ryder Cup newcomers.

Friday and Saturday feature morning foursomes and afternoon four-ball matches ahead of Sunday's 12 final singles matches.

Spectators

About 40,000 spectators are expected each day, mostly US supporters due to CO-VID-19 travel restrictions after the event was delayed from 2020 by the pandemic.

It's the first time in 60 vears that Europe will have four players over age 40 while the Americans field one of their youngest line-ups.

The teams: USA: Steve Strickler (Capt.), Phil Mickelson (Vice-Capt.), Fred Couples, Collin Morikawa, Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau, Brooks Koepka, Justin Thomas, Patrick Cantlay, Daniel Berger, Harris English, Tony Finau, Xander Schauffele, Scottie Scheffler and Jordan Spieth.

Europe: Padraig Harrington (Capt.), Paul Casey, Matt Fitzpatrick, Tyrrell Hatton, Tommy Fleetwood, Rory McIlroy, Viktor Hoyland, Jon Rahm, Lee Westwood, Bernd Wiesberger, Sergio Garcia, Shane Lowry and Ian

Real wallops Mallorca



Hat-trick man: Marco Asensio lobs the ball over Mallorca goalkeeper Manolo Reina for Real Madrid's third. • AP

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Marco Asensio scored his first hat-trick for Real Madrid on Wednesday against Mallorca, his boyhood club, as Madrid cruised to a 6-1 win to go top of La Liga.

Karim Benzema capitalised on an early Mallorca mistake at the Santiago Bernabeu before three goals in five minutes put Madrid 3-1 ahead, two Asensio strikes coming either side of a curling effort from Mallorca's Lee Kang-in.

Asensio completed his treble with a bending shot of his own in the second half.

The results:

LaLiga: Sevilla 3 (Gomez 1, Montiel 15, Mir 22) bt Valencia 1 (Duro Perales 31): Espanyol 1 (Tomas 54-pen) bt Alaves 0; Real Madrid 6 (Benzema 3, 78, Marco Asensio 24, 29, 55, Isco 84) bt Real Mallorca 1 (Lee 25); Villarreal 4 (Pino 5, Trigueros Munoz 39, Groeneveld 60, Moreno 90+4) bt Elche 1 (Mojica

Serie A: AC Milan 2 (Diaz 67, Hernandez 82) bt Venezia O; Cagliari O lost to Empoli 2 (Di Francesco 29, Stulac 69); Salernitana 2 (Gondo 45+2, Coulibaly 76) drew with Verona 2 (Kalinic 7, 29); Spezia 2 (Gyasi 33. Antiste 49) lost to Juventus 3 (Kean 28, Chiesa 66, De Liat 72).

Ligue 1: Metz 1 (Kouyate 39) lost to PSG 2 (Hakimi 5, 90+5).

Formidables faces Texan Aces in final

BRIDGE

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI Formidables lived up to its name as it beat Solaris by 48 IMPS for a berth in the final of the Team of four Gold event in the 18th HCL International bridge championship played virtually on the Real Bridge platform.

In the final to be played on Friday, Formidables will be challenged by Texan Aces which also recorded its victory by an identical margin of 48 IMPs against Shree Cement.

While Texan Aces gradually emphasised its supremacy after a strong start. Formidables played vibrant in the second half after having led by a solitary IMP at the end of the first two sessions.

Formidables led by Kiran

Nadar, has Bachiraju Satyanarayana, Rajeshwar Tewari, Keyzad Anklesaria, Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumdar, Jaggy Shivdasani and Sandeep Thakral in the

Texan Aces comprises Sunit Choksi, G Venkatesh, Anil Padhya, Padmanabhan Sridharan, S Sunderam, Ajay Khare, Milind Athavale and Raju Tolani.

In the silver event, Ganga Gomti overcame a tough start to prevail over Prayas by 37 IMPS. The team asserted itself in the third set when it took a 32 IMPs lead, and stretched it by five more points in the last session.

The results (semifinals): Team of four Gold: Formidables bt Solaris 111-63; Texan Aces bt Shree Cements 85-37: Team of four Silver: Ganga Gomti bt Prayas 137-100; Dr. SSMC bt

Niyati meets Sonal in semifinals

gurugraм: Niyati Kukreti beat the top seed Tejasvi Dabas in the girls quarterfinals of the AITA National series tennis tournament at the Accelerate Tennis Academy on the Gurugram-Pataudi

Road on Thursday. Niyati led 2-6, 7-6(6), 4-0 when the top seed retired. She will play Sonal Patil in

the semifinals. The results: Under-18 boys

(pre-quarterfinals): Aditya Nandal bt Vibhu Challagundala 6-0, 6-3; Jaishnav Bajirao Shinde bt Lakshay Vivek Kumar 7-6(7), 6-1; Pragathesh Shivashankar bt Parag Jain 6-2, 6-1; Bhavya Singhmar bt Himanshu Sharma 6-2, 6-3: Vnash Nandal bt Rakshat Tarun 6-4, 6-3; Abhay Chhabra bt Kritanta Sarma 7-5, 6-2: Sarthak Sharma bt Kavin Karthik 6-2, 6-2; Parv Nage bt Shafaat Ali Asghar 6-2, 6-0,

Under-18 girls

(quarterfinals): Niyati Kukreti bt Tejasvi Dabas 2-6, 7-6(6), 4-0 (retired); Sonal Patil bt Suhani Gaur 6-0, 6-1; Radhika Mahajan bt Hitakamya Singh Narwal 6-4, 6-2; Lakshmi Gowda bt Kavya Khirwar 6-2, 6-3.

Neeraj shocks Jatin Neeraj Yashpaul beat the

second seed Jatin Dahiya 6-4, 7-6(4) in the quarterfinals of the ₹100,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the Tennis Project, Baliawas, on Thursday Neeraj will play Chinmay Dev Chauhan in the semifinals

The other semifinal will be between top seed V.M. Ranjeet and Raghav Iaisinghani.

The results (quarterfinals): V.M. Ranjeet bt Parikshit Somani 6-4. 6-2: Raghav Jaisinghani bt Jagmeet Singh 6-2, 6-4; Chinmay Dev Chauhan bt Abhishek Gaur 6-0,

6-1; Neeraj Yashpaul bt Jatin Dahiya 6-4, 7-6(4).

TENNIS ROUND-UP

Akhil Mathur in semifinals JALANDHAR: Akhil Mathur beat the second seed Gopal Soni 6-4, 6-2 to make the semifinals of the Over-45 event in the ITF Seniors tennis tournament here. In another match in the same event, Dinesh Laungani beat

Over-35: Narendra Singh Choudhary bt Vipin Sirpaul 6-4, 4-3 (retired); Rewant Datta bt Dinesh Chandra Suyal 6-1, 6-2; Arjun Uppal bt Avinash Kunwar 6-3, 6-0; Sachin Patil bt Rajesh Jain 6-4, 6-2.

Roy 7-5, 1-6, 6-4; Himanshu Bhatia bt Sheetal Sharma 6-0,

Sen bt Saniai Kumar 6-4, 5-7. Barua 6-1, 6-3; Bhushan Akut bt Lakpa Sherpa 6-1, 2-6, 6-2.

Farhat in final јнајјак: Farhat Aleen Qamar

beat her doubles partner and top seed Kashish Bhatia 9-4 to make the final of the ₹100,000 AITA women's tennis tournament at the Joygaon Academy on Thursday. In the final, Farhat Aleen will play Anjali Rathi who also beat her doubles partner Renee Singh. Interestingly, all the four will feature in the doubles final.

After playing best of three sets in the first two rounds, the organisers were forced to resort to the best-of-17 games format owing to rain interruption.

The results (semifinals): Singles: Farhat Aleen Qamar bt Kashish Bhatia 9-4; Anjali Rathi bt Renee Singh 9-5.

Doubles: Kashish Bhatia & Farhat Aleen Qamar bt Ayushi Singh & Medhavi Singh 9-4: Anjali Rathi & Renee Singh bt Adithi Are & Gayathri Snigdha

MRF Formula 1600 class makes a comeback

SPORTS REPORTER CHENNAI

The MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship will begin on Saturday at the MMRT behind closed doors with a card of nine races and 76 competitors in the fray.

Returning to the championship after a season's break due to the pandemic, is the MRF Formula1600 class which will headline the two-day programme with a 12-car grid.

The other categories are the ever-popular saloon cars in three categories the top-end Indian Touring Cars, Indian Junior Touring Cars and Super Stock. Also in the mix is the Formula LGB 1300 which boasts of a huge grid of 25 cars.

Bhubaneswar to host men's Junior World Cup

16 teams to vie for honours in the tournament to be held from Nov. 24 to Dec. 5

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR

Odisha was on Thursday named the host of this year's FIH men's hockey Junior World Cup. The event will be staged at the Kalinga Stadium here from November 24 to Dec. 5.

At the upcoming event, 16 nations will vie for the title. The state has earlier hosted the senior World Cup in 2018, the FIH World League in 2017 and the Champions Trophy in 2014.

"It is a short notice for making the arrangement for such an event, especially during the pandemic period. However, since the country's



All set: FIH president Narinder Batra, left, and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveil the trophy. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

prestige is at stake, we have readily agreed to host it," Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said during a prohost city.

"I hope the Indian team will take advantage of the

gramme to announce the

home condition and emerge victorious again," he added. Patnaik also unveiled the

logo and trophy. The official announcement was made in the presence the Odisha Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera, FIH president Dr. Narinder Batra and Hockey India secretary-general Rajinder Singh.

The participating teams are India, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, Egypt, Belgium, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, USA, Canada, Chile and Argentina.

Odisha is also set to host the 2023 FIH senior men's World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

Md. Sporting knocks out Gokulam

DURAND CUP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mohammedan Sporting Club knocked defending champion Gokulam Kerala FC out of the 130th edition of the Durand Cup football with a solitary goal quarterfinal win at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Thursday.

Mohammedan Sporting will now meet FC Bengaluru United in the first semifinal on September 27. The result:

Quarterfinal 1: Mohammedan Sporting 1 (Marcus Joseph 44) bt Gokulam Kerala

The All India Chess Federation has suspended its joint secretary Atanu Lahiri for three years for anti-federa-

the Annual General Body Meeting in Jaipur on Thursday. Lahiri was issued a show-cause notice in June following allegations of financial malpractices as a former office-bearer of Bengal Chess Association. Lahiri's response to the showcause notice could not satisfy the members of the three-member inquiry committee.



Atanu Lahiri. • FILE РНОТО

Code by State Associations.

F1 – Miami GP to make debut in 2022

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The first Formula 1 Grand Prix in Miami will take place at Miami Gardens on May 8, 2022, organisers said in a statement Thurs-

USA has hosted a GP in Austin, Texas since 2012, but F1 is looking to gain more of a foothold in the land of IndyCar and

NASCAR. Miami will be the 11th US F1 site after Sebring, Riverside in Los Angeles, Watkins Glen in New York State, Long Beach in California, Las Vegas, Detroit, Dallas, Phoenix, Indianapolis and Austin.

State swimming — Rawat pips Vishal in 200m freestyle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Kushagra Rawat pipped Vishal Grewal by one hundredth of a second to win the men's 200-metre freestyle gold with a time of 1 minute 54.38 seconds in the 56th Delhi State Swimming Championship at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee swimming pool

Kushagra also won the 1500-metre freestyle gold to add to the 800-metre gold he had won on the opening day. The results:

gar 1:56.32.

Bishnoi 20:10.76 50m backstroke: 1. Siddhant Sejwal 27.13; 2. Tanmay Das 27.15; 3. Anurag Dagar 27.35.

1:16.79; 3. Gurpreet Singh 1:20.82.

100m butterfly: 1. Sameer Sejwal 57.01; 2. Vinayak Parihar 58.83; 3. Nischay Malik 1:00.13. 200m individual medley: 1. Vishal Grewal 2:14.00: 2. Tanmay Das 2:19.52; 3. Sanskaar Tokas 2:20.74

2:05.60; 2. Rakshit Chitkara 2:06.69; 3. Aditya Kumar 1500m freestyle: 1. Divyansh Arora 18:28.42; 2. Mayank So-

18:38.15 50m backstroke: 1. Madhur Agarwal 28.67; 2. Aryaman Jain

Sarkar 1:18.72; 2. Gaurav Chauhan 1:19.68; 3. Abhinav Gogoi

Sharma 56.05; 2. Divyansh Arora 1:02.32; 3. Lakshay Vashisht 1:03.82.

100m breaststroke: 1. Utkarsh

2:37.48. 200m individual medley: 1. Neerav Kumar 2:31.43; 2. Ishaan

Rathi 2:37.33; 3. Utkarsh Sarkar

Group-2: 200m freestyle: 1. Yuvraj Singh 2:19.08; 2. Prateek Singh 2:22.52; 3. Avinash Issar 1500m freestyle: 1. Yuvraj

22:59.57. 50m backstroke: 1. Robin Sen 32.50; 2. Mihir Ramchandani 32.58; 3. Pranav Singh 32.65.

Seiwal 1:16.72: 2. Akshat Kumar

Singh 19:14.57; 2. Ravit Kharb

1:17.40; 3. Bhhagya Gahlaut 1:20.80 **100m butterfly**: 1. Robin Sen 1:08.00; 2. Prakhyat Mohan 1:11.64; 3. Mihir Ramchandani

Bhhagya Gahlaut 2:33.48; 2. Dhruv Sejwal 2:33.50; 3. Soham Malik 3:02.75. Women: 200m freestyle: 1.

1500m freestyle: 1. Prachi Tokas 18:10.12; 2. Pragya Shokeen

28:28.67. 50m backstroke: 1. Rinki Bardoloi 33.23; 2. Yashwani Suhag 33.58; 3. Simran Badhwar

100m breaststroke: 1. Yashwa-

ni Suhaq 1:24.80; 2. Vaishali

Grewal 1:30.10; 3. Mehak Hasija

100m butterfly: 1. Vanshika Sharma 1:15.29; 2. Rinki Bardoloi 1:15.49; 3. Deepali Malhotra

Simran Badhwar 2:48.07; 2. Pallavi Sejwal 3:00.00; 3. Mehak Hasija 3:08.55. Girls: Group-1: 200m freestyle: 1. Bhavya Sachdeva 2:17.39; 2.

200m individual medley: 1.

Sachdeva 18:55.05; 2. Simran 24:24.42; 3. Vanshikaa Chowdhary 25:43.52. 50m backstroke: 1. Utsav 33.32; 2. Saanvi Sood 33.50; 3.

Ananya Bisht 34.74. 100m breaststroke: 1. Saisha Sehrawat 1:27.55; 2. Koushiki Singh 1:33.06; 3. Prajna Jadhav

100m butterfly: 1. Hema 1:09.19; 2. Utsav 1:17.24; 3.

2:52.25. Group-2: 200m freestyle: 1. Ananya Rawat 2:24.87; 2. Titiksha Rawat 2:33.41; 3. Manya

wat 19:32.35; 2. Sanya Zutshi 22:06.55: 3. Harshita Lakhina 23:11.08. 50m backstroke: 1. Ananya Chauhan 34.34; 2. Manya Bisht

36.38; 3. Titiksha Rawat 36.44.

100m breaststroke: 1. Suhani

Sharma 1:29.79: 2. Unnati Gard

1:46.97; 3. Amandhaa Singpo 1:47.20. 100m butterfly: 1. Nitika Saini 1:12.07; 2. Yajusha Dahiya

200m individual medley: 1. Nitika Saini 2:53.25: 2. Suhani sharma 2:54.18; 3. Yajusha Dahiya 3:11.21.

AICF suspends joint secretary Lahiri

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

tion activity.



In another major decision, the Madhya Pradesh Chess Association was disaffiliated and a five-member ad-hoc committee was set up to run its affairs.

Deliberations were also held on inviting sponsorship support, holding of Indian Chess League, issues related with National online chess championships and implementation of Sports

'Took my medal to meet its elder sibling'

Neeraj catches up with Bindra, gets a puppy named 'Tokyo'

GENERAL

ANI

Neeraj Chopra on Wednesday met fellow Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra. The five-time Olympian presented Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj with a puppy named 'Tokyo'.

The 23-year-old javelin thrower also thanked Beijing 2008 gold medallist Abhinav for the warm hospitality. Neeraj also added that he will cherish 'Tokyo' forever.

"Took my Olympic medal to meet its elder sibling from Beijing today. Thank you @Abhinav Bindra sir for your family's warm hospitality and for 'Tokyo' who I will cherish forever!" Neeraj

Bindra was quick to reply



receives a special gift from Abhinav Bindra. • TWITTER

that both the Olympic champions agree that process is the goal and gold. "The two of us agree that

to Neeraj's post as he wrote

the process is the Goal. The process is the Gold. And the Process is most rewarding.

Gold Medalist," Abhinav Bindra replied to Neeraj. Bindra also hoped that the new puppy will motivate Neeraj to get him a sibling

Happy to have spent the af-

ternoon with this young

named 'Paris' in 2024.

Rawat 15:59.45; 2. Parth Lakhina 19:37.57; 3. Yashvardhan

100m breaststroke: 1. Aditya Dubey 1:07.56; 2. Kartik Sharma

here on Thursday.

Men: 200m freestyle: 1. Kushagra Rawat 1:54.38; 2. Vishal Grewal 1:54.39; 3. Anurag Da-1500m freestyle: 1. Kushagra

Boys: Group-1: 200m freestyle: 1. Pratham Sharma

lanki 18:37.03; 3. Tejasvi Arora 29.67; 3. Arjun Tokas 31.63.

100m butterfly: 1. Pratham

2:39.60.

21:46.70; Aryan Joon 100m breaststroke: 1. Dhruv

1:13.02 200m individual medley: 1.

Prachi Tokas 2:15.18; 2. Surbhi Sharma 2:31.71; 3. Pallavi Sejwal

Ananya Bisht 2:25.38; 3. Muskan Kaur 2:25.72. 1500m freestyle: 1. Bhavya

Nandani Sharma 1:32.27. 200m individual medley: 1. Saanvi Sood 2:41.15: 2. Hema 2:46.46; 3. Khawish Dabas

1500m freestyle: 1. Ananya Ra-

1:23.39; 3. Garishma Kataria

third seed Sunil Lulla 6-3, Other results (quarterfinals):

Over-45: Vijay Kumar bt Monty

Over-55: Nishit Pandey bt Sanjiv Mehra 6-4, 6-0; Ashish 6-0; Rakesh Kohli bt Randeep

CHESS

The decision was taken in