



on Sunday



Three more arrested in Lakhimpur Kheri violence case
 page 8



India-Bangladesh ties a role model: Foreign Secretary Shringla
 page 10



Seven members of banned Islamist party dead in clashes in Pak.
 page 11

India takes on Pakistan in high-voltage T20 WC game today
 page 16



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IN BRIEF



Court extends remand of Singhu murder accused

GURUGRAM
 A local court in Sonapat has extended by two days the police custody of the four accused in a case of murder of a man over the alleged desecration of a holy Sikh scripture.

STATES PAGE 7

Koozhangal is India's official entry for Oscars

NEW DELHI
 Tamil drama Koozhangal (Pebbles), directed by Vinohraj P.S., has been selected as India's official entry for the 94th Academy Awards. It was picked by a 15-member jury, headed by filmmaker Shaji N. Karun, in a unanimous decision.

NEWS PAGE 9

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MAGAZINE 8 PAGES
 CLASSIFIEDS PAGES 5 & 7

Curfew, Internet curbs a 'bitter pill' to save Kashmiri lives: Shah

'Terrorism and development can't go together'

VIJAYA SINGH
 NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that the curfew and Internet restrictions imposed in Jammu and Kashmir post-August 5, 2019, were like a "bitter pill that saved many lives", and he had come to "make friends with the youth" who will be the agents of development and democracy, earlier held hostage by only three families.

Mr. Shah said the restrictions were necessary, else



Offering solace: Amit Shah meeting the family members of slain inspector Parvez Ahmad Dar in Srinagar on Saturday. Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha is at right. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

many fathers would have had to carry their children to graves, adding that "terrorism and development" could not go together.

Addressing the representatives of 4,500 youth clubs in J&K that work at the pan-

chayat level, Mr. Shah said certain inimical forces, foreign powers and a few families wanted to create pressure to lift curfew then so that people were forced to come out on the road, and clash with security forces to

'Militancy continues'

Militancy and civilian killings are continuing in J&K despite the withdrawal of Article 370, says senior J&K politician and Congress Working Committee member Tariq Hameed Karra. ■ PAGE 8

serve their political interests. He reiterated that statehood would be restored after elections were held, once the delimitation exercise concluded.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Gap between first, second doses is the starkest in India

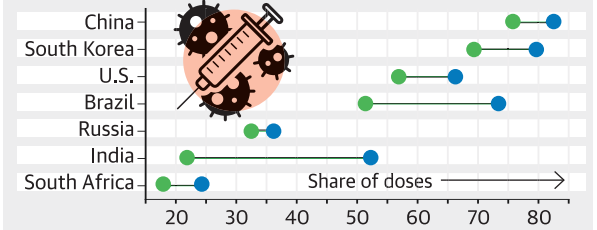
Experts point to long gap between Covishield shots

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

India has delivered over a billion vaccine doses, making it the second-highest dispenser of COVID-19 vaccines globally but the gap between the proportion of population that has got at least one dose and that which got two doses is widest in India.

According to the Bloomberg Tracker mapping vaccination trends globally, 82% of China's population has got at least one dose and 76% two doses – a ratio of 1.1. In the United States, this ratio

Wide gap The chart shows the % of the population that has received at least one dose (●) and both doses (●) of a COVID-19 vaccine in select countries



SOURCE: OUR WORLD IN DATA

is 1.15 (66.2% with at least one dose and 57.3% fully dosed). For the European Union, this works out to 1.04 (69% with at least one dose and 66% with two doses).

In India, however, this gap is more than twice at 2.4 (51% with at least one dose

and just 21.9% with two doses). The key reason for this, according to experts, is the gap between two doses of Covishield – which comprises 88% of the administered vaccines in India.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Call to bifurcate Assam grows louder

Defacing of Assamese slogans on hoardings sparks outrage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 GUWAHATI

The defacing of Assamese slogans on hoardings of Jal Jeevan Mission in the Bengali-majority Barak Valley has led to a call for the bifurcation of Assam.

Miscreants had over the past few days smeared some hoardings in black to protest the "imposition" of the Assamese language in Barak Valley, where Bengali is the official language. The valley

covers the southern Assam districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj.

Several Brahmaputra Valley-based organisations, including the All Assam Students' Union, viewed the defacement as an insult to the Assamese language and people. Their demand for action against the miscreants saw the police arrest two persons. Both were released on bail.

Leading the call for sepa-

rating Barak Valley from Assam, the Assamese litterateur and former president of the influential Assam Sahitya Sabha, Nagen Saikia, said bifurcation would go a long way in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the State.

"Granting statehood to Barak Valley would bring an end to language-based conflicts. The State Government should take the bifurcation issue up with people in both the valleys," Mr. Saikia said.

India-made spray linked to rare illness in U.S.

Deadly bacterium found in product used by 4 victims

JACOB KOSHY
 NEW DELHI

A made-in-India aromatherapy spray is being pulled off retail giant Walmart's shelves in the United States after a medical investigation linked it to melioidosis, a rare disease that has sickened at least four, and may have caused two deaths, in

the country.

The spray was reported to contain a bacterium, *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, that causes a rare but deadly disease called melioidosis, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in a statement on Friday.

The spray, "Better Homes and Gardens Lavender & Chamomile Essential Oil Infused Aromatherapy Room Spray with Gemstones", was found on October 6 in the



The room spray that was recalled by Walmart stores in the U.S. ■ WALMART/CDC/AP

home of a Georgia resident who became ill with melioidosis in late July. Other than mentioning that the spray was manufactured in India, no other details on the spray's origins were disclosed.

The contaminated spray was sold at 55 Walmart stores from February to October 21 of this year, when the retail giant pulled the remaining bottles and related products from its shelves in all stores.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Bitter harvest



Unwelcome sight: An apple grower inspects his crop in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday. Early snowfall has damaged orchards across the Valley and increased the woes of farmers who have started harvesting the crop to avoid loss. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Bio-decomposer a better solution, say farmers

As trust builds, many who opted for Delhi Govt.'s spraying initiative last year sign up again

NIKHIL M. BABU
 NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's initiative of spraying bio-decomposer solution in agricultural fields to help decompose stubble into manure has brought relief to several farmers in the city.

Some farmers in whose fields the solution was sprayed last year told *The Hindu* that the move helped them save money as the Government was doing it for free. This year, the authorities have so far sprayed the solution in over 500 acres of fields in the city, said officials. "We plan to continue the spraying till November 15. Last year, the Government had sprayed the solution in about 1,935 acres," said an official.

The time taken in the administrative procedure, however, is bothering a farmers' association. "The Government says it will come to the villages and register



Bio-decomposer solution being sprayed on stubble in a paddy field at Khera Khurd in Delhi on Saturday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the name of those who want the solution to be sprayed in their fields. But in reality, the farmers have to go to the BDO (Block Development Office) for registration. The government takes about a week's time after the harvest to spray the solution and this is creating difficulties. If this process gets late, the sowing also gets delayed and the farmers suffer. The Government has to fix the administrative procedure for spraying the solution," said Virender Dagar, Delhi State

chief, Bharatiya Kisan Union.

Plea to replicate move

The Delhi Government, which first used the bio-decomposer solution last year, sees it as a means to minimise stubble burning and has been urging other States to adopt the measure.

Devender Mann, 45, a farmer from Naya Bans village, said the solution was sprayed in about 11 acres of his field last year and it helped him save around ₹1,500 per acre. "I saved

around ₹1,000 per acre on diesel [for tractor] and ₹300-₹400 per acre in terms of labour charges due to bio-decomposer spraying," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Mann had to plough his field several times to cut the stubble. After two-three rounds of ploughing, he used to release water into the field and leave it for around 10 days. The water helped decompose the stubble to an extent. The spraying of the bio-decomposer involves a similar process but the ploughing rounds are fewer as the stubble decomposes faster, officials said.

"When the Government first approached us, we didn't trust the move. Still I gave my consent to spray the solution. Twenty days later, I checked by removing the top soil and saw the stubble had decomposed. This year too, I have asked officials to spray the solution in my fields," said Sahdev Mann, a farmer from Holambi Khurd village.

Short-haul international trips are all the rage as Indians take to the skies again

Maldives, Dubai, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan emerge as preferred choices

JAGRITI CHANDRA
 NEW DELHI

While most countries cherished by Indian tourists continue to shut their doors on them 18 months into the COVID-19 pandemic, many are turning to alternatives closer home to indulge their cravings for foreign travel.

Dubai and the Maldives, which emerged as the two topmost foreign destinations for Indians since the pandemic, have further consolidated their position this travel season as more people are willing to venture out and travel demand is at an all-time high in 18 months.

Search enquiries for

luxury holidays like the Maldives and Dubai have seen an incredible growth of more than 100% for October this year as compared to the same time last year, according to data shared by travel portal ixigo. In fact, search enquiries for the two destinations have surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels by 70%, says ixigo.

Global trend
 An increased preference for either domestic or short-haul destinations is not just true for India, but globally. And this could well be the trend for the near future.

According to a survey



Getaway time: Stakeholders say that advance bookings for the Deepavali week have gone up by 450%. ■ FILE PHOTO

conducted by global travel technology company Amadeus of 9,000 respondents from nine countries, 77% of travellers surveyed agreed they would travel within the next one year and that they would prefer to travel to a destination close to their

home country, rather than travelling further afield.

Indians said they would prefer to travel within Asia, Singaporeans too said they were keen to stay within Asia (excluding West Asia), Spanish, British and German travellers wanted to remain within Europe and the U.S.

travellers within North America.

"International travel restrictions, visa rules, as well as quarantine and testing requirements are some of the factors that may have prompted Indian travellers to focus on domestic and intra-regional travel for now. That said, in recent weeks we have seen more countries around the world looking to ease restrictions and requirements, especially for vaccinated travellers," says Mani Ganeshan, Asia Pacific R&D Head, Amadeus Labs.

"Advance bookings for the Deepavali week have seen a jump of around 450% when compared to last year," says Prashant Pitti, co-founder, EaseMyTrip. "Apart from the Maldives

International travel restrictions, testing requirements may have prompted Indian travellers to focus on domestic and intra-regional travel for now

MANI GANESHAN
 Asia Pacific R&D Head, Amadeus Labs

and Dubai, nearby destinations like Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan too are gaining traction with recent search trends indicating a surge of around 30% in the last month. Domestically, people are making the most of long weekends where bookings are up by nearly 60% such as during Dasara. Bookings to and from places such as Kolkata, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,

Karnataka, Delhi and Gujarat have witnessed a rise between 50%-70% and tourist destinations such as Kashmir, Leh and Rajasthan have also witnessed a rise in bookings," says Mr. Pitti.

Charter planes

While there is a surge in demand for air travel, there is no let-up in the demand for charter planes from the uber rich, says Sachit Wadhwa, co-founder, BookMyCharters.

"Booking enquiries are 12-13 times of what we saw pre-COVID. The travel sentiment is quite high and we already have bookings for December and January. There is also a demand for wedding charters from November to January," says Mr. Wadhwa.

Mamata heads to Goa to widen Trinamool base

SOBHANA K. NAIR
 SHIV SAHAY SINGH
 NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee is heading to Goa on October 28 for her maiden political visit even as her party prepares for the 2022 Assembly election. The poll is just the first milestone in what the party claims will be a long-term engagement.

Ahead of her visit, Ms. Banerjee called upon all parties, organisations and individuals to join forces to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party in Goa. This is the first time that the Trinamool Congress chief has shared her party's plans for the State.

DETAILS PAGE 8

NAVINA JAJA

An old perception in the community history of Delhi is that the city has the protection of five Bhairavas, 22 Sufis, and two Goddesses – Yog Maya and Kalka Devi.

Located on a hill in south Delhi, the Kalka Devi temple and its surrounding landscape curiously offer a template of syncretic culture for contemporary, cosmopolitan Delhi. There is the revered 13-14th century Sufi shrine of Hazrat Nasiruddin Chiragh Dehlavi, the 20th century architectural wonder of the Lotus Temple of the Bahai faith, the ISKCON temple, and even an Ashokan edict of the 3rd century BC.

Window into heritage
The temple of Kalka Devi has a blurred written history linking myths, epic tales, rituals, practices, power of holy men, ritual priests, and religious economics, providing a fascinating window on Delhi's heritage.

According to *gaathas* (circle of mythic stories), Kalka Devi is an incarnation of Goddess Durga, fighting demons and assuming the form of a wish-fulfilling mother Goddess. The eyes of the deity stand out in the anthropomorphic or human form, compelling and pulling the devotee to have her *darshan* (audience).

The hill of Kalka Devi in south Delhi is dotted with mythical tales and miraculous twists

THE LEGEND OF LAL BABA

Postcards, talismans, key-chains, and even dreams invite the faithful to visit her.

The research on the sacred geography of the Kalkaji Temple involved interviewing people linked with the holy site in different capacities: the illegal occupants of the erstwhile, dilapidated but beautiful dharmshalas, ritual priests, shopkeepers selling offerings, and sacred men. One such journey was an encounter with Lal Baba, a merchant named Baijal from Kolkata, who became an ascetic after a "miracle".

In the 1980s, Baijal severely injured his right leg and doctors said it will have to be amputated.

A priest gave Baijal's family a list of nine sacred locations to visit and seek



The Kalkaji temple. • FILE PHOTO

mentation, and *aarti* (prayers). The priests of the shrine allowed Lal Baba to contribute Ganga water as part of the bathing ritual. It made Lal Baba begin a unique spiritual journey. He went intermittently to locations where the Ganga flowed and carried back a barrel of its water. An entire room was designated where Ganga water collected by him and his followers was stored. Gradually, Lal Baba gained stature and respect and the number of his followers increased. The temple authorities permitted him to sit in the Yagna Kund, facing the sanctum of the Goddess.

Lal Baba passed away almost a decade ago. The unique ritual of offering Ganga water continues. Lal Baba's seat has now been designated as 'sacred', attracting huge donations from the faithful.

These narratives add to heritage experiences, allowing the visitor to step back and observe much more than the religious euphoria. There is a tale of Tiger Baba as well who was commissioned by the Tiger Temple in Thailand to use his powers bestowed by the Devi to control the feline. That's for another day.

(The writer is an expert on cultural heritage)

'Beggary is not a choice, it's the last resort'

A documentary with a throbbing heart, Kireet Khurana's *The Invisible Visible* seeks to secure hope for the homeless

ANUJ KUMAR

Beggary is an everyday reality of city life but we seldom think where do people whom we meet at the traffic signals every morning spend the rest of the day. Do they enjoy the same rights as citizens of the country as we do and where do they vanish when a VIP visits the city?

National Award-winning director Kireet Khurana's latest documentary, *The Invisible Visible*, aims to build support through a nationwide campaign to repeal the controversial Beggary Prevention Act, 1959, and act as a catalyst to implement the Supreme Court order to set up shelters for the homeless in each district and have independent credible agencies audit these shelters regularly.

"Ideally, we need a law at the Centre which overrides the law and makes it redundant, which is where the real activism is happening. We are hoping through the film we shall be able to sensitise the lawmakers, the bureaucrats and other stakeholders, apprise them of the issues and seek their support in striking down the draconian legislation," says Khurana.

Known for his highly acclaimed docu-feature, *Saeed Mirza: A Leftist Sufi*, in 2015, Khurana was invited to Aspire Circle, a fellowship programme consisting of a group of top social leaders from India. In this group, Khurana met a very young man, Tarique Mohammed, who ran a small but dedicated organisation – Koshish (a Tata Institute of Social



Keeping it real: A behind-the-scenes still of the film; (below) director Kireet Khurana. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sciences affiliate) – which worked with the homeless.

Koshish's work was noticed in 2018 when it took the lid off the rampant sexual abuse in a government-run institution in Muzaffarpur during a social audit assigned by the Bihar government.

"Tarique's sharing was so evocative and powerful that every time he shared from his life or sordid stories about the homeless, tears would flow down my cheeks. His presence made me a lot more empathetic towards the marginalised. It was then that I decided to make a film, not just to support the cause, but to also grow as an individual," says Khurana.

Edited excerpts:

What is your take on the law that prohibits begging in a welfare state and its implementation in big cities?

It is an absolutely unconstitutional law that had been legislated by lawmakers who didn't understand the issues, nor did they want to solve it. They just wanted to wish the homeless away. Beggary is not a choice, it's the last resort. And in

that, if we criminalise poverty for millions, it's a shame. Incarceration for being poor is inflicting even more pain on an aggrieved and struggling soul living on the edge.

You have tried to look at the issue of begging from multiple perspectives but at the centre is an NGO. How did you arrive at this form?

One of the main objectives of the film was to humanise the homeless and the people who are working with them. I took a decision much earlier that if I just make a film on the homeless and their issues without the human element, it will become like a regular, talking heads documentary. I wanted the film to touch, move and inspire. Apart from showing abject poverty, I wanted the film to reflect hope.

The documentary has many evocative moments like an old lady not recognising her son. How did you get that?

We knew that Koshish had repatriated 75,000 people, some reuniting with their families after decades. The reasons for the separation may vary but the reunion is almost al-

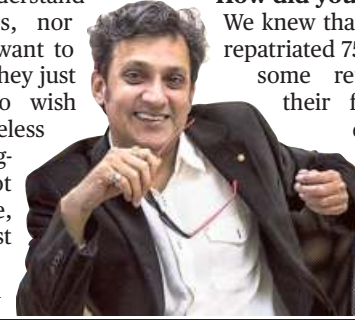
ways tearful. We had to be extremely vigilant and patient to move quickly when such an opportunity arose... I had no clue whom we were going to meet, what we were going to shoot. We had to pack our equipment and leave in less than an hour's notice. And of course, as you can see in the film, it's an unbelievable magical moment.

Tell us about the Delhi segment where street performers are often treated as beggars.

The anti-beggary law implies that anyone without an ostensible means of livelihood can be arrested purely on the suspicion of beggary. The profession of playing dhols in marriages or street performers is not considered to be gainful employment as per the interpretation of the law, hence many of these people were arrested in the past in Delhi. However, the Delhi High Court has struck down the anti-beggary law and there are no arrests happening in the city. Also, Delhi has enough shelters for the homeless now, so there has been great progress. We are hoping that the rest of the country will follow suit and the 22-23 odd States where the anti-beggary law is being enforced will also show leniency.

At a time when OTT platforms have rekindled the documentary genre, how do you see its progress?

While the documentary genre has been around for long and the West has been making some outstanding impact, documentaries, unfortunately, a large part of our country is smitten by Bollywood and the usual TV fare, leaving very little space for nuanced, meaningful content. One was hoping that with the advent of OTTs it will change. It has, to some extent, but not enough, and most OTTs are clearly moving as an extended arm of Bollywood.



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Will ensure every Dalit child is educated: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said he had vowed to fulfil Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's dream of ensuring that every Dalit child was educated. He was speaking at an event to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary at the Thyagaraj Stadium.

The CM also honoured 22 meritorious students from the Dalit community who had secured over 90% marks in Class XII.

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Delhi Palam Today
30°C A pleasant hazy morning and warm day. Light to moderate rain and thunderstorm with cloudy sky likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be little warm with few clouds. Night will be cool and hazy.

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IN BRIEF
40 fresh COVID-19 cases, no deaths reported

NEW DELHI
The city reported no new COVID-19 deaths over 24 hours, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Saturday. Forty new cases were reported, taking the total number of cases to 14,39,566.

Air quality to remain in 'moderate' category
NEW DELHI
Air quality of the city remained in the "moderate" category on Saturday and is expected to stay in the same level for three days, as per official data. Air pollution had increased to "poor" category for the first time this season on Saturday and later improved to "good" on Monday, following rains.

BJP leaders inaugurate fourth 'Jan Rasoi' in city
NEW DELHI
East Delhi BJP MP Gautam Gambhir started the fourth 'Jan Rasoi', which was inaugurated by party national general secretary and MP Dushyant Gautam and State organisational general secretary Siddharthan here on Saturday.

7-year-old girl raped in city, accused on the run

DCW issues notice to police, asks for action taken report

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A seven-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a man in central Delhi's Ranjit Nagar on Friday. The accused has not been arrested so far, the police said.

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has issued a notice to the city police and asked for an action taken report on the incident.

According to the police, they received a PCR call on Friday morning informing them that a child had been raped. A case under Section 376AB (punishment for rape under 12 years of age) and 377 (unnatural offence) of

THE ACCUSED HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH THE HELP OF CCTV FOOTAGE AND TEAMS HAVE BEEN FORMED TO NAB HIM

POLICE OFFICER

the Indian Penal Code was registered.

A CCTV footage has been recovered in which the girl is seen crossing the street alone. A little later, the accused can be seen walking with her and talking to the child.

"The accused has been identified with the help of CCTV footage and teams have been formed to nab

him. He will be arrested soon. The family says he is not known to them," said a senior officer.

The girl went home after the incident and narrated her ordeal to her mother. The mother then informed the police, said the officer, adding that the girl is stable but still hospitalised.

Lured with ₹10 note

The DCW said the accused lured the girl by saying that he will give her ₹10.

"The father of the victim took her to a nearby hospital from where she was referred to another hospital. She is in a critical condition," the panel said.

Days after marriage, husband kills woman

Couple had a heated argument: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old woman was allegedly killed by her husband just a few days after their marriage, in north Delhi's Burari, the police said on Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said the accused has been identified as Mohammed Azad Khan, who allegedly stabbed his wife, Sonia, to death. The couple got married in the first week of October, the police said.

According to the police, they received an information at 9.50 a.m. about a woman lying dead at a house in Kamaalpur. When the police reached the spot, they found that the house

was locked from inside. Sonia's mother told the police that she suspected Azad's involvement in the murder.

Mr. Kalsi said teams were formed to trace the accused and with the help of technical and human intelligence Azad was nabbed.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly told the police that the couple had a heated argument on Friday night, following which he stabbed her in the stomach and chest many times.

"He then came out of the room and the victim locked the door from inside to avoid any further assault as he was trying to re-enter. The accused then went to the roof and hid the weapon," Mr. Kalsi said.

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Journal on COVID impact on children

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) on Saturday launched a journal, *Children First: Journal on Children's Lives* with the first issue highlighting the COVID-19 impact on the lives of children.

"This journal will prove to be significant by creating awareness in society towards the rights of children and better parenting. The pandemic has shown how little we understand about the issues affecting the lives of children. This journal will work to sensitise people about the rights of children," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said at the launch.

North Corporation low on fogging supplies amid surge in dengue cases

Standing Committee chairman denies report on shortage

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

As the Capital witnessed a surge in dengue cases over the past week, a status report by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation revealed that the civic body has run out of stock of insecticides, larvicides and medicines used to control the vector-borne disease.

According to the report filed by the Public Health Department on October 21, the North body had no stock of four out of seven insecticides. Vikas Goel, Leader of the Opposition in the House, said the civic body had "zero stock" and that hospitals under it were facing a shortage of "basic medicines".

"The planning of procurement has to be done in April, as per the protocol. But the BJP-led body planned it only in October. They are deliberately punishing the people of Delhi," said Mr. Goel.

However, Standing Committee chairman Jogi Ram Jain said the report showed stocks of the North civic body's "central store only".

"Supplies for a month and above are available in all zones under our jurisdiction. According to the latest update, fogging supply for the next two months has also arrived and testing for the medicine has also been carried out. We will distribute it on Monday," said Mr. Jain, denying that the civic body was

suffering from a shortage of supplies.

As of October 16, the North body recorded 166 of 723 dengue cases across the city; the highest since 2017 for the civic body.

'Delayed purchase'

Opposition leaders of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation also voiced concerns regarding the shortage in stock of supplies.

Prem Chauhan, Leader of the Opposition, said the civic body had "delayed the procurement" of medicines and supplies and that the "procurement was only on paper". SDMC Mayor Mukesh Suryan termed the allegations "baseless".

Man stabbed to death while resisting robbery bid

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 42-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death when

he resisted a robbery in central Delhi's Patel Nagar on Friday night, the police said. No arrests have been made

so far. DCP (Central) Shweta Chauhan said the victim has been identified as Manoj, an electrician.

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BJP fields 'unknown' candidate in byelection

Cong. candidate rides on sympathy wave in Vallabhnagar

MOHAMMED IQBAL
VALLABHNAGAR (RAJASTHAN)

The upcoming Assembly byelection in Udaipur district's Vallabhnagar constituency gave an opportunity to the BJP to prove its mettle in the Mewar region, but it is finding it difficult to justify the candidature of businessman Himmat Singh Jhala. Very few voters recognise Mr. Jhala, though he claims to have undertaken philanthropic work during the pandemic.

'No consensus'

Mired in internal bickering, the BJP fielded Mr. Jhala after the senior leaders failed to reach a consensus on bringing former MLA Randhir Singh Bhandar back to the party fold or giving ticket to a strong contender, Udai Lal Dangi. The unhappiness of party workers over the decision is reflected in the low-key election campaign, especially in the rural areas.

Considered a stronghold of Congress, Vallabhnagar has been represented in the State Assembly six times by freedom fighter and Rajput leader Gulab Singh Shaktawat, who was the Home Minister in the 1998-2003 Ashok Gehlot government. His Mr. Shktawat's son Gajendra Singh Shaktawat, who died of a liver-related ailment earlier this year, was elected an MLA twice from Vallabhnagar.

Leader of the Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria was strongly against reinducting Mr. Bhandar of the erstwhile royal family, who has since floated an outfit called Janata Sena. On the other hand, Mr. Dangi's candidature was not acceptable to some other leaders.

The embarrassment of BJP leaders was visible at an election meeting in Loonda village over the weekend. Addressing the meeting, BJP State OBC Morcha president Om Prakash Bhadana called upon the party workers to forget their internal differences and make united efforts for Mr. Jhala's victory.

Madan Lal Suthar, a shopkeeper in Vallabhnagar town, told *The Hindu* that the local BJP leaders had been unable to raise the issues of a complete absence of transport facility, erratic agricultural power supply and the Mavli-Bari Sadri railway line broad gauge conversion work being halted since long. "The voters are justified in thinking that their support to Congress would speed up development," he said.

Ms. Kanwar, a former vice-president of BJP State Mahila Morcha, had filed her nomination as a Janata Sena candidate and later withdrawn it.

Mr. Kataria has maintained a distance from the election campaign in Vallabhnagar apparently because the Congress workers have been highlighting his recent derogatory remarks about Rajput warrior Maharana Pratap and a controversial statement on Lord Ram.

On the other hand, the Congress expects to ride on the sympathy wave by fielding Shaktawat's widow Preeti Shaktawat as its candidate. Ganpat Lal, of Kedaria village, said Ms. Preeti's strategy for seeking votes, such as banners and hoardings mentioning her late husband's name, was aimed at projecting herself as his "natural successor".

Vallabhnagar Sarpanch Durga Devi Gujjar, a supporter of Ms. Preeti, said the people were being apprised of the development works undertaken during the Congress regime.

Bodies of two more trekkers recovered

The 11-member team had gone missing in Uttarkashi district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DEHRADUN/UTTARKASHI

The bodies of two more members of an 11-member trekking team which had gone missing on way to Chitkul via Harsil in Uttarkashi district were recovered on Saturday by the ITBP personnel from near Himachal Pradesh border.

The bodies found near the Lamkhaga pass are being brought to Sangla from where they will be taken to Uttarkashi, Uttarkashi District Magistrate Mayur Dikshit said.

Two still missing

The bodies were spotted on Friday, but could be recovered on Saturday, he said. They were identified as those of Upendra Singh (37) from Purola in Uttarkashi and Richard Mandal (30) from Kolkata, Disaster Management Officer Devendra Patwal said.



NDRF personnel carrying out rescue operations in Chamoli district. ■ FILE PHOTO

The bodies of five trekkers were brought down on Friday. Two are still missing while the two surviving members of the team are under treatment in Harsil and Uttarkashi.

Search operation for the missing trekkers has been halted due to bad weather, the DM said. The missing have been identified as Purola resident Gyan Chand (33) and Kolkata resident Suken Manjhi (43), Mr. Patwal added.

Meanwhile, the aerial

search continued for five trekkers feared dead in Sundardhunga glacier of Bageshwar district. "A helicopter carrying an SDRF team made two sorties up to Devikund near the glacier, but did not spot any bodies from above. Due to bad weather, the helicopter could not land in the area," Bageshwar District Magistrate Vineet Kumar told PTI. Another SDRF team has also been sent on foot to the glacier in search of the trekkers. It will reach Devikund by Sunday, he said.

Ban on online gaming challenged in court

Karnataka HC to hear petitions on Oct. 27; 'investment of ₹3,000 cr. at stake'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court will hear on October 27 a batch of petitions filed by the All-India Gaming Federation and individual online gaming operators questioning the legality of several provisions of the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021, which prohibits and criminalises the playing of games of skill, including online games, by risking money or otherwise.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit, before whom the petition filed by the federation (a not-for-profit society) came up



for hearing on Friday, said the interim plea for stay of the operation of the new law would be considered on October 27 along with other petitions. The other petitions have been filed by Galactus Funware Technology Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru; Play Games

24X7 Pct Ltd., Mumbai; Head Digital Works Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad; Gameskraft Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru; and Jungle Games India Pvt Ltd., New Delhi.

Pointing out that it was settled law that games of skill (involving risking of money or otherwise) did not amount to wagering or betting as interpreted by the apex court, and therefore the State could not prohibit such activities, the federation contended that the amendments made to the Police Act "unlawfully prohibit the lawful and legitimate business of the members of

the federation in providing games of skill".

Stating that the marquee investors had invested over ₹3,000 crore in the members of the federation who were based out of Karnataka, it pointed out in the petition that these members employed more than 1,200 individuals in the State. There were over 400 startups, valued at \$885 million, in the online gaming space, and 71 were registered in Bengaluru. It was estimated that around 40,000 new jobs would be created by 2022 in this sector, it was claimed in the petition.

RJD wants review of Jharkhand's job policy

'Row over language exclusion not good'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MEDININAGAR (JHARKHAND)

Peeved over the exclusion of Magahi and Bhojpuri in the new employment policy of Jharkhand's JMM-headed government, its alliance partner Rashtriya Janata Dal on Saturday demanded that Chief Minister Hemant Soren review it.

Abhay Kumar Singh, the State president of the RJD, said the party does not support the Hemant Soren government in regard with the new employment policy announced recently.

The government's move to exclude Magahi and Bhojpuri for recruitment in Jharkhand government institutions has hurt the prevailing harmony of the State, Mr. Singh told reporters here.

Any discord over the language issue was "not good" as it will lead to "clash of interest", which is not good for the health of the coalition government, he cautioned.

The Soren Cabinet had in August approved a new appointment policy in which it has made knowledge of regional and tribal languages mandatory for government jobs in the State through the Jharkhand State Staff Selection Commission.

The Opposition BJP had described the step as "discriminatory".

Mr. Singh also hit out at Jharkhand Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon for his recent statement that RJD has negligible base in the State. The Minister is a senior Congress leader of the State. Mr. Singh had warned the party to be sensible as it is "necessary and proper to honour the alliance dharma and secure better health of the coalition government".

He said, "We (RJD) had accepted to contest in seven seats in the 2019 Assembly poll in Jharkhand as we did not want any conflict among the allies. The prime object of RJD was to prevent communal forces."

Sidhu's wife flays ex-CM on Aroosa 'links'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu's wife Navjot Kaur Sidhu attacked former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday over his friendship with Pakistani journalist Aroosa Alam, alleging that not a single posting of any official took place in the State without "money or gifts" to her.

Mr. Sidhu's principal strategic advisor Mohammad Mustafa also took a dig at Capt. Amarinder, prompting the former CM to hit back at him.

"Not a single posting in Punjab took place without money or gifts to Aroosa Alam," Ms. Sidhu said. She alleged that even in the police department, no posting took place without Ms. Alam's consent and she "ran away" with all the money. To a question on Ms. Alam's picture with Congress president Sonia Gandhi shared on Twitter on Friday, she said it was an old picture.

Survey finds Mumbai gardens in good shape

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

A citizen survey report on 500 parks in Mumbai has found over 70% in good condition while 12% need improvement. It has also created a digitised record of city's gardens for the first time.

Project Mumbai, in collaboration with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and the Ministry of Mumbai's Magic, presented the findings of their research to the civic body. The research is the result of the Harita: The Green Footprint Fellowship, which trained and worked with 84 young citizens to mobilise public

action and work towards better green spaces in Mumbai. Each of these gardens has been given unique code with grades. The fellowship graded the gardens on a three-point scale with the top gardens being awarded an A-grade. During this process fellows looked at various facts including amenities and infrastructure, safety and lighting, accessibility and parking etc. Of the gardens assessed, 12% received grade C (needs improvement). "The technical report will become a baseline for formulating plan for new gardens," said Rupali Vaidya from Project Mumbai.

SP's silence on Muslim issues: strategy or surrender?

Shedding the Muslim-Yadav image could have implications, caution observers

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

Salman Imtiaz, the outgoing president of Aligarh Muslim University Students' Union, is miffed with the Samajwadi Party (SP) for not raising Muslim issues in the run-up to the Assembly election. Mr. Imtiaz recently gave a memorandum to the district administration demanding the release of Islamic scholar and cleric Kaleem Siddiqui, arrested by the U.P. police for allegedly running a conversion syndicate.

Every Opposition leader, he pointed out, rushed to Lakhimpur Kheri but none commiserated with the families of protesters who were killed in police firing in Assam. He claimed top officials and RSS leaders had been in touch with Siddiqui and were aware of his work. "Why has he been arrested before elections need to be questioned. If SP takes the Muslim vote for granted, it will be in for a surprise this time," cautioned Mr. Imtiaz.

As western Uttar Pradesh warms up for election season, analysts say, Hindu-Muslim polarisation is a given, the question is behind whom would the Muslim vote polarise. Observers caution shedding the Muslim-Yadav image of the party could have implications.

Azmi and Azam

Social media is abuzz with posts in which Muslim youth flay SP for ignoring the beleaguered Azam Khan, founding member of the party and a close confidant of Mulayam Singh Yadav. After sidelining his father and uncle, is party president Akhilesh Yadav ignoring another father figure?

The recent tour of SP leader Abu Azmi in western U.P. is being seen as an attempt to fill the shoes of Mr. Khan. While Mr. Azmi hails from Azamgarh, he has been active in Maharashtra and his alleged closeness with the



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav during a 'Samajwadi Vijay Yatra' in Hamirpur. ■ FILE PHOTO

underworld could be raked up by the BJP. Recently, during a visit to AMU, a section of students questioned him on SP's promise on Muslim reservation and the Muzaffarnagar riots of 2013.

Mr. Azmi's remark in Gautam Buddha Nagar that in India, a Hindu remains the leader of Muslims, was seen as a surrender to the BJP's agenda. It came at a time when AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi was advocating a leadership role for the community. Local sources said Mr. Owaisi's articulation of his anti-Hindutva stance is becoming part of the discussion, particularly among the youth.

Numbers game

In the last elections, the SP-Congress alliance emerged as the first choice of Muslim voters. Out of 140 seats where the Muslim population percentage is 20% or more, the BJP and its allies won 111 seats, SP bagged 23, and its ally Congress three. The Bahujan Samaj Party, which fielded the highest number of Muslim candidates, could win only two. In 2012, when SP came to power, it won 72 of these 140 crucial seats.

Though Muslims constitute about 19% of U.P.'s population, in 2017, only 24 (6% of 403 seats) Muslim candidates reached the Assembly, putting a question mark on the appeal of Muslim candi-

dates in times of saffron surge. In 2012, this number was 69.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Perhaps, this explains BSP's shift from Dalit-Muslim combination to Dalit-Brahmin engineering and SP's calculated silence. Describing it as a strategy, former Aligarh MLA and SP leader Haji Zamirullah said sometimes silence is better than speech. "Every time Owaisi speaks, Muslims suffer. Akhileshji believes in action on the ground."

Masood Ul Hasan, a prominent leader of SP's youth wing and nephew of Moradabad MP S.T. Hasan, said the AIMIM leader jumps into the fray wherever BJP seems to be losing grip. "He did it in Bihar and now he is doing the same in U.P."

Arguing there is a difference between social media chatter and ground reality, Mr. Hasan said Azam Khan was shifted to Lucknow during COVID because of the SP president's unstinted support. "Otherwise, he would have met the fate of RJD MP Mohd. Shahabuddin. Khan sahib has recovered now and would be projected at the right time," said Mr. Hasan, citing the Rampur MP's photograph featuring on Akhilesh Yadav's Vijay Yatra bus. "Nobody could replace him in the party. Azmi sahib's re-

marks on leadership were personal and didn't represent the party view," he said.

The entry of former BSP MP Kadir Rana, the Muslim face of Muzaffarnagar riots, into the SP fold is being projected as an example of a silent but decisive move as Mr. Rana can stand up to Cabinet Minister and the sitting BJP MP from Muzaffarnagar, Sanjeev Balyan. "Rana could shift the Muslim votes from BSP to the SP and match Balyan in the battle of strongmen," said advocate Manan Balyan, who heads the Azad Samaj Party in the district.

The Owaisi factor

Aftab Alam, professor of political science in AMU, said the BJP had ensured that no political party used the word 'secular'. "The opposition is only responding to the agenda set by the BJP. They fear if they talk about Muslim issues, their Hindu vote bank will shift." The farmers' agitation, he said, was being pitched as a "secular agenda" but whether it would translate into votes remains to be seen.

Prof. Alam held it was a myth that Muslims vote for one party and the way Mr. Owaisi was negotiating difficult questions, there was churning even among the educated Muslims who earlier even refrained from taking the AIMIM leader's name. "I don't think all AIMIM candidates will lose their deposits this time but the biggest chunk will still go with the SP. However, it cannot take support for granted. If Azam Khan is ignored, he could look for other options and Owaisi would be more than happy to join hands." The AMU professor said Rashtriya Lok Dal, which is expected to align with SP, has much more clarity on the contentious issue.

"It will benefit as the good old Muslim-jat combination seems to be back," said Prof. Alam.

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TAMIL
ROYAL KONGU Chettiar Caste No Bar/25B Tech (Own Telecom/Manufacturing Industries Combatores)500 Crores above Rich Familyseeks Groom Ct: 9884510689

ELITE MUDALIYAR 25/M.Techwon (3 Hospitals) and Group of Companies 300 Crores RichFamily seeks Groom Ct:9884510761

SUITABLE GROOM for Vathima Iyer good looking 29yrs /160 CM Middle class, working in Pfizer.Co Sub sects No bar Contact:9884222614, 9677019636

WANTED BRIDE GROOM Caste: Naidu (Kamma, Balija), Status : Rich / Affluent. Location preference: Andhra Pradesh & Tamilnadu. 30yrs, 5'7", MD Radiology Fellowship in Intervention Radiology and Intervention Oncology. Traditional and good looking Bride Req.: Doctors DM Neurology, Cardiology, Nephrology, MCh Neuro Surgeon, Surgical Oncology, 2nd preference well settled Business, Industrialist. Req.: Only Chittoor, Ananthapur, Nellore, Prakasam. Direct: 96422 15777 73585 65111

YADHAVANAI DU Girl, Matam, 27/152, CTS, Salary: 85k. Seeking groom (any Telugu / Tamil Naidu Preferable) Ct: 7200901366 / 9884001366

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COVID cases continue to surge in Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The COVID-19 situation in West Bengal deteriorated as 974 more people tested positive for the infection on Saturday, 128 more than the previous day, a health bulletin said.

West Bengal had registered 846 COVID-19 cases on Friday. Fresh cases surged for the fourth consecutive day after the State recently celebrated the mega event of Durga Puja.

The State's caseload rose to 15,85,466 as Kolkata registered the highest number of fresh infections at 268.

The COVID-19 death toll too soared to 19,045 as 12 more patients succumbed to the infection.

Four fresh fatalities each were recorded in Kolkata and its neighbouring North 24 Parganas, while two deaths were reported in Nadia, and one each in South 24 Parganas and Hooghly. The State now has 7,731 active cases, while 15,58,690 people have been cured of the disease so far.

Cinemas in T.N. to operate with full occupancy from Nov. 1

Classes I-VIII can function on shift basis; ban on festivals to continue, says govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

In a fresh set of relaxations issued on Saturday, the Tamil Nadu government has allowed cinemas to operate with 100% occupancy from November 1.

In schools, Classes I-VIII can function on shift basis from November 1. All buses (inter- and intra-district), including air-conditioned, can ply with 100% occupancy.

except those bound for Kerala.

Hotels, shops till 11 p.m. Hotels, bakeries and shops will be allowed to operate till 11 p.m. in view of the festive season. All cultural events and meetings have also been allowed in compliance with the COVID-19 protocol laid down by the government.

Film and television shootings will be allowed with the

required number of artistes, but they have to be vaccinated.

The announcement of the opening of cinema halls has come as a breather for the Tamil film industry, which is waiting for the Deepavali release of Rajinikanth-starrer *Annaathe*.

The government training centres, such as the State Institute of Rural Development and the Civil Service Train-

ing Institute, Bhavanisagar, will be allowed to operate with 100% trainees. Both contact and non-contact sports are allowed. Swimming pools can be used for therapeutic purposes. However, the current ban on festivals and political events will continue.

The government has urged all those aged above 18 to take their first and second doses of vaccine.

Court allows IAF to retain custody of Flight Lieutenant in rape case

Coimbatore police given nod to proceed with their probe

STAFF REPORTER
COIMBATORE

The First Additional District Judge, Coimbatore, on Saturday held that the Indian Air Force (IAF) can retain the custody of the Flight Lieutenant, who was arrested by the Coimbatore City Police on charges of raping a woman colleague.

Allowing the IAF to have the custody of the accused, Flight Lieutenant Amitesh Harmukh, 29, the court permitted the police to proceed

with their investigation.

Judge S. Nagarajan held that the accused would only be under the custody of the IAF, and the police should give proper intimation in advance for the investigation. Upon receiving such intimation or requisition, the IAF should provide a feasible atmosphere within the campus of the Air Force and should allow privacy of the investigation by the police.

The court ordered that the police, after completion

of the investigation, shall prepare two sets of material evidence. One set shall be handed over for Court-Martial under the Air Force Act, 1950. The court ordered that it was open to the police to seek appropriate direction after the disposal of the case by the Court-Martial. The court issued the order after the police approached the District Court, Coimbatore, challenging the September 30 order of the Additional Mahila Court.

U.P. govt. to rename Faizabad railway station

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to rename the Faizabad railway station, a tweet by the office of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Saturday.

It will be called Ayodhya Cantt railway station, the tweet said, adding that the

decision was taken by the Chief Minister. In another tweet, the CM's office said the Centre too has granted its consent to the decision and Adityanath has given green signal to issue a notification in this regard.

Earlier in 2018, the Yogi government had renamed Faizabad as Ayodhya.

World's biggest cricket bat unveiled in Hyderabad

Azhar unveils it ahead of T20 WC to wish team

V. V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Former India captain and now Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president Mohd Azharuddin unveiled what is certified by the Guinness Book of World Records

to be the biggest cricket bat, designed by beverage giant Pernod Ricard India (P) Ltd, on the Tank Bund in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Nine tonnes

The bat measures 56.10 feet, weighs nine tonnes and is made of poplar wood.

This was to convey best wishes to the Indian cricket team and bring back the T-20

World Cup in Dubai.

"I feel proud to be part of this campaign and more so because Hyderabad is leading the way in conveying the best wishes to the Indian team in the T-20 World Cup," Azhar said.

He also appealed to the authorities to instal the bat later at Uppal Stadium at a suitable location for the benefit of other cricket lovers.



New record: HCA president Mohd. Azharuddin and IT principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan unveil the bat. *NAGARA GOPAL

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, Age: 25-30 years, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'6", Face: Round, Built: Medium, was ID Mark: "MAA dd" tattoo on right hand, wearing Chhindar Shirt and Lower, was found dead due to train accident between KM Pole No. 4/15G to 4/16G, Up & Down Track, near Mandawali Puliya, Delhi on 16.10.2021. In this regard a DD No. 11A, dated 16.10.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi.

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

SHO P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi
DP/336/Rly/2021 Ph.: 011-22145601, 8750871314

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tendering Notice

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, N.E. Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India, invites tender through E-Procurement system "Open Tender" for the supply of the following item. Complete description of the item and other terms and conditions are available on website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. No.-1, E-Tender No.: 50215544, Due Date: 18-11-2021, Description: (i) Supply of single section digital axle counter phase reversal type as per RDSO Spec. No.: RDSO/SPN/177/2012 (Version-3), Qty Required: 41 Sets., (ii) Supply of tool kit, Qty Required: 08 Nos., Earnest Money: ₹ 5,12,530/-

Note:- The Firms, who desire to participate in e-tender are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a Class-III Digital signature Certificate Authority Licensed by CCA of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be considered.

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager (CPRO/S-63) Varanasi
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Do not smoke Bid/Cigarette in train.

TELANGANA STATE CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION LTD.

Email: proc.marketed2018@gmail.com, Ph.No: 040-2460 7108, Fax: 040-2460 7100

TENDER FOR SALE OF JOWAR PROCURED BY TS MARKFED DURING RABI 2021

Rc.No.1043 / P/M / Disposal of Jowar / 2020-21, Date: 22-10-2021

Tender notification for Godown wise online e-Auction on disposal of Jowar procured by TS MARKFED during 2020-21 for the quantity of 38006 MTs without base price. Online e-auction starts on dated: 01-11-2021, from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM through e-procurement.telangana.gov.in or <https://auction.telangana.gov.in/>. e. Telangana e-procurement portal (Applications in e-procurement portal will be available from 23-10-2021 AN). EM Submission end date : 30-10-2021. For online registration and further details please contact Service providers M/S Vupadhi Techno Services Pvt. Ltd., Ph: 7337445546, 7337445545 & 6309336990, 9912756216. For further details please contact. Ph: 7288879806, 7288879829, DP/No.2248-PP/CI-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2021-22, Dt:22-10-2021 Sd/- Managing Director

VIJAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC) CORRIGENDUM

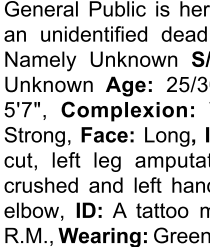
e-Procurement tender notice No.CE-09/VMC/AE/2021-22, Dt.05-10-2021, Dt.21-10-2021

The following Corrigendum is hereby issued for the work "Providing CC pavement & Footpath from Chitti Nagar Junction to Ganapathi Rao road Junction (Nehru statue) in Division Nos.32, 34, 35 & 37. With Reverse Tendering Process" vide this office Tender Notice No. CE-09/VMC/AE/2021-22, Dt.05-10-2021 (Tender ID: 449011) for Bid submission of closing dates is as follows:

S.No	Description	For	Read
1	Last date / time for receipt of tenders	21-10-2021 up to 4.00 PM	28-10-2021 up to 4.00 PM

*Remaining terms and conditions are un-altered Sd/- XXXXXX CHIEF ENGINEER

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: 25/30 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Strong, Face: Long, Injury Mark: neck cut, left leg amputated from thigh & crushed and left hand amputated from elbow, ID: A tattoo mark on right Arm R.M., Wearing: Green & Yellow coloured Vest and Checked half lower, was found dead by train accident between railway Track on 17.10.2021 at 12:58 PM from PF No.15, Shahdara Side, ODRS. The dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary for Identification. In this regard a DD No.21A dated 17.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

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

SHO P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23961522, Mob.: 8750871302
DP/346/Rly/2021

READ SPORTSTAR EVERY FORTNIGHT

CORRIGENDUM NO-2, AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. DY.CEE/CON/RE/MLB/14/2021, DATED: 07-10-2021

Corrigendum of Tender No. EL-CO/NFR-EPC-14-RE-RT2. The Closing of Tender now to be read as 14:30 Hrs. on 12-11-2021 instead of 14:30 Hrs. on 05-11-2021. The physical submission of document 16:00 hrs. on 18-11-2021 instead of 16:00 hrs. on 12-11-2021 and Opening of Tender 15:30 hrs. on 22-11-2021 instead of 15:30 hrs. on 15-11-2021. All other terms and conditions will remain same.

Dy. CEE/CON/RE/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 080- 22267899 website : www.kiadb.in, e-Mail: cof@kiadb.in

No. KIADB/COF/E-Auction-02/8897/2021-22 Date: 22.10.2021

PAPER PUBLICATION

This is to inform that Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB), intends to invest its Surplus Funds in the short term deposits with Nationalized Bank. The details of the quantum of amount and period to be kept in short term deposits are as under:

1) **Rs.400.00 Crores** - For 6 Months in Nationalized Banks. Four FDs will be issued each **Rs.100.00 Crores**.

The complete details of the E-Auction can be downloaded from the e-portal of the Government of Karnataka at the below address: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Schedule of Various Events For e-Auction is as below:

- Schedule of Various Events For e-Auction is as below:**
- 1) Date of E-Auction can be Downloaded: **25.10.2021**
 - 2) Last Date to upload the Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-portal: **02.11.2021 on or before 15.30 Hrs.**
 - 3) Date and time of opening: **06.11.2021 after 16.00 Hrs.**
 - 4) Live Bidding: **10.11.2021, Commences at 11.00 Hrs. & Concludes at 13.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Controller of Finance, KIADB
DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:1943/2021-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask, 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2021 (OJEE-2021)

No: OJEE / 382 DATE: 22.10.2021

Notice regarding Medical Board for Physically Challenged (PC) Candidates Seeking Admission to Various Technical / Professional Courses under OJEE - 2021

The Physically Challenged (PC) Category Candidates having valid OJEE 2021 ranks, who are interested to take admission in PC category in courses of MBA, MCA, M. TECH, M. PLAN, M. ARCH, M. PHARM, LE-Tech (Dip), LE-Tech (B.Sc), LE-Pharm and Integrated MBA in OJEE counselling, are required to attend the Medical Board at LT - II, SCB Medical College, Cuttack on **27.10.2021 at 10.00 AM** positively.

Similarly, The Physically Challenged (PC) Category Candidates having valid JEE MAIN Ranks (paper1/paper2) / OJEE 2021 ranks, who are interested to take admission in PC category in courses of B.Tech, B.Arch, B.Plan, B. CAT and Int. M.Sc. in OJEE counselling, are required to attend the Medical Board at LT - II, SCB Medical College, Cuttack on **30.10.2021 at 10.00 AM** positively.

Candidates are required to bring their Admit card/ Rank Card and Photo Identity Card to the Medical Board.

The proceedings of the Medical Board shall be conducted strictly following the COVID - 19 guidelines. Candidates must report at the Board with 3 ply cotton masks, gloves, personal sanitisers etc.

Decision of the Medical Board is final and binding. Admission to PC category will be made only as per the recommendations of this Board.

Sd/- CHAIRMAN, OJEE, Odisha
KK-139: OIPR-140210/11/0016/2/122

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION BUILDING VANIVIHAR CHOUK, JANPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 751022
Tel: 91 -0674-2542983, 2542802, 2545266, Fax-2542102, E-mail - ohpc.co@gmail.com
CIN : U40101OR1995SGC003963

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 17/2021-22

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (OHPL) invites sealed tenders in two parts i.e. (i) Techno Commercial Bid & (ii) Price bid in separate sealed envelopes from all General Insurance Companies approved by IRDA, who meet the eligibility criteria for Industrial All Risk Insurance Policy for its Hydro Power Generating units at BHEP Balimela, UKHEP Bariniput, UIHEP Mukhiguda, HHEP Burla, CHEP Chiplima, and RHEP Rengali as stated in the Invitation to bid.

For details of the tender documents, terms & conditions please visit/ refer our website www.ohpcld.com from 27.10.2021.
SGM (C&P)
OIPR-04012/11/0015/12/22

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED (SIPCOAT)

(Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
Tender Notice No.44/CDDT/No.44/2021-22 Dt.21.10.2021 OFFICE PREMISES AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Sealed offers are invited to take office premises on rent, owned by SIPCOAT at CMDA Tower Building, Egmore, Chennai. A full furnished office space with centralized air conditioning system and networking system with built up area of 10,480 Sq.ft (971.75 Sq.mtr) with an undivided share of 3,261 Sq.ft, at 3rd Floor North wing of CMDA Tower Building, Egmore, Chennai - 600008, with covered car parking area in the parking bay Two (2 No's) and Uncovered car parking lots from 13 to 17. The site visit shall be arranged on all working days between 10.00 AM and 5.00 PM with prior intimation.

Interested parties / Govt establishments / public institutions / corporate companies may submit their offers in two sealed covers under Two Cover System duly subscribed as Cover I- Eligibility under which letter of interest, particulars of applicant including their financial capacity and legal status of the applicant will be covered and in Cover II - Price Quotation, the price quotation per Sq.ft, alone will be covered. The above two documents shall be put together in third envelope subscribed as "OFFER FOR TAKING OFFICE PREMISES ON RENTAL BASIS" refer www.sipcoat.in & www.tenders.sipcoat.in for the list of documents to be submitted to SIPCOAT on or before 23.11.2021 at 3.00 PM. The offer will be opened on the same day at 4.00 PM in the presence of the offerers present. Please feed free to contact the undersigned for further particulars.

SIPCOAT reserves the right to reject all or any of the offers received without assigning any reason therefor. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
For Details Please Contact, Superintending Engineer, State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOAT) 9-A Rukmani Lakshminaray Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008, Contact No: 044-45261784 Mail Id: civil@sipcoat.in
"செய்தகரை கட்டு ஏதற்கும் கையாடாமல் பரிந்து ஏதற்கும் கையாடாமல்." DIPR/2066/Tender/2021

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED (ELCOT) CHENNAI - 600 035

BID NOTICE NO. ELCOT/DTP/2021 -22 National Competitive Bid (NCB) Dated 23.10.2021

Two cover System by e - Procurement

1. The Managing Director, ELCOT for and on behalf of Director of Municipal Administration invites bids for the Procurement, Supply, Installation and commissioning of Hyper Convergence Server with related hardware and Software through World Bank Project for Implementation of e-taxation for Commissionerate of Town Panchayats.
2. The bid document is available from 23.10.2021 at 03.00 PM and should be submitted online in the website, <https://tenders.gov.in>
3. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 03.11.2021 at 11.00 AM at the office of the MANAGING DIRECTOR, ELCOT, CHENNAI.
4. Online submission of bids starts from 17.11.2021 from 10.00 AM onwards.
5. Deadline for online submission of bids: on or before 03.00 PM on 24.11.2021. MANAGING DIRECTOR, ELCOT, 692, II Floor, M.H.U. Complex, Anna Salai, Mandanam, Chennai - 600 035 email: md@elcot.in, URL: www.elcot.in
6. Date of online Bid opening: at 04.00 PM on 24.11.2021.

DIPR / 3073 / TENDER / 2021
"சேதாதனை கட்டுரு சதுந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சகித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

संचालनालय नगरीय प्रशासन एवं विकास पालिका भवन, शिवाजी नगर, भोपाल-462016 म.प्र.

भारत सरकार एवं राज्य शासन के द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से संचालित दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना-राष्ट्रीय शहरी आजीविका मिशन (DAY-NULM) अंतर्गत म.प्र. के विभिन्न निकायों में "सिटी मिशन मैनेजर एवं सामुदायिक संगठकों" के रिक्त पदों पर संविदा भर्ती हेतु MP ऑनलाइन वेबपोर्टल www.mponline.gov.in के माध्यम से इच्छुक अभ्यर्थियों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जा रहे हैं।

1. विज्ञापन से संबंधित जानकारी वेबपोर्टल www.mponline.gov.in पर उपलब्ध रहेगी।
 2. निर्धारित प्रारूप में नहीं किये गये अथवा अपूर्ण आवेदन को निरस्त माना जायेगा।
 3. योग्य आवेदकों को उनकी शैक्षणिक योग्यता के आधार पर परीक्षा के लिए आमंत्रित किया जाएगा।
 4. शैक्षणिक योग्यता एवं अन्य जानकारी संविदा भर्ती नियम 2021 के अनुसार MP ऑनलाइन के पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध होगी।
 5. MP ऑनलाइन पोर्टल पर ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि 27 अक्टूबर 2021 है।
 6. केवल MP ऑनलाइन के माध्यम से प्राप्त आवेदन ही मान्य होंगे एवं किसी भी अन्य स्रोत से प्राप्त आवेदन को निरस्त माना जायेगा।
 7. मिशन संचालक, राष्ट्रीय शहरी आजीविका मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश को बिना कोई कारण जाहिर किये भर्ती प्रक्रिया निरस्त करने का अधिकार होगा।
 8. संविदा पदों की अवधि का निर्धारण मिशन संचालक, राष्ट्रीय शहरी आजीविका मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश द्वारा मिशन की निर्देशिका अनुसार किया जाएगा। मिशन संचालक
- G-18440/2021 डे-एनयूलएम

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL) In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001

Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Notification No.9503/OSMCL/2021 Date: 22.10.2021
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF ORTHOPAEDICS INSTRUMENT SETS UNDER MUKHYA MANTRI BAYU SWASTHYA SEBA

Online Bids through e-Tender Portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipments as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2021-22/ORTHO-INSTRUMENTS/10	Supply of Orthopaedics Instrument Sets Under Mukhya Mantri Bayu Swasthya Seba	5,600/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	22.10.2021, 5 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid query submission through e-mail	On or Before 27.10.2021, 2 PM E-mail : proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time End Date & Time 28.10.2021, 11 AM 11.11.2021, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	12.11.2021, 2 PM
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason therefor.
By the Order's of Managing Director, OSMCL Sd/- GM Operations (Equipment), OSMCL
CAD-1531 OIPR-1011211/0053/2122



IN BRIEF

Bombay Karnataka to be renamed soon: Bommai
BENGALURU
Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced on Saturday that the State Government had decided to rename the Bombay Karnataka region as "Kittur Karnataka", and the change would be formalised in the next Cabinet meeting.

3 kg of banned drug seized in Bengaluru

NARSAPURAM
A Narcotics Control Bureau team has seized 3 kg of pseudoephedrine, a banned drug, at the Bengaluru airport. The parcel booked from Narsapuram in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh was bound for Australia. The drug was found hidden in lehengas. The consignor has been arrested.

Heavy rain in Kerala triggers fear of another round of floods

Sharp rise in water level at Manimalayar

STAFF REPORTER
KOTTAYAM

Heavy rain lashed the eastern high ranges of Kottayam and Pathanamthitta in Kerala on Saturday, raising fears of yet another round of floods in the Travancore region of Kerala.

The downpour, which started in the afternoon, caused a sharp rise in the water level of the Manimalayar. The heavy gush of runoff water from the upper reaches inundated the Mundakkayam causeway. The rain affected the relief operations at Koottickal village.

Meanwhile, a minor landslide was reported from an isolated location near Asambani at Mundakkayam,



No respite: The flooded Angamoozhy-Kottamonpara bridge in Pathanamthitta on Saturday. ■ LEJU KAMAL

where floodwaters entered a few houses.

The majority of canals across the Mundakkayam, Kanjirappally and Erumely regions overflowed, inundating several houses on their banks.

In Pathanamthitta, a landslide was reported at Kottamonpara, near Angamooz-

hy, on the forest fringes on Saturday. The Angamoozhy-Kottamonpara bridge was completely submerged by floodwaters, while there were reports of a house and a few vehicles being washed away by the heavy gush of water.

The landslide was expected to trigger a rise in the water

Woman dies after vehicle is caught in flood waters

CHITTOOR

A newly-wed woman died and a five-year-old girl is critical after an SUV carrying a six-member marriage party from Raichur in Karnataka was caught in the floodwaters below a railway underbridge in Tirupati on Saturday. Sandhya, 24, died of asphyxiation while others managed to exit the vehicle. The condition of a five-year-old, who gulped water, is said to be serious.

level of the Pampa by night.

Earlier in the day, the discharge of excess water from reservoirs to the Pampa had been brought down considerably with the closing of the two gates of the Pampa dam. Live water storage in the dam, which had touched 94% earlier this week, was brought down to 74%.

Kerala child separation case: parents go on fast

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A day after the Kerala Government ordered a department-level probe into a woman's complaint of forcible separation from her child and seeking its return, the State Adoption Resource Agency filed a petition in court on her demand and to apprise the court of the departmental probe under way.

Kerala Minister for Women and Child Development Veena George told mediapersons on Saturday that the adoption procedures of the child, thought to belong to Anupama S. Chandran, were in the final stages at the family court at Vanchiyoor.

Following legal advice, the department decided to intervene before the final order was passed by the court, and the situation became even more complicated for Anupama.

Meanwhile, Ms. Anupama and her partner Mr. Ajith staged a hunger strike in front of the Secretariat on Saturday seeking the return of the child and action against those who she alleged failed to act in time on her complaint.

Ms. Anupama expressed happiness at the probe into her complaint and the support she was receiving.

The Minister, who spoke to Anupama, said the probe had been ordered to ascertain if any lapses had occurred and prevent any repeats.

The Minister expressed her support, including legal help.

Earlier, Anupama had alleged that her father P.S. Jayachandran had taken away her newborn just days after she gave birth in October last year.

Remand of Singhu murder accused extended by 2 days

Police seek to identify more accused from CCTV footage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

A local court in Sonapat has extended the police custody of the four accused in the murder case of a man over the alleged desecration of the holy Sikh scriptures for two days. The accused were produced before the court on Saturday on the completion of their police remand.

Virender Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Law and Order, said the police sought the remand of the four for the identification of more accused in the murder case. "The closed circuit television (CCTV) footage of the murder spot shows a large number of Nihang Sikhs surrounding the victim. We demanded the police custody of the accused for the identification of these people featuring in the footage," said Mr. Singh, adding that the police had received the footage only recently. The senior police officer, heading a Special Investigation Team in the case, said the blood-stained

clothes of the accused and the weapons used in the commission of the crime were recovered during the remand period.

Lakshbir Singh, a resident of Punjab's Tarn Taran, was found dead near the farmers' protest site at the Singhu border in Haryana's Sonapat on October 15, tied to a police barricade with his wrist and leg severed.

The court had remanded Sarabjit Singh, the first to surrender in the case, to police custody for seven days on October 16. A day after the arrest of Sarabjit Singh, three more accused in the case - Narain Singh, Bhagwant Singh and Govind Preet - surrendered before the police and were remanded to six days police custody.

The accused's counsel Yogesh told *The Hindu* that the police had sought four days' remand for his clients for the identification of the other accused in the CCTV footage of the incident, but he opposed it saying that the four could not be expected to "know all and sundry present at the spot".

"The court considered our argument and granted only two days police remand," said Mr. Yogesh.

A.P. High Court grants bail to TDP spokesman Pattabhiram

His comments on Jagan sparked attacks on TDP's offices

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Saturday granted bail to Telugu Desam Party spokesman K. Pattabhiram, whose alleged objectionable comments on Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy sparked attacks on the Opposition party's offices across the State.



K. Pattabhiram

10 persons arrested

The Mangalagiri police on Saturday arrested 10 persons on charges of ransacking the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) State office, and da-

maging furniture in it, four days ago.

Special teams had been constituted to identify and arrest the remaining ac-

cused in the case, said Director-General of Police (DGP) D. Gautam Sawang.

Meanwhile, the Patamata police arrested 11 persons, including a few women, for the attack on the house of TDP leader K. Pattabhiram in Vijayawada. The incident occurred in Dairy Officers Colony, Patamata, on October 19. Following a complaint lodged by Pattabhiram's wife, K. Chandana, Police Commissioner B. Srinivasulu constituted a team to inquire into the incident. The police team identified 11 persons so far.

Probe into Syro-Malabar Church land row begins

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has started its probe into the land sale row involving Cardinal George Alencherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church and head of the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese, in connection with a series of land deals that reportedly resulted in financial losses for the archdiocese.

The ED is probing whether money laundering was involved in the case related to the efforts by the archdiocese to settle a loan of around ₹60 crore by selling three acres in its possession in Kochi. The Kerala High

Court had dismissed a petition filed by the cardinal to quash the cases related to the land deal registered by the Kochi City police.

The archdiocese did not receive the entire money it was to have received as proceeds from the sale even a year-and-a-half after the transactions. Out of ₹27 crore, the archdiocese had got only ₹9 crore.

The Income Tax Department had imposed an additional fine of ₹3.5 crore on the archdiocese based on the inference that the price shown in the land documents was far lower than the market rate. It had slapped a penalty to the tune of ₹2.5 crore earlier.

Measures stepped up to combat KFD in Wayanad

E.M. MANOJ
KALPETTA

The Kerala Health department has intensified measures to combat the Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) or monkey fever in Wayanad district. As a part of it, a vaccination drive began on Saturday in Thirunelly grama

panchayat, where the largest number of KFD cases had been reported in the past two years.

According to the Health department, four KFD cases have been reported in the district. Three persons died and 29 KFD cases were reported last year.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH
OBITUARY

Rev. Sr. ELIZABETH RYAN (92)
(Sr. Marie Amiee du Sacre Coeur)
Little Sisters of the poor
Hosur Road, Bangalore
Expired 19th October 2021
Former Lecturer Stella Maria College
Chennai 1951 to 1954
Affectionately remembered by all the
RYAN families and relatives
May her soul Rest in Peace
Contact: 63642 28250

JANAKI VEDAM
(1928-2021)
Wife of the late V. VEDAM,
Station Manager, IA, Vizag, passed away
on 22 October 2021.
"Those we have held in our arms for a little
while, we hold in our hearts forever."
Deeply mourned by her family:
Preema and Ram Natarajan
Lalita Ramanathan
Vasantha Santhanam
RSVP: 9845142747/980-2678114

HOMAGE

V S CHAKRAPANI
Death - 21st Oct 2021
BHFL, Trichy
Kudremukh Iron Ore Co., Bangalore
R K SWAMY BBD, Chennai
Deeply mourned by
Vijaya Chakrapani
+91 44 7900 7600
Padma Ramesh & R Ramesh
Vidya Mukund & R Mukund

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OBITUARY

Thiru. SREEKANT S. MEHTA
Birth 06-09-1943 Death 22-10-2021

With Great Sadness, we announce the loss of our beloved brother
Smt. Anilaben Late : Madhukarbhai
Smt. Vidulaben Late : Navnitbhai
Late Smt. Nainaben Late : Harshkantbhai
The Brooklands Estate
The Woodlands Estate
The Nursery
Nagalur, Yercaud-636602
Resi Address:-
256, Advaita Ashram Road,
Fairlands, Salem-636016
NIPUN N. MEHTA
MUMBAI
☎ +91 98202 95444

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl. No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No. and Description of work/Material	Due date & time for Submission of Tender
1	CE/MECHANICAL/COAL	COAL - 89 (at 22.10.2021) Movement of 4.34 LMT +/- 10% of Coal from Mahanadi Coal field Ltd's (MCL) sources Through road - cum - Rail (RCR) mode from MCL mines (Hingula, Balfam, Bharathpur, Ananta and Jagannath) to Ex. Nigundi and Ex-Hindola sidings and loading on to Railway rakes.	23.10.2021 up to 11.30 hours

The tender Specification can be down loaded from TANGEDCO website, www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgp/app> at free of cost. Tender will be opened through the MCL portal.

CHIEF ENGINEER/MECHANICAL/COAL
"சேரநகரம் ம. ந. து. கழகத்தில் குடிம. துறையில் சார்பணப் பரிந்துரைக்கப்பட்ட பணப் பணம்"

THE HINDU
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SITE FOR SALE
Application are invited through e-tender cum auction of the society T.1072 RajaRajan Cooperative Housing Society, T.1400 Sri Rama Cooperative Building Society for the sale of residential plot and playground under the control of Regional Deputy Registrar (Housing) Thanjavur. Detailed particulars are available in the following website. (<https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgp/app>)

Address	
1. Secretary, T.1072 RajaRajan Cooperative Housing Society, Thanjavur. Cell No: 9952393465	
2. Secretary, T.1400 Sri Rama Cooperative Building Society, Thanjavur. Cell No: 8300458753	

Consent Secretaries

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For detailed Notification and prospectus refer to KNRUHS Website: www.knrhuhs.telangana.gov.in
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Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. Dehradun Invites e-tender for following as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Tender Specification No./Package/ Name of work	Estimated cost (in ₹)	Minimum Average Annual Turn Over (MAAT) for best three years out of last five financial years (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹) or Bid Security declaration	Cost of tender document including GST (in ₹)	Last Date & time of online request for Tender and submission of tender in online & offline mode	Date of opening of bid Part-I in online & off line mode
1	Name of work : Construction of 5.54 Km. 33 KV line on ACSR Panther Conductor with shifting of 0.5 Km 33 KV Line, 1.5 Km., 11 KV and 1.8 Km. LT line from Nagar Nigam office Rishikesh to 33/11 KV SS Tapovan to release of new SC to RVNL, Rishikesh, under EDSM Muni Ki Reti, Tehri Garhwal & Construction of SGR Building & other Misc. Civil works at 33/11 KV Substation Tapovan, Tehri Garhwal on turnkey basis.	2,08,25,011.00	4,00,00,000.00	4,17,000.00	11,800.00	11.11.2021 upto 17:00 hrs	12.11.2021 at 15:30 hrs
	CCP-I/37/2021-2022 Package - A						
2	Name of work : Re-conductoring of 7.5 Km 33 KV line for ACSR Dog Conductor to ACSR Panther conductor of Rishikesh feeder line from 220 KV Substation to Nagar Nigam office Rishikesh and shifting of 0.2 Km. 11 KV, 0.5 Km. LT Line for NSC of RVNL Muni Ki Reti, Tehri Garhwal & Construction of 0.5 Km (including 0.35 Km. Double ckt) 33 KV Line on ACSR Dog Conductor from 33/11 KV Dhalwala SS to Northern Railway site Dhalwala and construction of Bus Isolator, Circuit Breaker & Terminal Gantry etc. on turnkey basis.	4,66,79,432.00	7,00,20,000.00	9,34,000.00	17,700.00	11.11.2021 upto 17:00 hrs	12.11.2021 at 15:45 hrs
	CCP-I/37/2021-2022 Package - B						
3	Name of work : Construction of 33 KV line (2.2 Km Underground & Approx. 12 Km overhead) from 132 KV Sub Station Sinagar to Village Sumari in Khirshu Block on turnkey basis.	4,66,79,432.00	7,00,20,000.00	9,34,000.00	17,700.00	11.11.2021 upto 17:00 hrs	12.11.2021 at 15:45 hrs
	CCP-I/38/2021-2022						

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Himachal's women farmers expand their horizons, without hurting nature

With training and support, low-cost natural farming is increasing incomes and leading to social empowerment

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Women farmers in the hill State of Himachal Pradesh are gradually turning to non-chemical, low cost "natural farming", which has not only provided them with a sustainable livelihood but also empowered them better.

Launched in 2018, the State's Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Yojana (PK3Y) is promoting the climate resilient Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF), also called "Zero Budget Natural Farming".

Over 1.5 lakh farmers have been trained in natural farming in the State so far, with substantial numbers of

women participants.

Moreover, the coming together of women from the hill regions for natural farming, regardless of their level of education, has helped them gain confidence in matters beyond agriculture. Practical training in natural farming is helping rural women in Himachal Pradesh gain confidence by supplementing family incomes.

'New empowerment'

"It is a different kind of empowerment. Since I shifted to the natural farming technique, the government's Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) staff is regularly in touch with me. They motiv-

ate me and help me stay connected with the latest happenings in the field on a regular basis personally, and on WhatsApp groups, which is happening for the first time," said Ganga Sarni Bisht, 54, from Kilba in the tribal Kinnaur district. Ms. Bisht, a post-graduate in Hindi and a former teacher, has been farming independently since 2013.

"I shifted to this non-chemical farming technique three years back, after attending a training workshop on the SPNF technique in Kufri. I am growing vegetables like beans, radish, carrot, spinach and beetroot with natural farming on one *bigha* land, along with ap-



Reaping rewards: Women at work at a field in Himachal Pradesh's Rampur. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ple. I am happy with the results. I have sown *hing* (asafoetida) now," she said. Ready to replicate natural farming on another five *bighas* of land gradually, Ms. Bisht inspires women farmers in the village and shares the latest information with

them in a group.

Natural farming gave Charna Devi, 49, a tribal woman from Chagaon village in uphill Tapri in Kinnaur, the opportunity to go outside the State for the first time in her life. She had not ventured beyond State capital

Shimla before. "The travel taught me so many things," she said.

Ms. Devi is now a member of an SPNF women farmers' group formed in 2019. Its members cultivate apples, garlic, maize and other traditional crops in their own farms. The group has over 20 women farmers and it functions like a family. They even help each other in finding solutions for personal and social issues.

Executive Director of PK3Y, Dr. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, said that women have always had an important role in agriculture in India. "Their inclusion in natural farming for training and exposure will not only build their capacity but will help women farmers gain confidence for overall betterment in society," he said.

At many other places in the State, women farmers who have shifted to natural farming collectively plan to increase their income by processing fruits and creating marketing networks on their own.

Another group of more than 20 young women in Khaushshah village near Rampur Bushahr in Shimla

SPECIAL

district had been contributing in agriculture and horticulture at home but, "We were just silent workers with no say in deciding things in the field. The income from apple orchards was falling due to over-use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Since we were provided training in the natural farming project, we could move

out of the four walls of the house and are now actively involved in changing the course of farming," said Sujata, a graduate farmer.

Breaking barriers

Their group, the Prakritik Kheti Mahila Khushhal Kisan Samiti, Khaushshah, was formed two years back, and registered in 2021. The women farmers' group is doing natural farming individually on land measuring around 12.5 *bighas*, and the SPNF technique has helped them grow multiple crops like pulses and vegetables, alongside apples, for regular income from the same field. "Besides, it has helped us in connecting socially, and break mindset barriers on issues other than farming also," said the group's members.

Gehlot rejects reports of meeting Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday refuted media reports that he had met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after attending a Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in New Delhi on October 16. "Such rumours will make rounds until there is a reshuffle of the [State] Cabinet," he said.

The Congress party's committee constituted to look into the issues in Rajasthan met after the CWC meeting, Mr. Gehlot told reporters here. He said there might have been an "eye-catching" with Mr. Gandhi at the CWC event, but no meeting took place.

"The media reports described how Mr. Gandhi expressed his annoyance with the Chief Minister. It seemed as if the reporters themselves were sitting there," Mr. Gehlot quipped referring to a newspaper published from Jaipur.

Earlier, Mr. Gehlot gave away the lifetime achievement award to senior journalist Vijay Bhandari, 89, at the latter's residence in Tilak Nagar here. The award was instituted jointly by media advocacy institution Lok Samvad Sansthan and Journalism and Mass Communication Department of the Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur.

Asked about the appointment of Revenue Minister Harish Chaudhary as the Congress in-charge of Punjab, Mr. Gehlot said giving responsibility to the leaders from Rajasthan reflected their hard work and commitment. Health Minister Raghu Sharma was also recently made party in-charge of Gujarat.

Modi meets COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers, hails their work

'World is looking up to India's vaccination drive'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's leading vaccine manufacturers met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Saturday. Several of them heaped praise on Mr. Modi's leadership.

"The Prime Minister went out of his way and made all the regulatory people move very fast and that is why India has been able to achieve the numbers it has," said Cyrus Poonawalla, Managing Director, Serum Institute of India, which has supplied over 88% of the 100 crore vaccines.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has continuously encouraged us," said Pankaj Patel, Chairman and Managing



Taking stock: Narendra Modi during a meeting with COVID-19 vaccine makers in New Delhi on Saturday. *PTI

Director, Zydus Cadilla healthcare, which is manufacturing the ZycovD vaccine that has been approved for those above 12.

"We are really proud of the country. PM Modi was determined and he converted the initial pessimism into an opportunity. That is the mark of a leader," said Krishna Ella, Chairman, Bharat Biotech Ltd., that has de-

veloped Covaxin.

"PM Modi praised the efforts of vaccine manufacturers which resulted in India achieving the 100-crore milestone and said they had played a big role in the success story of India. He appreciated their hard work and confidence given by them during the pandemic," a press statement following the meeting said.

Mr. Modi said the country needed to institutionalise the best practices learnt from the last one and a half years and said this is an opportunity to modify practices and synchronise them to global standards. He said the entire world is looking up to India in the backdrop of the success of the vaccination drive. He also said the manufacturers should continuously work together to be ready to face future challenges.

Other participants included Mahima and Narendar Mantela (Biological E Ltd.), Dr. Sanjay Singh and Satish Mehta (Genova Biopharmaceuticals), Satish Reddy and Deepak Sapra (Dr. Reddy's Lab) and Dr. Rajesh Jain and Harshit Jain (Panacea Biotech). Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and officials from the Health Ministry were also present.

'Seat-sharing pact with BJP to be finalised in next meeting'

Sanjay Nishad moves closer to sealing deal for U.P. polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BALLIA (U.P.)

The seat-sharing pact with the BJP for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly election will be finalised in the next meeting with the party, Nishad party president Sanjay Nishad said on Saturday.

"The seat sharing with the BJP will be decided in the next meeting with BJP leadership," he said while talking to media persons here.

Mr. Nishad claimed that the alliance between the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) would last only till the Assembly election due early next year. Taking a dig at SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar, Mr. Nishad said his feet are always on the move.

Mr. Nishad, who had earlier demanded the post of Deputy Chief Minister for



Sanjay Nishad. *PTI

himself, clarified that it was just a suggestion and accused the media of twisting his statement.

The Nishad party chief had in July said his community wanted to see him as the Deputy CM of the State.

'Cong. ship sinking'

Attacking the Congress, Mr. Nishad said: "The ship of the Congress is sinking. The situation in the Congress is

chaotic and its leaders are leaving the party. The Congress must take control of its ship."

Taking a swipe at the Congress' "Pratiga Yatra", he said: "The Congress will gain nothing from the yatra. Priyanka Gandhi has made the announcement keeping in mind the U.P. Assembly election. She should first implement these announcements in the Congress-ruled States." The Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal (Nishad) party had contested the 2017 Assembly election in alliance with the Peace Party and contested 72 seats. Its candidate Vijay Mishra had won from Gyanpur in Bhadohi district.

Recently, BJP leaders had announced an alliance with Mr. Nishad for the 2022 Assembly election.

Virtual property fair showcases key projects

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

The *Hindu* and Casagrand are organising *The Hindu Property Plus Virtual Property Fair* from October 22 to October 31. Buyers will be able to get a glimpse of various options of budget homes, functional apartments, villas and bungalows.

The fair will feature prominent builders including Casagrand, Lancelor, Hiranandani Communities, SPR City, KG Builders, Sumanth & Co, VGN Homes, Navin's,



Voorra, Fomra, Baashyaam, Marutham Group, Deccan, The Nest and Nova. To register and view the offers please visit bit.ly/THVP21 or scan the QR Code.



Petrol, diesel prices hiked for fourth day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices were hiked for the fourth consecutive day on Saturday by 35 paise per litre, pushing the total increase in rates on petrol to ₹36 per litre and on diesel to ₹26.58 since early May 2020.

Petrol in Delhi now costs ₹107.24 a litre and diesel comes for ₹95.97, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. The latest increase has pushed pump rates across the country to their highest-ever levels.

Tamil drama Koozhangal is India's official entry for Oscars

It was picked by a 15-member jury in a unanimous decision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Tamil drama *Koozhangal* (Pebbles), directed by filmmaker Vinothraj P.S., has been selected as India's official entry for the 94th Academy Awards.

The movie follows an alcoholic abusive husband who, after his long-suffering wife runs off, sets out with his young son to find her and bring her back.

It stars newcomers - Chellapandi and Karuththa-

dayaan - and is produced by Vignesh Shivan and Nayanthara. "India's official entry for Oscars this year is *Koozhangal*. It was picked by a 15-member jury, headed by filmmaker Shaji N. Karun, in a unanimous decision," Supran Sen, Secretary General, Film Federation of India, told PTI.

A total of 14 films, including Malayalam feature *Nayattu*, Tamil film *Mandela*, filmmaker Shoojit Sircar's *Sardar Udham*, Vidya

Balan-starrer *Shermi*, Captain Vikram Batra biopic *Sherashaah* and Marathi film *Godavari*, were in the race.

Mr. Vinothraj said he was grateful for all the love and support.

Koozhangal had won the top honour, the Tiger Award for best film, at the 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR), earlier this year. The 94th Academy Awards are scheduled to take place on March 27, 2022, in Los Angeles.



Judge was not biased, court tells Kangana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court here has held that the Andheri metropolitan magistrate, who is presiding over the defamation case filed by lyricist Javed Akhtar against Kangana Ranaut, has acted "judiciously" and did not show any bias against the actor.

Just because the court proceeds with the case by following the law, it does not mean that it is biased against the applicant, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate S.T. Dande said in her order, in which she rejected Ms. Ranaut's plea that sought transfer of the case to some other court. The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate rejected Ms. Ranaut's petition on October 21.

The actor had filed the transfer petition last month, saying that she had "lost faith" in the Andheri metropolitan magistrate's court as it indirectly "threatened" her with issuing a warrant if she failed to appear before it in a bailable offence. The petition also alleged that the court was biased against her.

However, Ms. Dande ruled that the metropolitan magistrate, 10th court, Andheri, had given a fair opportunity to the accused to remain absent by granting all her exemption applications.

BJP bets big on Maharashtra civic polls in February

Party has been targeting erstwhile Congress and NCP strongholds

SHOUMAJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

At a recent closed-door meeting of the corporators and the MLAs to strategise about the upcoming Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) election, BJP's Maharashtra unit president Chandrakant Patil urged partymen to expedite pending infrastructure projects on a mission mode and improve its rickety public transport services.

According to sources, Mr. Patil is reported to have told the local party leaders that Union Home Minister Amit Shah was keenly following the party's progress in Pune and other crucial civic bodies in the State ahead of the civic polls to be held in February next year.

Key points

Mr. Patil's remark is significant as it underscores a pattern in the BJP's planning in that even the leaders at the Centre had their eyes fixed

on important, cash-rich civic bodies in Maharashtra like Pune, Mumbai and Pimpri-Chinchwad. Another key point in Mr. Patil's instructions was to drastically improve communication with the public in the city's 'weak areas' where the party was not firmly established.

"It has been part of the BJP's expansion strategy that even vital civic body polls in the country have been overseen by top Central and State-level brass. Ahead of the 2017 PMC poll, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu, among other Central leaders, had visited Pune. Last year in November, Mr. Shah along with BJP national president J.P. Nadda, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had campaigned for the party candidates in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections," said senior city-based political analyst

Rajendra Pandharpure.

According to poll watchers, the BJP, which prior to 2014, had its base limited to the State's Vidarbha region, has been aggressively trying to lay deep roots throughout the State especially in pockets previously considered to be Congress and NCP strongholds.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"The BJP's preparations reflect their intent on expanding their party base in areas in the State which until 2014 was dominated either by the Congress or Sharad Pawar's NCP. In contrast, few among the Congress or the Shiv Sena's top brass have seldom shown any interest in campaigning for the civic polls outside their immediate sphere of influence or communicated with their potential constituents in a consistent manner," says Mr. Pandharpure.

In the 2014 State Assembly election, the BJP had swept all the six seats in urban Pune, while the 2017 civic

polls saw it clocking an emphatic win in the PMC and the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), and coming second only to the Sena in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) poll.

The BJP set a record by winning nearly 100 of the 162 seats in the PMC while supplanting the NCP from the PCMC, in a personal blow to Ajit Pawar.

Since then, after the formation of the MVA and his reinstatement at the State's Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Pawar, in his capacity of Pune's Guardian Minister, has left no stone unturned to wrest the PCMC back from the BJP.

In contrast to the BJP and the NCP, the Congress has suffered from the insipid leaderships of its past MPCC presidents Ashok Chavan and Balasaheb Thorat, say observers.

"Local Congress leaders had even urged more visits by the State leadership, but none were forthcoming. Sunil Kedar, who has been ap-

pointed the 'communication minister' for Pune, did not visit the city even once during the pandemic, let alone trying to consolidate his party's base here," observes Mr. Pandharpure.

A lacklustre attitude on part of the Congress and the Sena's top brasses has led to a steady erosion (in case of the Congress) and stagnation (in the Sena's case) of their respective part bases.

On the other hand, Devendra Fadnavis's leadership has been vigorous with his continual visits and close coordination with local BJP leaders doing much to deepen the party's influence at the civic level, said another analyst.

While admitting that his party's grip in areas outside Mumbai and the Konkan was tenuous, a Shiv Sena leader pointed that MP and chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut had been making efforts over the last several months to expand the party's base in Pune. Likewise, the Congress sees hope in current MPCC chief Nana Patole's galvanising leadership.

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

CJI stresses on judicial infrastructure

He urges Law Minister to ensure that plan for NJAI is taken up in Parliament

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Saturday urged Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju to ensure that the proposal to create National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJAI) with statutory backing is taken up in the upcoming winter session of Parliament.

The CJJ was present along with Mr. Rijiju, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and judges of the Supreme Court to inaugurate the B and C wings of the High Court Annexe Building at Aurangabad.

Chief Justice Ramana again stressed on the need for NJAI and said, "Good judicial infrastructure for courts in India has always



Improving facilities: CJI Ramana N.V. Ramana, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray in Aurangabad on Saturday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

been an afterthought. It is because of this mindset that courts in India still operate from dilapidated structures, making it difficult to effectively perform their function."

He said judicial infrastructure is important for improving access to justice and to meet the growing demands

of the public that is more aware of its rights and is developing economically, socially and culturally. It is baffling to note that the maintenance of judicial infrastructure is still being carried out in an ad-hoc and unplanned manner, he said.

Mr. Ramana went on to present hard facts and said,

"The total sanctioned strength of judicial officers in the country is 24,280 and the number of court halls available is 20,143 (including 620 rented halls); 26% of court complexes do not have separate ladies' toilets and 16% do not have gents' toilets; only 54% of court complexes have purified drinking water facility; only 5% of court complexes have basic medical facilities; only 32% of court rooms have separate record rooms; only 51% of court complexes have a library; only 27% of courtrooms have computer placed on the Judge's dais with video-conferencing facility. According to international research published in 2018, failure to deliver timely justice cost the country as much as 9% of annual GDP."

Crucial cases await SC physical hearings

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

A gradual opening up of physical hearings in the Supreme Court may see long-pending but crucial cases come to the fore. Some of them are before Constitutional Benches.

These include the challenge against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) of 2019; the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution; questions of equal right to worship triggered by the Sabarimala temple entry for women case; pleas against the agricultural laws over which farmers have been

protesting nearly two years; and questions whether the colonial law of sedition deserves a place in a modern democracy.

In January 2020, the apex court had said that petitions concerning the CAA were "uppermost in everybody's minds", but refused to stay the new law without hearing the government first. The Bench, at that point, had indicated that the CAA challenge may eventually be referred to a Constitution Bench for a decision on merits.

In August this year, Communist Party of India (Mar-



xist) leader and spokesperson of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration M.Y. Tarigami had asked the Supreme Court to "expeditiously" begin hearing petitions challenging the Centre's abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, saying the government was taking "irreversible actions" which may render the pending case "infructuous".

Several petitions, including one by Mr. Tarigami, have been waiting in the Supreme Court for nearly two years.

A nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court had, in February last year, framed several questions of law for itself to answer - one of them was to lay down the ambit of religious freedom under Article 25 of the Constitution.

Priyanka Gandhi flags off 'Pratigya Yatra' in Uttar Pradesh

Loan waiver, crop purchase and jobs among promises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday flagged off her party's "Pratigya Yatra" from Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki with seven promises, including loan waiver for farmers and jobs to 20 lakh people, if voted to power in next year's Assembly polls. The party also promised purchase of wheat and paddy at ₹2,500 per quintal, and sugarcane at ₹400 per quintal. The Congress leader also said her party would "halve the electricity bill of all".



Hitting the trail: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi flagging off 'Pratigya Yatra' in Barabanki, on Saturday. ■PTI

She said her party would bring a separate manifesto for women, reiterating that the Congress would give "40% tickets to women in the election".

Ms. Gandhi said the Congress would give smartphones to girls who passed Class XII, if voted to power in the State.

The party said it would

give ₹25,000 to families who faced a financial crunch due to the COVID crisis. Ms. Gandhi promised a separate manifesto for women in a week's time and stressed that their participation in politics is necessary.

"Till they do not move forward and participate in politics, they will not be able to fight their battles," she said.

Ms. Gandhi said providing smartphones and scooters to girls is a way to make them empowered. "Smartphones can help in their safety and scooter will facilitate their movement," she said.

Referring to farmers, the AICC general secretary said they were helpless in the State. "All have seen how farmers were killed brutally by the son of a Minister in the

Ties with Bangladesh a role model: Shringla

Foreign Secretary makes no mention of recent violence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's relations with Bangladesh is a "role model" in international affairs, said Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Saturday.

Delivering a speech on the role of the IAF in the 1971 War of Liberation, Mr. Shringla recollected the sacrifices that Indians made to assist the people of Bangladesh fight the genocidal violence of the Pakistani military.

"India-Bangladesh relations today are deeper than any other strategic partnership. It is a role model for relations between two neighbouring countries. The spirit of friendship, understanding and mutual respect engendered during the liberation of Bangladesh continues to permeate different aspects of this relationship," said Mr. Shringla at the Swarnim Vijay Varsh Conclave: 2021 on "Humanitarian, Political and Diplomatic Facets of the 1971 War".

It was noteworthy that Mr. Shringla's remarks had no mention of the condition of the minority Hindu community which faced targeted attacks during the recent Durga puja celebrations. The statement shows that India has adopted a cautious approach in dealing with the recent attacks.

Soon after the violence erupted targeting the Hindu community in Comilla, Chit-



tagong, Noakhali and Rangpur, the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said Dhaka had dealt with the violence "promptly". However, civil society figures in Dhaka have criticised the Sheikh Hasina Government for slow response. Soon after the incidents, Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswamy met a group of Hindu community leaders at the High Commission though the meeting remained unpublicised.

In his comments, Mr. Shringla highlighted that India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cultivated "vibrant ties" with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and that Delhi is committed to ensure socio-economic growth in Bangladesh. "Bangladesh is India's biggest development partner and India's largest trading partner in South Asia, contributing to economic prosperity and supply chain resilience in the region and beyond," said Mr. Shringla.

The comments appear to

show that South Block does not want to criticise Bangladesh on the failure to protect the Hindu minority, an issue which India has enshrined in its legislative process with the passing of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in 2019. The emphasis on the harmonious ties is also interesting as it reveals India's desire to maintain undisturbed ties even under great stress.

High-profile projects
Bangladesh has several high-profile projects being built by the Chinese. On Thursday, Sheikh Hasina inaugurated one such project - Bangabandhu Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Centre (BBCFEC) on the outskirts of Dhaka.

Built over 26 acres, the centre is a showpiece of the close cooperation between Bangladesh and China. The venue will be able to host fairs and exhibitions around the year and will give an important platform to project the strengths of Bangladesh in the industrial and economic areas.

'Bar Assam CM from campaigning'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Assam unit of Congress has asked the State's chief electoral officer to bar Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma from campaigning in the byelections for violating the model code of conduct.

The byelections to five Assembly constituencies - two in eastern Assam and three in the western part - are scheduled on October 30.

In a memorandum submitted to the Election Commission on Saturday, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Bhupen Kumar Borah said promises from the Chief Minister have been flying thick and fast during the Bharatiya Janata Party campaigns. Video footages were enclosed with the memorandum.

"The CM made a slew of announcements for the 40 tea gardens in Mariani constituency during a campaign. Apart from assuring ₹1-crore each for the gardens to develop labour line roads, he promised to incorporate each garden into the Jal Jeevan Mission besides announcing 10 new high schools in the gardens," Mr. Borah said.

If that were not enough, the CM announced financial assistance to the self-help groups of women tea workers and incorporation of casual labourers in the tea gardens into the MGNREGA scheme, the State Congress chief pointed out.

U.K. strike group in India to 'forge stronger ties'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier-led Carrier Strike Group's major port stop in Mumbai is the U.K.'s Indo-Pacific tilt in action, British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said in India on Saturday.

The Minister, who arrived in Mumbai from New Delhi, said that her visit was aimed at forging stronger security and defence links with India, the world's largest democracy, as a key part of the U.K.'s Indo-Pacific strategy.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said that the Minister sees India as "essential" in ensuring a free,

open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

"Closer defence and security partnerships between the U.K. and India underpin deeper economic ties and make both countries, as well as the wider region, safer," said Ms. Truss.

"We need to protect our sea and trade routes and, operating from a position of strength, be hard-headed in defending our interests and challenging unfair practices. The arrival of the Carrier Strike Group in India represents the U.K.'s Indo-Pacific tilt in action. This is a true symbol of Global Britain, working closely with like-minded partners like India," she said.

No criticism of the party in public: Cong.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Anyone wishing to take up the primary membership of the Congress will have to make a declaration of abstention from alcohol and drugs, and give an undertaking to never criticise the party's policies and programmes in public forums.

According to the grand old party's membership form, new members have to give a declaration that they will not own any property in excess of ceiling laws and will undertake tasks, including "manual labour" prescribed by the party.

"This is an old form and is part of our party constitution. And we expect all Congress members, including new ones, to follow these norms," said Madhusudan Mistry, head of the party's central election authority.

The Congress will launch a membership drive on November 1 and it will continue till March 31 next year, before the organisational elections.

The election of the new Congress president will be held between August 21 and September 20, 2022, according to the Congress Working Committee.

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Details can be seen on the websites <http://sppg.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in> and <http://dotc.rajasthan.gov.in>. Bids are to be submitted through <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>.

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EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND SIX MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021													
(₹ in crore)													
Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended		Year Ended	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended		Year Ended		
		30.09.2021	30.06.2021	30.09.2020	30.09.2021	30.09.2020	31.03.2021	30.09.2021	30.06.2021	30.09.2020	30.09.2021	30.09.2020	31.03.2021
1.	Total income from operations	13088.07	12797.39	9744.41	25885.46	15723.29	41899.07	13088.07	12797.39	9744.41	25885.46	15723.29	41899.07
	Other Income	7.96	1.78	37.71	9.76	45.27	106.88	2.06	1.78	31.79	3.84	39.35	100.97
	Total Income	13096.05	12799.17	9782.12	25895.22	15768.56	42005.95	13090.13	12799.17	9776.20	25889.30	15762.64	42000.04
	Total Expenditure	13006.58	12725.32	9321.45	25731.90	14877.86	40729.41	13006.66	12725.34	9321.49	25732.00	14877.84	40729.36
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	89.47	73.85	460.67	163.32	890.70	1276.54	85.07	76.77	461.89	161.84	890.19	1296.24
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	89.47	73.85	460.67	163.32	890.70	1276.54	85.07	76.77	461.89	161.84	890.19	1296.24
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	65.45	53.73	290.58	119.18	562.21	237.56	61.05	56.65	291.80	117.70	561.70	257.26
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	65.45	53.73	290.58	119.18	562.21	232.29	61.05	56.65	291.80	117.70	561.70	251.93
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				1144.80	1355.54	1025.62				1329.95	1522.01	1212.25
8.	Securities Premium Account				250.04	250.04	250.04				250.04	250.04	250.04
9.	Network				1543.75	2863.13	1424.57				1728.90	3012.36	1611.18
10.	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt (Bonds / Debentures) excluding Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares				10521.99	8,390.14	8666.96				10521.99	8,390.14	8666.96
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares (50,00,00,000 (2020:50,00,00,000)Non-Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of ₹ 10 each) (Not listed)				500.00	500.00	500.00				500.00	500.00	500.00
12.	Debt Equity Ratio				7.14	5.07	6.43				6.38	4.63	5.69
13.	Earnings Per Share (of ₹. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)												
	(i) Basic (₹ / share)	4.40	3.61	19.51	8.00	37.75	15.95	4.10	3.80	19.60	7.90	37.72	17.28
	(ii) Diluted (₹ / share)	4.40	3.61	19.51	8.00	37.75	15.95	4.10	3.80	19.60	7.90	37.72	17.28
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve				600.00	600.00	600.00				600.00	600.00	600.00
15.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio				0.75	3.50	1.24				0.75	3.50	1.26
16.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio				2.98	6.51	5.65				2.97	6.51	5.70

Note: 1
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website www.cpcl.co.in

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Rajeev Ailawadi
Director (Finance)
DIN: 07826722

Turkey orders expulsion of 10 diplomats

Ambassadors from U.S., Europe and elsewhere declared 'persona non grata' for seeking Kavala's release

REUTERS
ISTANBUL

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday he had ordered the Foreign Ministry to declare 10 Ambassadors from Western countries 'persona non grata' for calling for the release of philanthropist Osman Kavala.

Mr. Kavala has been in prison for four years, charged with financing nationwide protests in 2013 and with involvement in a failed coup in 2016. He denies the charges.

In a joint statement on October 18, the Ambassadors of Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, New Zealand and the U.S. called for a just and speedy resolution to Mr. Kavala's case, and for his "urgent release". They were summoned by the Foreign Minis-



Escalating row: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a press conference, in this file photo. • REUTERS

try, which called the statement irresponsible.

"I gave the necessary order to our Foreign Minister and said what must be done: these 10 Ambassadors must be declared persona non grata at once. You will sort it out immediately," Mr. Erdogan said, using a term meaning that a diplomat is no longer

welcome in the country.

"They will know and understand Turkey. The day they do not know and understand Turkey, they will leave," he said to cheers from the crowd in the north-western city of Eskisehir.

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry said its Embassy in Ankara had not received in-

formation from Turkish authorities regarding the matter at this time.

"Our Ambassador has not done anything that warrants an expulsion," the Ministry's head of communications, Trude Maaseide, told Reuters in an emailed statement, adding that Turkey was well aware of Norway's view on this case.

"We will continue to call on Turkey to comply with democratic standards and the rule of law to which the country committed itself under the European Human Rights Convention," Ms. Maaseide said.

Mr. Kavala was acquitted last year of charges related to the 2013 protests, but the ruling was overturned this year and combined with charges in another case related to the coup attempt.

Rights groups say this case

is emblematic of a crackdown on dissent under Mr. Erdogan.

'No fair trial'

Mr. Kavala said on Friday that it would be "meaningless" for him to attend his trial as a fair hearing was impossible given recent comments by Mr. Erdogan.

Mr. Erdogan was cited on Thursday as saying the Ambassadors in question would not release "bandits, murderers and terrorists" in their own countries.

"Since there is no possibility of a fair trial under these circumstances, I believe participating in hearings and delivering my defence will be meaningless from now on," Mr. Kavala said in a statement.

FROM PHILANTHROPY TO PRISON: PROFILES PAGE

Rising trade, tensions point to India's China conundrum

Trade ties boom to record levels amid persistent border crisis

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

India's trade with China rising to record levels in 2021 and set to cross the \$100-billion mark for the first time has underlined the challenge New Delhi faces as it looks to recalibrate relations amid a more than year-long border crisis while remaining locked in a deep commercial embrace.

The two seemingly contradictory trends in relations have come into sharp focus this month when, three days after the 13th round of talks between military commanders ended in a deadlock with both sides trading accusations, New Delhi hailed "a breakthrough for the Indian pharmaceutical industry in China" with Hyderabad-based Dr. Reddy's Laboratories set for a potential windfall, becoming the first Indian pharmaceutical firm permitted to launch an anti-cancer drug in the lucrative China market.

Huge potential

Both Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla and Ambassador to China Vikram Misri this week highlighted the potential of trade ties. Mr. Misri highlighted pharmaceuticals as particularly having "huge potential yet to be realised". He said, in an interview to the *Global Times* in Beijing, discussions "were on-going on the boundary crisis" and "we hope that both sides can resolve this [border] issue, because it is casting a shadow on bilateral ties".

Mr. Shringla also linked the border standoff to overall relations noting in a seminar this week that "it was against the backdrop" of both sides developing "a broad-based relationship"



that was "clearly predicated on ensuring that peace and tranquillity were not disturbed" that ties, including trade, took off since the normalisation of relations in 1988.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Trade ties have boomed to record levels during the past year - a period which officials in New Delhi acknowledge has marked the lowest point since 1988, in the wake of the crisis along the Line of Actual Control which erupted last summer with China's unprecedented mobilisation of troops.

Figures released this month by China's Customs showed the two-way trade after nine months reached \$90.37 billion, up 49.3% year-on-year. India's imports from China reached \$68.4 billion, up 51.7%, a reminder of continuing dependencies on goods that India has imported in large quantities over the past two decades, such as electrical machinery and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), as well as the emergence of new imports such as medical supplies, which India has bought more from China than any other country during the pandemic, from ventilators to PPEs.

China's global exports of medicine and medical supplies were up 108% this year, and medical supplies appear to have become the latest

trade dependency. India also imports up to 70% of APIs from China, more than 90% of solar components and a large share of auto components as well.

If the trading relationship has appeared to remain largely immune to the border crisis, where relations have changed dramatically are on the investment front, with curbs on Chinese companies remaining, and in the telecom sector where Chinese firms have been kept out of 5G trials. The massive inflow of Chinese funds into the tech sector has also been stopped. Chinese private equity and venture capital investments fell below \$1 billion for the first time since 2017, according to industry research firm Venture Intelligence.

Hurdles to market access

Mr. Shringla said the size of the trade deficit, which is also set for a record this year, and "a number of market access impediments including a whole host of non-tariff barriers, for most of our agricultural products and the sectors we are competitive in, such as pharmaceuticals, IT/ITES, etc", have remained two important concerns.

He also noted India was looking to reduce those imbalances through initiatives such as the Production Linked Incentives (PLI) scheme aimed at "enhancing the resilience of India's manufacturing sector".

India's message to China has been that business cannot be used while peace on the border remains disturbed. Business has, however, boomed, with no signs of slowing down even as the border crisis shows no signs of easing.

Clashes at TLP's rally to Islamabad leave 7 dead

Cadres march unopposed on Saturday

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LAHORE

A radical Islamist party on Saturday said seven of its supporters have died in clashes with authorities in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore after two police officers were killed in the unrest.

Scores of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) supporters had gathered after Friday prayers to demand the release of their leader Saad Rizvi, who was arrested in April when the government outlawed the party in response to violent anti-France protests. They blocked roads and fired projectiles in deadly clashes with the police.

The number of protesters



TLP supporters marching towards Islamabad on Saturday. • AFP

swelled by thousands on Saturday evening as TLP supporters marched towards the capital Islamabad without facing any further resistance from police.

"Death toll of TLP supporters rose to seven after two more people succumbed to their injuries caused by police firing," the party tweeted on Saturday.

UN fears 'mass crimes' as troops assemble in Myanmar's north

Military and heavy weapons moved into the restive north

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

The UN said on Friday it feared an even greater human rights catastrophe in Myanmar amid reports of thousands of troops massing in the north of the Southeast Asian country, which has been in chaos since a February coup.

"We should all be prepared, as the people in this part of Myanmar are prepared, for even more mass atrocity crimes. I desperately hope that I am wrong," said UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar Tom Andrews.

More than 1,100 civilians have been killed in the country's bloody crackdown on dissent and more than 8,000 arrested since the coup, according to a local monitoring group.

Mr. Andrews, who was presenting the findings of an annual human rights report on Myanmar to the General Assembly, said that he had received information that tens of thousands of troops and heavy weapons were being moved into restive regions in the north and northwest.

The findings, he said, also indicated that the junta had engaged in probable crimes against humanity and war crimes.

"These tactics are ominously reminiscent of those employed by the military before its genocidal attacks against the Rohingya in Rakhine State in 2016 and 2017," Mr. Andrews said.

About 740,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar's Rakhine state in 2017 after security forces launched a clampdown that the UN has said may amount to genocide.

Mr. Andrews urged countries to deny Myanmar's military junta the money, weapons and legitimacy it desired, citing a prisoner release earlier in the week as evidence that pressure was working.

Riyadh targets zero emissions by 2060

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI

One of the world's largest oil producers, Saudi Arabia, announced on Saturday it aims to reach "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions by 2060, joining more than 100 countries in a global effort to try and curb man-made climate change.

Although Saudi Arabia will aim to reduce emissions within its own borders, there is no indication it will slow down investments in oil and gas.

Russia, China hold first joint patrol in western Pacific Ocean

Japan said 10 vessels sailed through the Tsugaru Strait

REUTERS
MOSCOW

Russian and Chinese warships held their first joint patrols in the Western part of the Pacific ocean on October 17-23, Russia's Defence Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

Moscow and Beijing, which staged naval cooperation drills in the Sea of Japan earlier in October, have cultivated closer military and diplomatic ties in recent

years at a time when their relations with the West have soured.

The naval manoeuvres have been closely watched by Japan, which said earlier this week that a group of 10 vessels from China and Russia sailed through the Tsugaru Strait separating Japan's main island and its northern island of Hokkaido.

"The group of ships passed through the Tsugaru Strait for the first time as

part of the patrol," Russia's Defence Ministry said in the statement. The strait is regarded as international waters.

"The tasks of the patrols were the demonstration of the Russian and Chinese state flags, maintaining of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and guardianship of the subjects of maritime economic activities of the two countries," the Ministry added.

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REF. No:9115/Proj.3/2021 Dated: 22.10.2021

TENDER NOTICE by way of OFF LINE / E-SUBMISSION from the Manufacturers / Suppliers for Supply, Erection and Commissioning of following item/ work for Madhavaram Milk colony of TCMPPF Ltd. and for Selected MPCs of various DCMPU Ltd., under NPDD Scheme for the year 2019-20, 2020-21 and Union own fund.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Pre-bid Meeting	Tender Submission	Technical Bid Opening
1	FTIR Technology Based Electronic Milk Analyzer with Adulteration Testing Equipment - 107 Nos. for Selected MPCs of various DCMPU Ltd.	10.11.2021 at 11.30 AM	30.11.2021 at 02.00 PM	30.11.2021 at 02.15 PM
2	3KL Bulk Milk Coolers with DG set, VFD and its accessories - 3 Nos. for Yellow DCMPU Ltd.			
3	HDPE High security plastic strip seal for Milk cans - 37433739 Nos. for various DCMPU Ltd.			
4	Adulteration Detection Kits-4,000 Nos. to the various MPCs of DCMPU Ltd.			
5	New passenger Lift provision for State central Laboratory at Madhavaram Milk colony.			

Tender Document sale between 28.10.2021 to 29.11.2021 from 11.00 A.M. to 3.00 P.M., cost - Rs.2,000.00 + 18% GST and Rs.100.00 extra by post. For downloading tender documents, EMD and other details, refer website www.tenders.ta.gov.in and www.aaavinmilk.com for off line / www.tenders.gov.in for e-submission. Tender documents can be downloaded at free of cost.

DIPR/3078/TENDER/2021 MANAGING DIRECTOR

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क्रमांक : अति/बी/अंके गंगा/21-22/12622-12640 दिनांक : 08.10.2021

ई-बोली सूचना संख्या अमुअ/बी/2021-22/148 से 158 तक

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल की ओर से निम्न इस्तेमालकर्ता द्वारा जन स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रिक विभाग एवं विभागों में सहाय श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नानुसार ई-बोली द्वारा बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली प्रपत्र वेबसाइट www.phedwater.rajjasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in एवं <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> प्रपत्र पर निम्नानुसार उपलब्ध है। इस निविदा सूचना संख्या 2021-22/148 से 158 में कुल 11 कार्य हैं, जिनकी कुल अनुमानित लागत रु. 4251.04 लाख है।

क्र. सं.	निविदा संख्या	ऑनलाईन बidding डायनलॉक खतम	ऑनलाईन बidding डायनलॉक खतम	ऑनलाईन बidding डायनलॉक खतम
1	148 से 158 तक/ 2021-22	दिनांक 12.10.2021 प्रातः 09.30 बजे से दिनांक 09.11.2021 सायं 18.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 12.10.2021 प्रातः 09.30 बजे से दिनांक 09.11.2021 सायं 18.00 बजे तक	10.11.2021 प्रातः 11.30

इन निविदाओं के पर्यवेक्षण पोर्टल पर यूजियन नम्बर क्रमांक: UBN NO. PHE2122WSOB08314, PHE2122WSOB08315, PHE2122WSOB08316, PHE2122WSOB08317, PHE2122WSOB08318, PHE2122WSOB08319, PHE2122WSOB08320, PHE2122WSOB08321, PHE2122WSOB08322, PHE2122WSOB08323, PHE2122WSOB08324

(अजय कुमार शर्मा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग क्षेत्र बीकानेर

DIPR/C/10676/21

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur
No.03/02/2021/Recruit/Reg/528 Date: 22/10/2021

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AIIMS, Raipur invites application in the prescribed format from Indian Nationals for the post of Senior Resident (Non-acad) [Total: 136 (UR-50, EWS-14, OBC-39, SC-21, ST-12)] including 05 posts for PWBD, under Govt. of India Residency Scheme for various departments in AIIMS, Raipur.

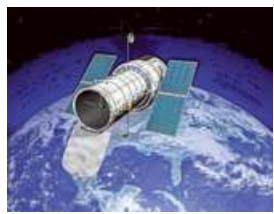
2. The pay scale is of Rs. 67,700/- (Level-11, Cell No. 01 As per 7th CPC) plus usual allowances including NPA (if applicable).

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4. For departments, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions, please visit the website. All the notification, amendment, corrigendum etc. related to this advertisement, if any, will be published only in the website. For updates please visit website regularly.

Director

SNAPSHOTS



Guide to 'hot Jupiters'

Hot Jupiters are gas giant planets closely bound to their stars. A paper published in *Nature Astronomy* can serve as a 'field guide' to hot Jupiters and also offer insights into planet formation. The researchers used the observations of the Hubble Space Telescope which allowed them to study the emission spectra of 19 such planets.



Life in ancient rubies

While leafing through the world's oldest, 2.5-billion-year-old deposits of ruby, in Greenland, University of Waterloo researchers found a sample containing graphite, a form of carbon. Analysis showed that this graphite contained the remains of ancient life, which the team deduced contained the remains of organisms such as cyanobacteria.



The ape trail

Human activity has stronger influence on abundance of apes than ecological factors, finds a study in *American Journal of Primatology*. Even if a suitable habitat, such as a tropical rainforest, was found near a human settlement, apes were not to be found there. The study also found only 10.7% of apes were found in highly protected areas.



Warming lakes

A study of 40 lakes in North America, 18 in Europe and two in Asia concluded that lakes in the Northern Hemisphere are warming six times faster in the years from 1992 to 2016 than any other period in the last 100 years. On average, the lakes were losing 17 days of ice cover per century, the York University study found.

More studies show the superiority of hybrid immunity

Differences between the memory B cells triggered by infection, vaccination might also underlie the heightened responses of hybrid immunity

R. PRASAD

Yet another study has shown that a combination of natural infection with a single dose of vaccine provides greater immunity than either natural infection without vaccination or full vaccination in infection-naïve individuals. People without prior infection but fully vaccinated with the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccine showed a decline in neutralising antibodies over a period of three to seven months. But the decline was much less in vaccinated people with prior infection.

Though 500 health-care workers with or without prior infection were vaccinated, those with hybrid immunity – natural immunity from an infection combined with the immunity provided by the vaccine – had a higher and more durable neutralising antibody response. The hybrid immunity offers stronger protection than just infection or full vaccination alone.

Neutralising antibodies
The study, posted in the preprint server *medRxiv* on October 19 (preprints are yet to be peer-reviewed), has found that in 500 health-care workers, the neutralising antibodies were twofold more in people immunised with Pfizer vaccine following natural infection compared with people immunised with Pfizer

vaccine but without prior infection.

In the case of people vaccinated with AstraZeneca following natural infection, the neutralising antibodies were threefold more than in vaccinated people with no prior infection.

Early evidence

One of the early evidences of hybrid immunity being better than full vaccination in people without a prior infection came in end-April. The results posted in preprint server *medRxiv* found that vaccination led to increased levels of neutralising antibodies against variants in people who had been previously infected compared with those without a prior infection.

An earlier study posted on August 25 in the preprint server *medRxiv* found that compared with vaccine-induced immunity from two doses of Pfizer vaccine, natural immunity conferred longer lasting and stronger protection against infection, symptomatic disease and hospitalisation caused by the Delta variant in Israel. But naturally infected individuals who were given a single dose of the vaccine showed additional protection against the Delta variant; the protection level conferred by hybrid immunity was even higher than the one offered by natural infection or full

Risky gamble | What is the best way to acquire immunity to SARS-CoV-2?

■ Hybrid immunity refers to a combination of natural infection with a single dose of vaccine

■ Several studies now show that hybrid immunity provides greater protection than natural infection without vaccination or full vaccination alone

■ Fully vaccinated people without prior infection showed a steeper decline in neutralising antibodies over a period of three to seven months than those with prior infection



■ A study published in *Science* observed that boosting of pre-existing immunity from prior

infection with vaccination mainly resulted in a transient benefit to antibody titers with little-to-no long-term increase in cellular immune memory

■ The immunological advantage from hybrid immunity arises mostly from memory B cells which evolve in the lymph nodes

■ The bulk of antibodies after infection or vaccination decline after a short while, however, the memory B cells get triggered on subsequent infection or vaccination

vaccination.

Soon after vaccines were rolled out, researchers began to notice higher levels of antibodies in people who were naturally infected prior to vaccination compared with vaccinated people without prior infection. In short, the hybrid immunity from natural infection followed by vaccination provided superior immunity than either natural infection alone or full vaccination.

Contrary point

However, a study published recently in the journal *Science* observed that "boosting of pre-existing immunity from prior infection with vaccination mainly resulted in a transient benefit

to antibody titers with little-to-no long-term increase in cellular immune memory".

There is a growing body of evidence that protection from natural immunity can be potent, and researchers are beginning to acknowledge this. However, scientific consensus about the exact strength or durability of the natural immunity post natural infection is not known. Also, the strength and durability of natural immunity might not be uniform and might vary between people depending on the nature and duration of infection (asymptomatic or symptomatic) and severity of disease (mild, moderate or severe).

"Antibody levels are really variable after recovering

from infections, and those at the lower end of the spectrum might be more susceptible to reinfections," Deeptha Bhattacharya, Professor of immunology at the University of Arizona told *NBC News*. "But after a single vaccine in people who have recovered from COVID-19, antibodies skyrocket up, including those that neutralize variants of concern."

Researchers at Rockefeller University in New York City looked at how different types of immunity would protect against potential variants. They modified the coronavirus spike protein such that it contained 20 naturally occurring mutations. In the lab, the modified spike protein was tested against antibodies

from people belonging to three groups – those who have been fully vaccinated without prior infection, people with prior infection but not vaccinated, and people with hybrid immunity. They found the modified spike proteins were able to evade the antibodies from the first two groups but not antibodies from people with hybrid immunity. The study is posted in the preprint server *BioRxiv*.

In August, CDC published a study in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) where they showed that unvaccinated people without previous infection are twice as likely to be reinfected compared with vaccinated people with a prior infection. This study prompted the CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky to urge all Americans to take a vaccine even if previously infected. "If you have had COVID-19 before, please still get vaccinated," she appealed.

Immunological edge

The immunological advantage from hybrid immunity arises mostly from memory B cells. While the bulk of antibodies after infection or vaccination decline after a short while, the memory B cells, which evolve in the lymph nodes, get triggered on subsequent infection or vaccination. So when people who recovered from CO-

VID-19 are re-exposed to the spike protein, the memory B cells are capable of churning out highly potent antibodies.

"Differences between the memory B cells triggered by infection and those triggered by vaccination – as well as the antibodies they make – might also underlie the heightened responses of hybrid immunity. Infection and vaccination expose the spike protein to the immune system in vastly different ways," Dr. Michel Nussenzweig, an immunologist at the Rockefeller University in New York City told *Nature*.

Dr. Nussenzweig's team isolated hundreds of memory B cells from people at various time points after infection and vaccination. They found that unlike after full vaccination, antibodies produced by natural infection continued to grow in potency and their breadth against variants for a year after infection. According to *Nature*, unlike after vaccination, the memory B cells formed after natural infection are more likely to make antibodies that block immune-evading variants.

But two studies have found that memory B cells in the fully vaccinated people without prior infection are growing in number and gaining mutations up to 12 weeks after the second dose, which allows the B cells to recognise and neutralise variants.

New light on how insulin signalling affects tissue health

Inputs from the fasted insulin levels created a memory that improved the fed insulin inputs, finds a study

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

In a study that examined the effect of insulin on liver cells taken from mice, researchers have uncovered how insulin amounts shape the flow of information through the signalling network. The study also provides insights into the degree to which major and minor components are important in keeping this signalling process intact. This knowledge can direct further studies to identify targets for therapy.

Larger role of insulin

Insulin is a hormone secreted by the beta cells of the pancreas. It is commonly associated with an ability to regulate glucose metabolism. However, later studies (from around 1949 until recently) have shown it plays a larger role and helps in growth and maintenance of tissues. Despite years of stu-



Larger role: Insulin, commonly associated with regulation of glucose metabolism, also plays a part in tissue growth and maintenance. • GETTY IMAGES

dy, fundamental details as to how differential amounts of insulin impact cells are unknown.

An important mechanism in the cell is insulin signalling, which is a series of biochemical reactions that convey information about availability of insulin and the

necessity to regulate the glucose in the blood. There are two main pathways for insulin signalling, named AKT and ERK, which together balance metabolism and growth. These specifically control storage of glucose in the liver and also stimulate glucose transport in skeletal

muscle and fat. Abnormalities in insulin signalling thus impact health and survival itself of organisms and the study addresses an important piece of the puzzle.

Study design

The study was done on liver cells isolated from mice. The experimental design mimicked both normal levels of insulin, as in a healthy individual, and abnormal levels of insulin that is associated with pathophysiology. "This was achieved by treating cells with (a) low fasted concentrations of insulin (b) high fed concentrations of insulin (c) very high hyperinsulinemic levels (d) pulsatile fasted insulin followed by fed insulin and (e) continuous or repeat exposure to fed insulin levels," says Namrata Shukla from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, the first author of a paper on this

work published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The study was a collaboration between TIFR Mumbai, TIFR Hyderabad and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

Ullas Kolthur-Seetharaman from TIFR (Mumbai and Hyderabad), who led the work, explains that previous studies employed different, often very high amounts of insulin to investigate changes in signalling.

While these have revealed the components, the network properties and robustness of signaling has not been assessed by varying insulin inputs.

"Our study employs multiple regimes of insulin, both normal and abnormal, which together have illustrated how changes in levels of insulin is able to shape the flow of information within cells," he says. The study found that the

inputs from the fasted insulin levels created a memory that improved the fed insulin inputs. "It also elucidates the detrimental impact of constant high insulin as in the case of uncontrolled feeding habits, without a fasting phase, and its effects on signaling molecules that govern tissue maintenance and growth," says Prof Kolthur-Seetharaman.

Future interventions

"Finally, it identifies potential novel regulatory components and parameters whose modulation could lead to better therapeutic interventions in the future to reduce tissue damage, beyond the usual impact on blood glucose," he adds.

Ranjith Padinhateeri and Shantanu Kadam from IIT Bombay collaborated with the TIFR group on the mathematical modelling or simulation part of the study.

Herd mentality in Jurassic dinosaur

REUTERS

Fossils unearthed in Argentina's southern Patagonia region is the oldest-known evidence that some dinosaurs thrived in a complex, well-organised herd structure, with adults caring for the young and sharing a communal nesting ground.

The fossils include more than 100 dinosaur eggs and the bones of about 80 juveniles and adults of a Jurassic Period plant-eating species called *Mussaurus patagonicus*. The animals experienced a mass-death event, probably caused by a drought, and their bodies were subsequently buried by wind-blown dust.

The animals were found to have been grouped by age at the time of their deaths.

This phenomenon, called "age segregation," signals a complex social structure.

Decision on booster doses must be evidence-based

India-based data are needed that reveal whether the vaccines continue to protect against hospitalisations and death

LANCLOT PINTO

The SARS-CoV-2 vaccination programme in India began on 16 January, this year. It has been close to eight months since the time individuals who were vaccinated early on received the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. This set includes healthcare and other frontline workers, followed by high-risk individuals, including the elderly. Countries such as the U.K., Israel, and the U.S. have started administering booster doses of vaccines, and this has led to the question of whether India should start considering booster doses as well.

Three criteria

For booster doses to be recommended as a policy decision, three criteria need to be met. First, it should be clear that the immunity offered by a vaccine wanes with time, and this results in an increase in the probability of breakthrough infections. Second, for a disease that runs a mild course in a majority of individuals, it should be evident that the lowered efficacy of vaccines with the passage of time is true not only for infection, but also for moderate-to-sev-

ere disease necessitating hospitalisation and/or causing death. Third, it is important to prove that the administration of a booster dose reduces the probability of such severe disease, thereby saving lives and reducing the burden on healthcare.

Studies from Israel and the U.S. suggested that the incidence of breakthrough infections increased progressively with the passage of time from the second dose of mRNA vaccines. The study from Israel found this to be true for severe infections as well, with the finding that individuals above the age of 60 were especially vulnerable. A report which analysed the effectiveness of the AstraZeneca Vaxzevria vaccine (which goes by the name of Covishield in India) by Public Health England, found an increased incidence of breakthrough infections after 20 weeks post-vaccination. The effectiveness against hospitalisation and death, though lower, was largely preserved, suggesting that the vaccine continued to be protective against these outcomes. Similar to the mRNA vaccine results, a greater waning of immunity was observed among individuals who were above the age of 65 years and

among individuals with underlying medical conditions. While the loss of effectiveness of vaccines against hospitalisations and death are not universally convincing, the data in favour of that being the case for the immunocompromised and the elderly seem consistent.

What is lacking is a biomarker of either cellular and/or antibody mediated immunity which correlates with protection, especially as the former may have an important role to play in long-term protection.

Protective doses

Will the addition of a booster protect against such breakthrough infections, including those that are severe? The results of a study from Israel, although debated for its methodology, seem to suggest that boosters are protective, when given at least 5 months after the initial 2 doses. Whether the same holds true for non-mRNA vaccines is not known. Data from the COV-BOOST trial suggested that an mRNA vaccine resulted in a stronger booster effect no matter what the primary vaccine was, and this was used to guide the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recom-



Two sides: The biggest argument against booster doses is that of vaccine equity, since even a single dose of a vaccine protects against hospitalisation and death. • GETTY IMAGES

mendations in the U.K.. If India decides to recommend boosters, this data needs to be considered to decide the choice of booster recommended.

The biggest argument against booster doses is that of vaccine equity. It is a known fact that even a single dose of a vaccine protects against hospitalisation and death. In a world in which vaccine shortages have resulted in so many people being left unvaccinated, is it fair to deprive some of protection against hospitalisation and death, while protecting others from an infection that is likely to be mild?

Difficult questions

Even within a country, there are a few difficult questions to be answered. When a

common vaccine is used for all age groups, should the first dose of the vaccine for a 15-year old be prioritised over a booster dose for a 65-year old? Or should we prioritize arresting transmission by targeting universal vaccination, as transmission has the potential of selecting newer variants? Should we wait for such newer variants and target specific boosters against them, as is the strategy for an influenza vaccine? Should preventing infections, even mild, among healthcare workers be a priority, considering that they are in close contact with immunosuppressed individuals on a daily basis?

We need data from India to know whether both the available vaccines continue to protect against hospitalisa-

tions and death, and whether this is true across all risk groups. In the absence of such data, the extrapolation from studies across the world would suggest that those with immunosuppressive conditions and the elderly might benefit from a booster dose, as has been suggested by the World Health Organization. For the other trade-offs, models that simulate transmission across groups (for example, in schools), hospitalisation rates with varying losses of vaccine effectiveness, and the likely protective effects of boosters in altering such burdens on the healthcare system will be useful to make informed decisions.

Duncan McLaren once stated that "Famine is not caused by a shortage of food; it is caused by a shortage of justice". Similarly, while many parts of the world wait with eager anticipation for individuals to receive their first dose, it is key that if we recommend booster doses of vaccines, we do it in a way that is just and based on sound scientific principles.

(Lancet Pinto is a consultant respirologist at P.D. Hinduja National Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Mumbai.)



Question Corner

Impact of asteroids and comets

Was the evolution of the Earth's atmosphere affected by asteroid, comet strikes?

Between 2.5 and 4 billion years ago it was not uncommon for asteroids or comets to hit the Earth. In fact, the largest ones, more than 9 kilometres wide, altered the chemistry of the planet's earliest atmosphere.

Now, a study by U.S. researchers analysed remnants of ancient asteroids and modelled the effects of their collisions to show that the strikes took place more often than previously thought. These strikes may have delayed when oxygen started accumulating on Earth, says a Harvard University press release. The new models can help scientists understand more precisely when the planet started its path

toward becoming the Earth we know today.

The researchers found existing planetary bombardment models underestimate how frequently asteroids and comets would hit Earth. The new, higher collision rate suggests impactors hit the planet roughly every 15 million years, about 10 times higher than current models.

The scientists realised this after analysing records of what appear to be ordinary bits of rock. They are actually ancient evidence, known as impact spherules, that formed in the fiery collisions each time large asteroids or comets struck the planet.

Researchers modelled how all these impacts would have influenced the atmosphere. They essentially found that the accumulated effects of meteorite impacts by objects larger than 9 kilometres probably created an oxygen sink that sucked most of the oxygen out of the atmosphere.

The findings align with the geological record and the Great Oxidation Event.

Readers may send their questions to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in



A step closer: The final approval for Covaxin for children aged 2-18 is under expert opinion and evaluation. •AP

Vaccines for children

Will the 2-18 age group in India get jabs for COVID-19 soon? What will the final approval depend on?

RAMYA KANNAN

The story so far: The Subject Expert Committee, which is advising the Drugs Controller-General of India (DCGI), has recommended that it grant emergency use authorisation (EUA) for Covaxin among children aged 2-18. The final approval for the vaccine for children aged 2-18 is under expert opinion and evaluation. The DCGI will hold discussions with the Health Minister, the Prime Minister's Office, and Bharat Biotech before granting EUA to Covaxin, according to reports. Earlier, the DCGI had granted EUA for Zydus Cadila vaccine candidate ZyCoV-D for use in children.

Is Covaxin for children different than the dose for adults?

■ The Covaxin that will be rolled out for children in India is of the same product and presentation as the adult vaccine, according to sources in the company that makes the vaccine, the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech. The company got the green light to conduct trials among children in May. Subsequently, they tested the adult version of Covaxin on 525 children, in two doses 28 days apart. Interim data from the trials, submitted by October, suggested that safety and immunogenicity were studied, and it was found to be safe among children. A longer follow-up will also be done among study participants. Data from Covaxin is not available publicly.

Is there a need for a separate vaccine for children?

■ Children, experts argue, need their own regimen of care and treatment including vaccinations. While most vaccines cater to children, it is also necessary to calibrate vaccines for specific use in children when they have first been developed for the adult population, as in the case of COVID-19. It is not simply a case of sizing down an adult dosage for children, experts argue. Working on vaccine or drug regimens with children is very

Experts say it is necessary to calibrate vaccines for specific use in children when they have first been developed for the adult population as in the case of COVID-19

challenging. Children have distinct developmental and physiological differences from adults, and as they grow, they tend to have changing needs. The World Health Organization (WHO), therefore, recommends that clinical trials in children are necessary to develop age-specific, empirically verified

therapies, and interventions to determine the best possible treatments for them. Dr. Moshe Ardit, academic director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases Allergy and Immunology at Cedars-Sinai, says on the Cedars Sinai website: "Their bodies work differently, and they undergo changes as they grow from infancy toward adolescence and adulthood."

He further explains that as children grow and change, their immune systems do, too. A 6-year-old is not the same as a 16-year-old. To account for these differences, researchers do "age de-escalation" studies with participants placed in different groups. For example, 6-to-12-year-olds, 2-to-6-year-olds and 6-months-to-2-year-olds. Doses start at the lowest safest level and researchers increase them in different groups to determine whether a larger dose is more effective or whether a lower dose provides a complete response. "It's a bit like the Goldilocks effect."

Do children need COVID-19 vaccination?

■ Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, commenting on the value of COVID-19 vaccines for children, says that considering that children under the age of 18 form a large proportion of the population (32% globally), ensuring protection for them is a move towards pandemic control. Protection is urgently needed when the disease risk is high, it says. However, for children, it adds, there is a relatively low risk of disease. Although they account for one in nine SARS-CoV-2 infections, they constitute only 2% of all hospitalisations. Most infections in children are mild and they recover fully. Serious illness is rare, but well-described; this includes the inflammatory and potentially deadly condition, Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children.

Recently, speaking at a seminar, Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, WHO, said, "Children have the same percentage of antibody exposure that adults have. We had shut schools saying children should not be exposed to the virus, but there has been community exposure since they have been doing other activities. Children have been going to malls, they have been playing outside, and are around their family." However, making a case for reopening schools is vastly different from children getting a COVID-19 vaccine, while one discusses the continuation of life as it is lived, the other is a deeply ethical question. The Gavi paper says evoking the ethical principle of distributive justice that the benefits and burdens should be distributed among society's members in a just manner makes the case that children should be included in COVID-19 vaccine trials.

What is next?

■ The DCGI will have to approve the vaccine before it can be administered to children and decide whether the safety and immunogenicity data among the 500-odd cohort suffices for EUA.

What is 'conscious possession' of drugs?

How does the NDPS Act treat drug offences? Is punishment proportionate to quantity?

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The story so far: On Wednesday, a special court in Mumbai denied bail to Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan, though the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) did not find any drugs on him during his arrest on October 3 after a raid on a cruise ship off Mumbai. The arrest of Aryan, along with several others, has highlighted the stiff nature of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and the nuances that go into the detection and seizure of narcotics, and how the matter is investigated and prosecuted.

Why was Aryan Khan denied bail?

■ The court rejected his bail application on the ground that he had "conscious possession" of drugs. He has been accused under the same Sections of the NDPS Act as his friend Arbaaz Merchant and model Mumun Dhamecha, on whom six grams and five grams of hashish, respectively, were allegedly found. The court presumed that Aryan had "intention, motive, knowledge" of the contraband said to be found on Merchant and Dhamecha. This means the onus is now on him to prove otherwise. Besides "conscious possession", the 23-year-old is accused of consumption, attempt to commit offences under the Act, abetment/conspiracy and offences under Section 8(c).

What does the law say?

■ Section 35 of the Act recognises the 'presumption of culpable mental state'. Possession need not be physical and could be 'constructive'. The Supreme Court defines the word 'conscious' as "awareness of a particular fact" — a state of mind which is deliberate or intended. That is, a person can still have power and control over the article in question, while another to whom physical possession is given holds it, subject to that power or control. An illustration of "conscious possession" is if a person keeps his gun in his mother's flat, which is safer than his own home, he must be considered to be in possession of the firearm. The liability is on the accused to dispel the court's presumption of his culpable mental state. Section 54 also allows for a similar presumption in the possession of illicit articles.



Tough net: The arrest of Aryan Khan highlights the stiff nature of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. •PTI

What quantity of drugs will attract penal provisions?

■ The NDPS Act treats drug offences very seriously and penalties are stiff. Penalties depend on the quantity of drugs involved. The Centre has notified the small and commercial quantities for each drug. For hashish, the commercial quantity is 1 kg. A small quantity of cocaine is two grams and commercial quantity is 100 grams; heroin is five grams and 250 grams respectively. For methamphetamine, the corresponding figures are two grams and 50 grams; and for MDMA, 0.5 gram and 10 grams. Abetment and criminal conspiracy and even an attempt to commit an offence under the Act attracts the same punishment as the offence itself. Preparation to commit an offence attracts half the penalty. Repeat offences attract one-and-a-half times the penalty and in some cases even the death penalty. Consumption of drugs like cocaine, morphine and heroin attracts rigorous imprisonment up to one year or a fine up to ₹20,000 or both. For other drugs, the punishment is imprisonment up to six months or a fine up to ₹10,000 or both. Addicts volunteering for treatment enjoy immunity from prosecution. Production, manufacture, possession, sale, purchase, transport, import inter-State, export inter-State or use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in small quantities involve rigorous imprisonment up to six months or a fine up to ₹10,000 or both. More than small quantity but less than commercial quantity involves rigorous imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine up to ₹1 lakh. Those activities involving commercial quantity of

drugs attract rigorous imprisonment of 10-20 years and a fine of ₹1 lakh-₹2 lakh.

What is the Centre's role in implementing this law?

■ This law has "stringent" provisions for the control and regulation of operations relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. These include forfeiture of property derived from, or used in, illicit traffic. The law has been made in adherence to international conventions, including those of the United Nations, on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Human rights advocates have criticised the NDPS Act as a severe law which leans towards incarceration rather than bail. Section 37(1) mandates that an accused person should not be granted bail unless the court has reasonable grounds to believe that he is not guilty and that he is not "likely to commit any offence while on bail". The provision is on the same terms as anti-terror laws.

What is the NCB's role?

■ One of the Directive Principles in the Constitution (Article 47) directs the state to act against narcotic activities injurious to health. The NDPS Act mandates the formation of a central authority to exercise its powers and functions under the statute. The government constituted the NCB on March 17, 1986, to coordinate with other departments and ministries to fight illicit traffic in drugs and drug abuse.

Why is India facing bouts of extreme weather?

Did Kerala and Uttarakhand receive incessant rain in October due to climate change?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: Even as the southwest monsoon began to retreat from the subcontinent, Kerala and Uttarakhand received record rainfall in October. In both these States and others, over the last few years, there have been variations in the pattern and intensity of rainfall. Kerala had seen a severe spell in 2018, which caused havoc. This year's rain, too, claimed lives in Kerala and Uttarakhand.

What is the quantity of rainfall?

■ According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Kerala and Mahe region received 124% excess rainfall from October 14 to October 20. Against the normal 72.1 mm rainfall for the period, the region had received 161.2 mm. Lakshadweep received 15% excess rainfall. From October 1 to October 22, Kerala recorded 121% excess rainfall, with all districts, except Alappuzha, recording above 70% excess rainfall. Alappuzha recorded 52% excess for the period. The latest fortnightly forecast from the agency says "above normal" rainfall is expected over the next fortnight. Uttarakhand recorded 192.6 mm against the usual 35.3 mm from October 1 to October 20, with several districts reporting 24-hour highs that exceeded the figures from over a century.

What explains the torrential rain?

■ There are different factors at play in Kerala and Uttarakhand. There have been two rain-bearing 'low pressure systems' that are active in the Arabian Sea as well as the Bay of Bengal since the past week. The low pressure system in the



Filling up fast: The Cheruthoni Dam in Idukki started discharging water on October 19 after torrential rain. •AFP

Arabian Sea contributed to the heavy rain in Kerala, whereas western disturbances, which are periodic influxes of moisture-laden winds from the Mediterranean, and common during winter, are what caused the rain in northern India. The Bay of Bengal is still warm and strong winds from there are reaching as far as Uttarakhand and will contribute to rainfall in several parts of north-eastern India.

October is the month when the southwest monsoon entirely retreats from India and the northeast monsoon sets in, bringing rain over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Both low pressures as well as western disturbances are tangentially connected to the larger pattern of global warming. The Bay of Bengal is historically the warmer ocean that seeds low pressures and cyclones that bring rain to India. In recent years however, the Arabian Sea, too, has been warmer than normal, and leading to significant cyclonic activity. Overall elevated temperatures are also contributing to warmer waters in the Arctic Ocean and drawing colder air from the poles with greater intensity. This added to the increased moisture, thereby seeding more intense western disturbance

activity over north India.

Is the delayed monsoon withdrawal responsible?

■ This year, the monsoon began its retreat on October 6 and though it was expected to fully retreat by October 16, it is yet to completely withdraw, with the associated clouds still lingering on. The IMD's latest assessment is that the monsoon will completely withdraw by October 26 and that will also herald the beginning of the northeast monsoon. When the atmosphere and the ocean is considered as a whole, rain everywhere is the result of moisture rushing up to fill differences in temperature between oceans and the land and while there is a broad agreement that warming oceans are contributing to intense spells of rainfall in pockets followed by long rainless spells, specific instances — such as what is being seen in Kerala and Uttarakhand — aren't unprecedented. The monsoon cycle is prone to large variations, and every year regional factors get accentuated — it's hard to predict which in advance — that then lead to extreme climate events.

What are the factors responsible for the disasters?

■ This year, India was poised to receive below normal rainfall until August when global meteorological factors changed and caused a torrential September that largely repaired the monsoon deficit. However, the vagaries in climate reveal their impact in the damage that they cause and the latter is due to society's environmental choices. Kerala and Uttarakhand have large tracts of hilly terrain that are prone to landslides. But construction has continued unabated even on land unsuited for human habitation. Several ecologists and environmentalists have for years warned of the consequences of unplanned development and, in the context of an increasingly erratic climate, it is only logical that more inhabitants of these regions will be exposed to greater climate risk.

Is genetically modified rice grown in India?

What is the controversy around export of the grain and will it impact farmers?

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

The story so far: A French manufacturer of rice flour claimed it had found unauthorised genetically modified rice in a consignment of 500 tonnes of broken rice imported from India this June. Since the European Union does not permit any use of GM rice, manufacturers of confectionery items and baked goods which had used the rice flour were then forced to carry out a mass recall of products. After a complaint letter from farm and environmental groups earlier this week, Indian authorities said they were investigating the allegations, but added that any contamination was unlikely as India does not allow commercial cultivation of GM rice either.

What is GM rice?

■ GM foods are derived from plants whose genes are artificially modified, usually by inserting genetic material from another organism, in order to give it a new property, such as increased yield, tolerance to a herbicide, resistance to disease or drought, or to improve its nutritional value. Probably the best known variety of GM rice is golden rice, which involves the insertion of genes from a plant — both daffodils and maize have been used — and a soil bacterium to create a grain that is enriched with Vitamin A. India has approved commercial cultivation of only one GM crop, Bt cotton. No GM food crop has ever been approved for commercial cultivation. However, confined field trials have been allowed for at least 20 GM crops. That includes varieties of GM rice

which would have improved resistance to insects and diseases, as well as hybrid seed production and nutritional enhancements such as golden rice. Trials have been carried out by public universities and research institutions such as the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, as well as private firms such as Bayer Bioscience and Mahyco.

Was GM rice exported from India?

■ The Commerce Ministry has said that as commercial cultivation of GM rice is banned, "there is no question of export of GM rice from India". It said the EU was not sure of the exact source of contaminant, adding that contamination could have occurred during the processing of the rice flour in Europe. Despite the outrage, it initiated an investigation by APEDA (Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) which identified a Maharashtra-based trader as the source of the rice consignment, which had been given a non-GMO certification by a testing agency just before shipping. It also demanded that the EU provide details of specific genetic markers

in the consignment. Farm and environmental activists allege that plants or seeds from the GM rice field trials could have contaminated non-GM crops, noting that illegal varieties of GM cotton and brinjal are freely circulating among sections of Indian farmers.

What are the implications for Indian farmers?

India is the world's top rice exporter, earning ₹65,000 crore last year by selling 18 million tonnes of grain, about a quarter of which is premium basmati. Among the 75 countries which buy Indian rice, West Asian nations, the U.S. and the U.K. are the biggest importers of basmati, while the majority of non-basmati rice goes to African countries and Nepal and Bangladesh. For Indian farmers, the nightmare scenario could be what happened in the U.S. in 2006, when trace amounts of a GM rice variety being tested by Bayer were found in shipments ready for exports. Trading partners such as Japan, Russia and the EU suspended rice imports from the U.S., hitting farmers hard and forcing Bayer to pay \$750 million in damages. Under pressure from the rice export lobby at the time, India drafted policies to ban GM rice trials in the basmati belt.

What lies ahead?

■ In the face of new advances in rice research, scientists and farmers say the regulatory regime needs to be strengthened for the sake of domestic and export consumers.

WESTERN GHATS

Restless mountains,
shattered lives

Flash floods and back-to-back landslips in Kerala bring into focus, once again, the fragile ecosystem of the mountain chain that runs almost parallel to India's western coast

G. KRISHNAKUMAR

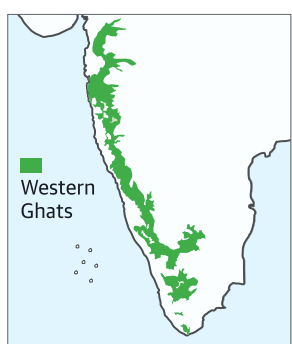
In his preface to the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report submitted in 2011, ecologist and panel chairman Madhav Gadgil points to the degradation suffered by Kalidasa's "charming maiden" thus: "Once the lady was adorned by a sari of rich green hues; today her mantle lies in shreds and tatters. It has been torn asunder by the greed of the elite and gnawed at by the poor, striving to eke out a subsistence. This is a great tragedy, for this hill range is the backbone of the ecology and economy of south India".

Nearly a decade later, the reverberations of Mr. Gadgil's warnings resonated in the minds of many following the tragic loss of over 40 lives in flash floods and landslips in the aftermath of heavy rains in the hilly regions of the Western Ghats in central Kerala districts of Kottayam, Idukki and Pathanamthitta between October 12 and 20. In recent years, Kerala, known for its peaks and rich water bodies, most of which originate from the Ghats, has seen back-to-back calamities, including the disastrous 2018 floods, which raised serious questions on the conservation of the mountain chain.

Recognised as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, the Western Ghats region runs to a length of 1,600 km starting from the mouth of the river Tapi near the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra to Kanniyakumari, the southernmost tip of India in Tamil Nadu. It stretches over the six States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala,

Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The Ghats are second only to the Eastern Himalaya as a treasure trove of biological diversity in the country.

The 39 serial sites of the Western Ghats were inscribed into UNESCO's World Heritage Site list in 2012 for its "outstanding universal value and for representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems, and communities of plants and animals". They



ed management efforts to ensure that not only are existing values conserved, but that some past damage may be remediated".

The WGEEP report, popular as Gadgil report, had designated the entire hill range as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA). It had classified the 142 taluks in the Western Ghats boundary into three Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs). The panel, which was appointed in 2010 by the then UPA government, recommended that "no new dams based on large-scale storage be permitted in the Ecologically Sensitive Zone 1". It suggested that development activity needs to be decided through a participatory process involving the gram sabhas in these zones. The report had never seen the light until the Delhi High Court issued an order in May, 2012 to make it public. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had opposed disclosure of the report stating that it could affect the economic and scientific interests of the six States. The successive State governments opposed it stating that most of its suggestions were impractical.

The Centre appointed a high-level working group on Western Ghats led by K. Kasturirangan, a noted space scientist, in August, 2012 to examine the Gadgil report. Its mandate was to give special attention to "the preservation of the precious biodiversity" and "the rights, needs and development aspirations of the local and indigenous people". However, the committee's report in April 2013 identified only 37% or 59,940 sq. km of the

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Western Ghats in the six States as ESAs. Around 4,156 villages along the region were identified as ESAs on the basis of the criterion that "they had 20% or more of ecologically sensitive area within their boundary".

Nearly 123 such villages were identified as ESAs in Kerala, provoking political and religious protests. It snowballed into a political conflict between the then ruling United Democratic Front and the Left front and even influenced the 2014 Idukki Lok Sabha election outcome, with the victory of the Left front's independent candidate backed by the High Range Samrakshana Samithi (Protection Council), a collective of various groups under the Catholic Church. The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Sangh Parivar organisations, which had initially supported the Gadgil report, later turned silent.

The then Congress-led government decided that an area of 9,993.7 sq. km be considered ESAs in Kerala as against the 13,108 sq. km area proposed by the Kasturirangan Committee. It was based

on a recommendation by the State-level expert committee led by Oommen V. Oommen, the then chairman of the Kerala Biodiversity Board, which recommended that the uninhabited areas, plantations and agricultural lands in the Western Ghats region be excluded from the scope of ESA.

The Union Environment Ministry issued a draft notification in March 2014 by notifying a total of 56,825 sq. km in the Western Ghats as ESA instead of the original 59,940 sq. km recommended by the Kasturirangan Committee. The final notification remains pending despite a directive by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal in September last that there is no justification for continued delay merely because the States have sought exclusion of area from eco sensitive zone. Farmers had approached the Supreme Court to declare the Centre's draft notification as "unconstitutional" while saying that the recommendations based on Kasturirangan report (and earlier Gadgil report) on land use,

farming practices, animal husbandry, forestry, industries, infrastructure development, power generation, transport, tourism, etc. would convert the semi-urban villages in the region into forests with no facilities and roads.

Natural disasters

About 40% of Western Ghats ranges lie in Kerala, which makes the State particularly vulnerable to the ecological changes in the mountain chain. Environmentalists argue that the flash floods and landslips point to the fragile ecosystem of the Ghats and call for urgent action. Take the case of the October landslips in Kerala. Kootickal village in Kottayam, which was among the four local bodies in the State that were removed by the State government in 2015 from the list of 123 ESAs witnessed back-to-back landslips. The increasing extreme climate events have resulted in large-scale disasters and destabilised the already vulnerable districts along the Western Ghats.

The World Meteorological

Organisation had included the August deluge that rocked Kerala in 2018 as among the five major extreme flooding events in the world between 2015 and 2019. Official estimates showed that there were a total of 2,062 landslips in the State in 2018-19. Idukki was the most vulnerable with the district facing around 1,048 landslips in this period. As Mr. Gadgil reiterated, the human interference and unscientific land use had worsened the already damaged ecosystem of the Western Ghats.

The studies by the Geological Survey of India in the landslide vulnerable areas in the hilly districts of Kerala had found faulty cultivation patterns and defective maintenance of drainage systems. Geoscientists have advocated the need for exempting areas of very high susceptibility in the Western Ghats from any types of constructions while urging the government and the local communities to increase the vegetative cover as a first defence against the landslide vulnerability.

In Focus

Recognised as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, the Western Ghats region runs to a length of 1,600 km, starting from the mouth of the river Tapi near the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra to Kanniyakumari

It's home to hundreds of globally threatened flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species

The Gadgil report has designated the entire hill range as an Ecologically Sensitive Area and has classified the villages along the Ghats into three Ecologically Sensitive Zones

TRUTH SOCIAL

The Trump network

Former President, banned from Twitter and FB, is launching a new platform

SRIRAM SRINIVASAN

Last December, with just about a month to go for Donald Trump's presidential stint to end, CNN highlighted a much-debated aspect of his presidency with data points. It said, Mr. Trump "has tweeted more than 25,000 times — an average of 18 times per day — since taking office in January 2017." It added: "His longest break from Twitter was just 1.9 days without tweeting in June 2017, when former FBI Director James Comey was testifying before the Senate Intelligence Committee during the Russia investigation."

Mr. Trump, who as President controversially used Twitter to make big policy announcements and take on his opponents, had an abrupt end to his social media innings just a few weeks later. Major social media platforms banned him permanently for his posts during the January 6 violence in Capitol Hill.

New innings

Now, after nearly 10 months of relative silence, Mr. Trump is all set to begin his social media innings afresh. His vehicle of re-entry will be called TRUTH Social, a product from his own Trump Media & Technology Group (the group is merging with the listed Digital World Acquisition Corp). In a press release, Mr. Trump has been quoted as saying, "We live in a world where the Taliban has a huge presence on



Twitter, yet your favorite American President has been silenced. This is unacceptable."

A few months ago, Mr. Trump filed lawsuits against Twitter, Facebook, Google, and their CEOs, for violating the right of freedom of speech.

His site elaborates on the vision: "In the year 2021, the media pendulum has swung dangerously to the left. Silicon Valley, the mainstream media, and Big Tech have begun to forcibly silence voices that do not align with their woke ideology."

TRUTH Social has been presented as a counter to this. It comes with a promise of no discrimination based on political ideology. But what has quickly caught the attention of media outlets is a "Terms of Service" clause that says users shall not "disparage, tarnish, or otherwise harm, in our opinion, us and/or the Site", which they say is a first for any social media platform. A

beta launch of TRUTH Social for invited guests will happen next month. And a U.S. national roll-out is slated for the first quarter of 2022. Posts will be called Truths, and "excessive use of capital letters" won't be allowed.

From a business point of view, the stated idea is to tap the vast following that Mr. Trump has. When he was offloaded from Twitter, Mr. Trump had over 88 million followers in the platform. His stint as President has also been characterised as a period of 'Trump Bump', which created intense news cycles and largely benefited news outlets and social media platforms. A cartoon that epitomised his fascination for tweeting pictures has 'tweeter' button alongside the 'nuke' button.

Long accused of making unsubstantiated comments on social media platforms, Mr. Trump saw the rules catch up with him only at the fag end of his presidency

though some interventions such as 'fact check' labels did come along in between. The tipping point was the violence in Capitol Hill in which five lives were lost. Mr. Trump's posts, which repeatedly asserted that the 2020 elections, in which he lost to Joe Biden, was stolen, was seen fuelling the protests. He has been banned from many social media networks ever since.

Alternative platforms

Toward the end of his presidency, though, the growing tensions between him and the big social platforms put the spotlight on alternative platforms that attracted conservative users. Alternatives like Parler and Gab did emerge but they have faced troubles due to lax moderation.

TRUTH Social has quickly triggered a slew of news items about itself, not just about it coming into being. AFP reported that the value of shares of Digital World Acquisition Corp, which is merging with Trump Media & Technology Group, has risen more than nine times in two days. There is also an accusation by the Software Freedom Conservancy, which has said that Mr. Trump's new network has violated a licence agreement. Not just that. A test version of the site was defaced.

More than just being another social media network, it might be the vehicle that keeps Mr. Trump politically relevant.

OSMAN KAVALA

From philanthropy to prison

The imprisonment of the activist has triggered a diplomatic row in Turkey

G. SAMPATH

Turkey on Tuesday expelled the Ambassadors of 10 countries to protest their joint statement demanding the release of Osman Kavala, a 64-year-old businessman and philanthropist who has been in jail since October 2017. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan described the statement of the diplomats — representing the U.S., Germany, France, the Netherlands, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and New Zealand — as "irresponsible".

Mr. Kavala's incarceration has become an international symbol of the autocratic turn taken by the Erdogan regime as well as of the democratic resistance to it. Interestingly, although Mr. Kavala was into philanthropy, he never set out to be a dissident or activist. Born in 1957 to a family of tobacco traders, he was heir to the Kavala group of companies, which he took over after his father's death.

Starting from the early 1980s, when he helped set up progressive publishing houses, Mr. Kavala went on to fund civil society groups that promoted grassroots democracy and pluralism. In 2002, he founded Anadolu Kultur, which supported radical artistic and cultural projects.

A story narrated by a former *New York Times* journalist Stephen Kinzer reflects how Mr. Kavala is unlike the typical



ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

philanthropist in his readiness to stand by the values espoused by his altruism even when they clashed with his business interests. Some years ago, Kavala Holdings wanted to build a beachfront hotel in the town of Daylan. But environmentalists protested, arguing that the construction would harm the turtles that nested on the beach. To everyone's surprise, Mr. Kavala came down and met with the protesters. After listening to their concerns, he tried to change the design of the hotel, and when that did not work out, he simply shut down the project.

Coups attempt

Above all, it is Mr. Kavala's promotion of initiatives to bridge the divide between the Turkish/Muslim majority and non-Turkish/non-Muslim minorities, including Armenians and Kurds, which seem to have landed him in trouble. This denotes a direct challenge to the eth-

no-nationalism of the Erdogan regime, which has shown little tolerance for dissenters, especially after the unsuccessful coup attempt of 2016.

Mr. Erdogan reacted to the coup attempt with a massive crackdown. All government institutions, including the Army, academia and the judiciary, were purged of anyone suspected to be disloyal to Mr. Erdogan. The Turkish government accused the Gulen Movement of orchestrating the coup. It was branded a terrorist organisation and thousands of citizens with links to it were arrested. Mr. Kavala was left untouched by this mass purge of 'Gulenists', which began in July 2016.

But on October 18, 2017, Turkish police picked him up for questioning. Subsequently, he was charged with attempting to overthrow the constitutional order and the government, apparently by helping to

organise two very different events: the 'Gezi Park' protests against Mr. Erdogan in the summer of 2013, and the 2016 military coup.

Mr. Kavala's lawyers have argued that both these charges were ludicrous. Firstly, no one had linked Mr. Kavala to the Gezi park protests in the course of the four years that separated the event from his detention. Second, it was absurd that Mr. Kavala, a known secularist and liberal, would collaborate with a conservative Islamic community such as the Gulen Movement. The Turkish Supreme Court agreed that the charges were baseless and acquitted Mr. Kavala in February 2020. But he was re-arrested on fresh charges before he could leave jail.

In all, Mr. Kavala has spent more than four years in prison without ever being convicted. Not only has Turkey's judicial system been a mute spectator, it has become a tool to keep dissenters in jail on politically motivated charges. In an order that was as much an indictment of the Turkish judiciary as it was an exoneration of Mr. Kavala, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ordered his release in December 2019.

Turkey is bound by the rulings of the ECHR but has so far failed to comply. The diplomats' letter and Mr. Erdogan's churlish reaction to it are the latest episode in the conflict between the two sides on the issue of human rights.

ICICI Bank Q2 net climbs 30%, NII rises

Net interest income jumps 25% helping lift profit to ₹5,511 crore; bad loans decline sequentially

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

ICICI Bank Ltd. on Saturday reported second-quarter standalone net profit grew 30% to ₹5,511 crore, helped by a 25% year-on-year increase in net interest income (NII) to ₹11,690 crore.

The net interest margin improved to 4%, from 3.57% in the year-earlier quarter.

Total deposits grew by 17% in the quarter to ₹9,77,449 crore and the domestic loan portfolio expanded by 19%.

"We are optimistic about the growth of the Indian economy and we see many opportunities to grow our core operating profit in a risk-calibrated manner," said executive director Sandeep Batra.

"We believe that our ongoing investments in technology, people and distribution network, our prudent risk



Good show: The lender's retail loan portfolio grew by 20% year-on-year and 5% sequentially. *REUTERS

management practices and our strong balance sheet will enable us to drive growth" in core operating profit, Mr. Batra added.

He said the bank's Net NPA ratio declined from 1.16% on June 30, to 0.99% as of September 30, the lowest

level it has been since December 31, 2014.

Provisions (excluding provision for tax) slid by 9% to ₹2,714 crore, from ₹2,995 crore a year earlier.

The retail loan portfolio grew by 20% year-on-year and 5% sequentially and

comprised 62.1% of the total loan portfolio as at September 30. The business banking portfolio grew by 43% year-on-year and 12% sequentially.

Net NPAs decline

Net non-performing assets declined by 12% sequentially to ₹8,161 crore, from ₹9,306 crore as on June 30.

The net addition to gross NPAs declined to ₹96 crore during the quarter, from ₹3,604 crore in the April-June period.

The gross NPA additions declined to ₹5,578 crore, from ₹7,231 crore in the preceding three months.

Recoveries and upgrades of NPAs, excluding write-offs and sale, increased to ₹5,482 crore, from ₹3,627 crore in the first quarter.

The gross NPAs written off

were ₹1,717 crore. Excluding NPAs, the total fund based outstanding to all borrowers under resolution as per the various extant regulations/guidelines was ₹9,684 crore or 1.3% of total advances on September 30, compared to ₹4,864 crore on June 30.

The bank said it holds provisions amounting to ₹1,950 crore against borrowers under resolution as of September 30. In addition, it continues to hold COVID-19 related provisions of ₹6,425 crore as of September 30, the same level as on June 30.

The lender said its total capital adequacy as at September 30 was 19.52% and Tier-1 capital adequacy (including profits for H1-2022) was 18.53% compared with the minimum regulatory requirements of 11.08% and 9.08%, respectively.

INTERVIEW | VISHAK RAMAN

'Cybersecurity will remain a top priority for firms this year'

'In digital world, security must be built-in, not bolted on'

MINI TEJASWI

Driven by the mounting urgency of securing their hybrid workforces and data, most enterprises are expected to ramp up investments in staff awareness training, data protection, threat vulnerability detection, and response measures, says Vishak Raman, Director, Security Business, Cisco India & SAARC. Excerpts:



applications as well as secure critical control points.

How much are enterprises investing in data protection and network security now?
■ As the range of threats broadens and new vulnerabilities develop, cybersecurity will remain a high priority for corporates this year.

Are enterprises able to increase their visibility to overall vulnerability and threat horizon?

■ The key to making a security architecture effective and capable of detecting and preventing attacks is to look at the layers holistically with a single pane of glass. This creates a proactive security framework that enables different layers to talk to each other and co-relate contextual insights in real-time to prevent attacks. Secondly, identity is the new perimeter in the hybrid world - the first line of defence for any organisation. Therefore, IT teams must look at scaling VPNs and multi-factor authentication (MFA) to verify each user's identity before allowing them access to the network or sensitive data. Ultimately, to ensure safety in the digital world, security must be built-in, not bolted on. It must be deployed everywhere and in everything we do, from the network to data to devices to users.

The transition to work from anywhere and erosion of the traditional network perimeters have combined to create an unprecedented threat level to endpoint devices, users, and applications. Today, global enterprises need visibility across these

According to Gartner, worldwide spending on information security and risk management technology and services is forecast to grow 12.4% to reach \$150.4 billion in 2021. Global and Indian enterprises need to continue investing in cloud-native security, data protection, and network security solutions to steer away from the rising cyberattacks in the digital era.

What has been the growth of the cybersecurity business globally in 2021 compared with 2020? Is Cisco witnessing quantum growth in this space this year?

■ 2020 was a record-breaking year in terms of data lost in breaches and sheer numbers of cyberattacks on companies, governments, and individuals. According to industry reports, H1 of 2021 has already surpassed the previous year's record-breaking \$7.8 billion raised by cybersecurity start-ups. We saw a 13% growth YoY in our security segment in Q3 FY21. We, at Cisco, in addi-

tion to our security offerings, are witnessing high traction for our collaboration, cloud, and other offerings as more and more organisations adopt hybrid work and business models.

What are the key cybersecurity innovations and technologies underway now?

■ At Cisco, to help our customers manage their dynamic and growing security needs, we have mobilised significant innovations across our security portfolio. Moving forward, we will strengthen our leadership in cybersecurity through SASE (secure access service edge), XDR (extended detection and response), and zero trust integration into our networking and security unified platforms by securing the essential control points, i.e., the user, device, network, application, and data security. By delivering a platform that continuously detects threats and verifies trust, our aim is to enable our customers to secure their networks for a multi-cloud world.

How challenging is it for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) to balance risk and innovation in a digital-first economy?

■ Some of the top challenges are training and managing staff remotely, vendor audits, keeping at par with the evolving threat landscape, rising identity theft, managing cybersecurity regulations, and the lack of skilled cybersecurity professionals.

CISOs are no longer just security risk managers but are expected to be business enablers of organisations.

IT more widely sought now globally: WNS CEO

Digital push bolstering BPM prospects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Technology is gaining wider acceptance globally, said Keshav Murugesu, group CEO, WNS Global Services, pointing to the strengthening prospects for the IT-BPM industry in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Every business across the globe, even if it be in a traditional area with a conservative outlook, has now climbed the bandwagon in terms of a technology-first and digital transformation agenda," he observed.

WNS had in July raised its forecast for full-year revenue to \$961-\$1,009 million from the \$945-\$997 million it had projected in April.

Without specifying which verticals had bolstered the

revenue prospects, he said, "Insurance is a contributor; the banking and financial services vertical has done extremely well for us. The shipping and logistics area, as normalcy returns, is also very positive. I would also like to call out travel and airline business because that's definitely been a positive. We are seeing more people taking holidays".

With normalcy yet to return fully even as the pandemic appears to be receding, the insurance industry's potential customers had shown a preference to execute transactions online rather than meeting agents in person. "We have helped insurance firms move to self-service portals," he added.

Power ministry unveils rules to sustain viability

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Power on Saturday announced new rules to sustain economic viability of the sector, ease financial stress of various stakeholders, and ensure timely recovery of costs involved in electricity generation.

The rules notified by the Ministry of Power under Electricity Act, 2003 are in the interest of the electricity consumers and the stakeholders, it added. The rules include Electricity (Timely recovery of costs due to Change in Law) Rules, 2021. The other rule is Electricity (Promotion of generation from renewable sources of energy by addressing Must Run and other matters) Rules, 2021.

FTA with UAE likely by March, says negotiator

Good progress made in talks: Reddy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

A senior Commerce Ministry official spearheading the negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) with the United Arab Emirates said on Saturday that good progress had been achieved and the FTA was likely to be in place by March.

"We are trying to conclude the FTA by end of this year and sign the agreement by March... made good progress in this direction," Joint Secretary Srikanth K. Reddy said, addressing a meeting on exports organised by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry. UAE is the largest national export market for India after the U.S., with exports of about \$30 billion.

India is mulling signing many free trade agreements in addition to the existing 16

Mr. Reddy, the lead negotiator for the FTAs under discussion with the UAE, Israel and Southern African Customs Union (SACU), said India was contemplating signing many FTAs, in addition to the existing 16, with important countries.

The FTA with Mauritius, which became operational earlier this year, was the first that India had signed in the last 10 years, he said.

Increase in exports and a surge in domestic demand were powering the recovery of the Indian economy, Mr. Reddy added.

TV PICKS

Badminton: Denmark Open: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 3.30 p.m.
Men's T20 World Cup: Super12s: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m. & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7 p.m., 9 p.m. & 11 p.m.
F1: United States GP: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Monday)

IN BRIEF

Durant on song as Nets reel in Sixers

LOS ANGELES
Kevin Durant scored a 29-point triple-double as Brooklyn Nets punished Philadelphia 76ers 108-98 on Friday. Durant finished with 15 rebounds and 12 assists.
The results: Cavaliers 112 lost to Hornets 123; Wizards 135 bt Pacers 134 (OT); Magic 96 lost to Knicks 121; 76ers 109 lost to Nets 114; Celtics 83 lost to Raptors 115; Bulls 128 bt Pelicans 112; Rockets 124 bt Thunder 91; Nuggets 102 bt Spurs 96; Lakers 105 lost to Suns 115; Kings 101 lost to Jazz 110. AFP

Iniyan wins Serbian tournament

ARANDJELOVAC
P. Iniyan won the Arandjelovac GM round-robin 1 chess tournament held in Arandjelovac, Serbia, scoring 8.5 points out of 11 games. Iniyan won seven, drew three, and lost one game. He posted wins over Serbian GM Damljanovic Branko, Bosnia's GM Dizdarevic Emir, and IM Sankalp Gupta of India, who finished second.

CRPF beats CCSCSB

KOLKATA
Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) beat Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board (CCSCSB) 5-2 in the National women's inter-department hockey championships on Saturday.
The results: SAI bt Defence Sports Control Board 30-0; Steel Plants Sports Board bt UCO Bank WHA 9-2; CRPF bt CCSCSB 5-2.

Sohil and Ruhaan steal the show

Anish finishes on top in the Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup

MOTORSPORTS

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

Bengaluru boys Sohil Shah and Ruhaan Alva stole the show on a rather sultry opening day of the JK Tyre FMSCI National racing championship at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Saturday.

While Sohil was tested to the hilt in the Formula LGB4 category, Ruhaan won both the Novice Cup races with relative ease.

The FLGB4 class has always witnessed thrills and spills. This time it was even tough for the drivers with the safety car coming out twice. The youngster showed immense patience and waited for the right time to make the winning move ahead of Arya Singh of Kolkata.

"I am happy to start the



Patience pays: Sohil Shah won race 1 of the Formula LGB 4 category despite being tested to the hilt. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

season with a win, though it was not easy," he said.

Anish Damodara Shetty (Hubli) was too pleased to finish on top in the JK Tyre presents Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup that made its debut.

Going flat out on these heavy bikes were quite demanding but Anish stopped

the clock at 1:18.325 for a place on the podium.

The results (provisional): Formula LGB 4: Race 1: 1. Sohil Shah (Bengaluru) 23:26.923; 2. Arya Singh (Kolkata) 23:27.088; 3. T.S. Diljith (Thrissur) 23:27.186.

JK Tyre Novice Cup: Race 1: 1. Ruhaan Alva (Bengaluru) 14:22.061; 2. Aadithya Parasuram (Chennai) 14:25.202; 3.

Gaurav Kochar (Coonoor) 14:34.275. **Race 2:** 1. Ruhaan 15:06.124; 2. Jaden R. Pariat (Guwahati) 15:07.429; 3. Aadithya Parasuram 15:09.109.

JK Tyre presents RE Continental GT Cup: Race 1: 1. Anish Damodara Shetty (Hubli) 14:07.754; 2. Allwin Xavier (Thrissur) 14:07.859; 3. Jayanth Prathipati (Hyderabad) 14:08.859.

Havelock Cruise wins feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's Havelock Cruise (A.A. Vikrant) won the Dundoo Ekambar Memorial Cup, the main event of the penultimate day's races here on Saturday (Oct. 23). The winner is owned by Mr. K.S.N. Murthy, Mr. P. Ranga Raju & Mr. C. Nanda Kumar. Trainer: D. Netto.

1. VENUS DE MILO PLATE (DIV. I) (1,600m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): WALLUP AND GALLOP (Deepak Singh) 1; Quality Warrior (N.B. Kuldeep) 2; Golden Amaran (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Southern Act (B.R. Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, 4-1/4 and 1/2. Im, 41.02s. **102 (w)**, 15, 24 and 46 (p). SHP: 75, THP: 123, SHW: 24 and 62, FP: 1,242; Q: 513, Tanala: 23,657. Favourite: Aryaman. Owner: Mr. Syed Nawaz Hussain. Trainer: Anant Vatsalya.

NOTE: In this race, Aryaman broke down near 400m and dislodged the jockey Vikrant, who escaped unhurt.

2. RED INDIAN PLATE (1,800m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): BER RAIN (Mukesh Kumar) 1; Moringa (Ashad Asbar) 2; Campania (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Greek's Ace (Ajit Singh) 4. Sh, 1/4 and Hd. Im 54.20s. **86 (w)**, 21, 11 and 11 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 49, SHW: 21 and 13, FP: 300; Q: 97, Tanala: 1,406. Favourite: Forever Bond. Owner: Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

3. VENUS DE MILO PLATE (DIV. II) (1,600m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): BANDIT KING (Ajit

Singh) 1, Dream Station (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Special Effort (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Costello (A.A. Vikrant) 4. Not run: Reining Queen. 3/4, Hd and 2-3/4. Im, 40.27s. **83 (w)**, 24, 11 and 21 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 64, SHW: 15 and 35, FP: 88; Q: 42, Tanala: 585. Favourite: Dream Station. Owners: Mr. Prabhakar Chowdari Tripuraneni & Mr. Vadre Vajrinder Rao. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

4. K. SRINIVAS REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,800m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): MAXIMUM GLAMOUR (A.A. Vikrant) 1, Just Incredible (Mukesh Kumar) 2, Limoncello (R. Ajinkya) 3 and Kesariya Balam (Abhay Singh) 4. 1-1/4, 2 and 1. Im, 38.99s. **136 (w)**, 20, 11 and 16 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 45, SHW: 42 and 21, FP: 552; Q: 231, Tanala: 2,099. Favourite: Lightning Bolt. Owners: Mr. K.S.N. Murthy, Mr. P. Ranga Raju & Mr. C. Nanda Kumar. Trainer: D. Netto.

5. BE MY GUEST PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): AERIAL COMBAT (Abhay Singh) 1, General Atlantic (B. Nikhil) 2, California Beauty (G. Nareesh) 3 and Unmatched (Md. Ismail) 4. Not run: Sandown Park and Blazing Jupiter. 2-3/4, 5-1/4 and 2. Im, 12.98s. **85 (w)**, 17, 13 and 22 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 65, SHW: 28 and 16, FP: 61; Q: 167, Tanala: 2,093. Favourite: General Atlantic. Owner: Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta. Trainer: R. H. Squeeira.

6. BE MY GUEST PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III):

BEAUTY ON PARADE (Deepak Singh) 1, Curcumin (R. Ajinkya) 2, Nearest (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Stunning Force (Mukesh Kumar) 4. 4, 3/4 and 2. Im, 13.50s. **88 (w), 16, 35 and 16 (p). SHP: 144, THP: 34, SHW: 19 and 43 (p). FP: 1,551, Q: 769, Tanala: 4,997. Favourite: Lifes Song. Owners: Mr. Prakash Babu, Mr. K. Rama Krishna & Mr. Shaileendra Singh. Trainer: D. Netto.**

7. DUNDOO EKAMBAR MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I): HAVELOCK CRUISE (A.A. Vikrant) 1, N R I Valley (Abhay Singh) 2, Skipton (S.S. Tanwar) 3 and Premier Act (Mukesh Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, 2 and 1. Im, 38.99s. **136 (w)**, 20, 11 and 16 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 45, SHW: 42 and 21, FP: 552; Q: 231, Tanala: 2,099. Favourite: Lightning Bolt. Owners: Mr. K.S.N. Murthy, Mr. P. Ranga Raju & Mr. C. Nanda Kumar. Trainer: D. Netto.

8. SOLARIO PLATE (1,200m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III): ELMIRA (Afroz Khan) 1, Flamingo Fame (Santosh Raj) 2, Thunder Road (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Sea Wolf (Ajit Singh) 4. 1, 2 and 2. Im, 14.87s. **823 (w)**, 59, 21 and 11 (p). SHP: 67, SHW: 132 and 19, FP: 2,445; Q: 917, Tanala: 6,229. Favourite: Flamingo Fame. Owner: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹2,07,233 (c/o) & 30%: 7,401 (12 tkts.); Treble: (i) 6,255 (5 tkts.), (ii) 466 (42 tkts.), (iii) 23, 436 (2 tkts.); Mini Jackpot: (i) 24,754 (1 tkt), (ii) 34, 407 (c/o).

Jena tops list of qualifiers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A change of schedule released as late as 90 minutes from Saturday's event robbed the first day of National javelin championship of the two finals originally planned.

Hence, only the qualifying rounds in men, boys' under-18 and under-16 were

held. After the qualifying rounds, 12 men headed by Odisha's Kishore Kumar Jena who came up with the day's best throw of 70.96 metres, made it to the final.

In the boys' u-18, Rahul Yadav showed the way with an attempt of 65.30 metres.

In boys' u-16, Arjun (62.19) topped the qualifiers' list.

Rajasthan United earns I-League spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

Rajasthan United qualified for the I-League for the first time after a goalless draw with Kenkre FC in the last qualification match here on

Saturday. Rajasthan topped the table with seven points from three matches.

Other result: Delhi FC 6 (Nikhil Mali 2, Gagandeep Bali 2, Sergio Barboza, Anwar Ali) bt Madan Maharaj FC 0.

Jennifer claws back in style

SPORTS BUREAU
MONASTIR (TUNISIA)

Jennifer Luikham survived two match points to beat Mara Guth of Germany 1-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the semifinals of the \$15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Saturday. The Indian was down 2-5 in the decider and faced two match points on the German's serve in the ninth game before fighting back.

Other results: **\$15,000 ITF men, Doha: Doubles (semifinals):** Simon Freund (Swe) & Niklas Schell (Ger) bt Shashank Theertha & Tushar Madan 6-2, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (semifinals): Viktor Jovic (Srb) & Aziz Ouakaa (Tun) bt Niki Poonacha & Sidharth Rawat 4-6, 6-1, [11-9].

Vishnu, Siddharth move into final qualifying round

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Former champions Vishnu Vardhan and Siddharth Vishwakarma sailed into the third and final qualifying round of the Festina National tennis championships at the DLTA Complex on Saturday. Vishnu dropped six games in two rounds and Siddharth four games.

The results (second qualifying round): Men: Faisal Qamar bt Shivam Dalmia 9-4; Parav Garg bt Abhishek Gaur 9-7; Ajay Malik bt Neel Garud 9-2; Vishnu Vardhan bt Sushant Dabas 9-3; Boopathy Sakthivel bt Ricky Sehrawat 9-2; Siddharth Arya bt Mohit Bhardwaj 9-2; Lo-hith Bathrinath bt Rudra Bhatt

9-5; Siddharth Vishwakarma bt Sivadeep Kosaraju 9-1; Madhwin Kamath bt Amrutjay Mohanty 9-6; Jagmeet Singh bt Yuvraj Chaudhary 9-5.

Women: Shruti Ahlawat bt Vanshika Choudhary 9-1; Anjali Rathi bt Sacha Sharma 9-5; Priyanshi Bhandari bt Avishka Gupta 9-8(5); Lakshmi Gowda bt Anusha Kondaveeti 9-2; Sonashe Bhatnagar bt Isha Budwal 9-2; Farhat Aleeen Qamar bt Ananya Yadav 9-1; Radhika Yadav bt Kriti Tomar 9-4; Shefali Arora bt Charanya Sreekrishna 9-7; Supriya Senthil Kumar bt Medhavi Singh 9-1; Ishwari Matere bt Himanshika 9-5; Vanshika Pathania bt Riya Uboveja 9-5; Nandini Dixit bt Dakshata Patel 9-7; Ni-yati Kukreti bt Deepalakshmi Vanaraja 9-3; S. Srinidhi bt Steisha Baddhalra 9-3; Sharmada Balu bt Kavya Khirwar 9-2; Kiran Kalkal bt Renee Singh 9-6.

Dinidhi and Nina shine

AQUATICS

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Karnataka's Dinidhi Desinghu came up with her third record-breaking performance of the week, rewriting the girls' Group III 100m freestyle National record, on the final day of the sub-junior and junior National aquatic championships on Saturday.

The day's other National record was set by Nina Venkatesh in 50m freestyle for Group I girls, where she first erased, in the heats, Suvana Bhaskar's 29.35s from 2018, and then lowered it with a blistering 28.51s in the final.

Important results: Boys: Group I: 50m butterfly: Bikram Changmai (Asm), 25.22; **Group II: 50m butterfly:** Jananjoy

Jyoti Hazarika (Asm), 26.64.

Girls: Group I: 100m freestyle: Janhvi Choudhary (Ben), 59.16; **50m butterfly:** Nina Venkatesh (Kar) 28.51 (NMR); OR: 28.93, Nina Venkatesh, 2021); **Group II: 100m freestyle:** Dhinidhi Desinghu (Kar), 1:01.52 (NMR); OR: 1:02.77, Vedika Amin (Mah), 2017); **Group IV: 50m freestyle:** Zoya Jannat (Ben), 31.61. **Best swimmers: Boys: Group I:** Swadesh Mondal (Ben) (4 golds, 1 silver, 4 NMRs); **Group II:** Pavan Dhannanjaya (Kar) (5G); **Group III:** Akshaj Thakuria (Kar) (5G); **Group IV:** Sharan Sridhara (Kar) (4G, 2S); **Group V:** Jas Singh (Kar) (6G).

Girls: Group I: Apaksha Fernandes (Mah) (3G, 1S, 2NMR); **Group II:** Rid

Dubai braces for fireworks as India faces Pakistan

Subcontinental giants, seeking the right start to their campaigns, play down the pressure-cooker scenario

'Finisher' Hardik gets Kohli's backing

'He will also bowl at a certain stage'

T20 WORLD CUP

AMOL KARHADKAR
DUBAI
The ICC T20 World Cup will be set alight when India and Pakistan meet in a big-ticket clash on Sunday.

There's no doubt that the contest between the subcontinental giants will attract global interest even beyond the cricket fraternity.

But both teams, with face-offs becoming as rare as a hailstorm in the Emirates, have been trying their best to play down the pressure-cooker scenario associated with the game.

Understandably so. More than earning brownie points for winning the match-that-matters-most for respective fans, India and Pakistan would be gunning for an ideal start to their World Cup campaign.

Moreover, with both teams having hardly faced each other in the shortest format of the game – eight matches in 14 years, including the two famous matches in the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007 – there isn't too much of personal rivalry on the field.

In this respect, India will be hoping that Varun Chakravarty, the mystery spinner touted to be India's X-factor, will spin his web around the Pakistan batters, none of whom have faced him earlier.

Pakistan, on the other hand, will be looking to captain Babar Azam to guide its

Sunday blockbuster

India will look to make it 6-0 while Pakistan will be keen to end the losing streak against its neighbour when the two meet in a high-voltage World T20 clash in Dubai

H2H IN T20 WORLD CUP

PLAYED **5** INDIA **4** PAKISTAN **0** TIED **1**
* India won in a bowl out

2007 Match tied, India won in a bowl out (group stage), Durban
2007 India won by five runs (final), Johannesburg
2012 India won by eight wickets (group stage), Colombo
2014 India won by seven wickets (group stage), Dhaka
2016 India won by six wickets (group stage), Kolkata

TOP PERFORMERS

VIRAT KOHLI Mat: 3 Runs: 169 HS: 78 n.o. SR: 130.00 50s: 2	IRFAN PATHAN Mat: 3 Wkts: 6 BBI: 3/16 Econ: 6.00 4W: 0
SHOAIB MALIK Mat: 5 Runs: 100 HS: 28 SR: 107.52 50s: 0	MOHAMMAD ASIF Mat: 2 Wkts: 5 BBI: 4/18 Econ: 6.14 4W: 1



SOURCE: ESPNCRICO | COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD

HIGHLIGHT REEL

2007: GROUP STAGE:
In the bowl out, after the game ended in a tie, India defeated Pakistan 3-0. Sehwal, Harbhajan and Uthappa were on target while Arafat, Gul and Afridi missed it

Final: In an absorbing climax, Dhoni's men displayed nerves of steel to emerge triumphant. With six needed from four deliveries, Misbah's scoop shot off Joginder landed in the hands of Sreesanth at short fine-leg, triggering celebrations in the Indian dug-out

2012: The Men in Blue, riding on Kohli's undefeated 78, catered to an eight-wicket win with three overs to spare after Balaji (3-22), Ashwin (2-16) and Yuvraj (2-16) had restricted Pakistan to 128

2014: India surpassed Pakistan's 130, thanks to Kohli and Raina's unbeaten 66-run stand for the fourth wicket. Mishra had earlier finished with figures of 4-1-22-2

2016: Kohli was in the thick of it again, his unbeaten 55 taking India home in 15.5 overs in pursuit of Pakistan's 118 in a contest reduced to 18 overs owing to rain

Kohli has won the Man-of-the-Match award twice in his three matches against Pakistan in the T20 World Cup

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sri Lanka vs. Bangladesh SHARJAH, 3.30 P.M. IST H2H IN T20Is Played: 11 Sri Lanka 7 Bangladesh 4	India vs. Pakistan DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST H2H IN T20Is Played: 8 India 7 Pakistan 1
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LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

likes of Rishabh Pant and Chakravarty to deliver under pressure.

But more than the rookies, India will be hoping to get the team balance right. Resolving the muddle of a back-up bowler remains the key for India to start its crusade to regain the T20 World Cup after a prolonged gap on a winning note.

Playing Pakistan in the opener would certainly invoke memories of the 2007 World Cup. Thanks to a washout against Scotland, the game that finished with a bowl-out versus Pakistan was India's first match at the T20 World Cup. The Men in Blue, who won the bowl-out, will be hoping for the same result on Sunday.

AMOL KARHADKAR
DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli backed Hardik Pandya to be the designated finisher at No. 6, stressing that the all-rounder should be able to bowl "at least two overs" later on in the ICC T20 World Cup.

"Hardik, presently with his physical condition, is getting better in terms of being prepared to bowl at least two overs for us at a certain stage in the tournament," said Kohli on Saturday, a day before India's opener against Pakistan.

"Until he starts bowling, we have considered a couple of other options for an over or two. So we are not bothered about it at all," said Kohli.

Citing Hardik's importance at No. 6, based on his exploits "in Australia purely as a batter" last year, Kohli felt that his utility as a finisher "is way more valuable than forcing him to do something that he is not ready for at the moment."

Kohli expected the surfaces in the UAE to be more batter-friendly than they were in the IPL's second leg. "I believe that the quality of pitches is definitely going to be far better at the T20 World Cup. Also it being an ICC tournament, we know that the standard of pitches has to be maintained to a certain degree and consistent across venues," Kohli said.



Kohli, right, with Hardik. •AFP

"I understand that to protect the pitches for a tournament like the World Cup, there had to be some kind of compromise in the playing conditions when we played the IPL."

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam exuded confidence in his batting unit. "This time our main strength is batting. The way our batters have been performing over the last couple of months, I am very hopeful that we will produce some good results," Babar said.

He felt that the fact that Pakistan has never beaten India in World Cups – ODIs and T20s – will not have any bearing on Sunday's contest.

"We have forgotten what we have done in the past and we are trying to focus on the future. We will try to do better on the field and produce better results," he said.

Australia prevails in a low-scoring thriller



On target: Hazlewood rattled South Africa early. •GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA
Temba Bavuma b Maxwell 12 (7b, 2x4), Quinton de Kock b Hazlewood 7 (12b, 1x4), Rassie van der Dussen c Wade b Hazlewood 2 (3b), Aiden Markram c Maxwell b Starc 40 (36b, 3x4, 1x6), Heinrich Klaasen c Smith b Cummins 13 (13b, 2x4), David Miller lbw b Zampa 16 (18b), Dwaine Pretorius c Wade b Zampa 1 (2b), Keshav Maharaj run out 0 (2b), Kagiso Rabada (not out) 19 (23b, 1x4, 1x6), Anrich Nortje c Finch b Starc 2 (3b), Tabraiz Shamsi (not out) 0 (1b), Extras (b-2, lb-3, w-1): 6; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 118.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-13 (Bavuma, 1.3 overs), 2-

16 (van der Dussen, 2.1), 3-23 (de Kock, 4.1), 4-46 (Klaasen, 7.6), 5-80 (Miller, 13.3), 6-82 (Pretorius, 13.6), 7-83 (Maharaj, 14.3), 8-98 (Markram, 17.1), 9-115 (Nortje, 19.4).
AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Starc 4-0-32-2, Maxwell 4-0-24-1, Hazlewood 4-1-19-2, Cummins 4-0-17-1, Zampa 4-0-21-2.
AUSTRALIA
David Warner c Klaasen b Rabada 14 (15b, 3x4), Aaron Finch c Rabada b Nortje 0 (5b), Mitchell Marsh c van der Dussen b Maharaj 11 (17b, 1x4), Steve Smith c Markram b Nortje 35 (34b, 3x4), Glenn Maxwell b

South Africa puts up a gallant fight

REUTERS
ABU DHABI

Marcus Stoinis (24 n.o., 16b, 3x4) and Matthew Wade (15 n.o., 10b, 2x4) combined in a crucial, unbeaten 40-run stand to help Australia beat South Africa by five wickets, with two balls remaining, in a low-scoring affair in their opening Super 12 clash in the Twenty20 World Cup on Saturday.

Replying to South Africa's 118 for nine, Australia lost three quick wickets at the top and found itself under pressure.

Steve Smith, who made 35, and Glenn Maxwell added 42 for the fourth wicket to keep Australia on course but South Africa came back into the see-saw contest by dismissing both in the space of four deliveries to reduce its opponent to 81 for five.

With Group One loaded with six Test-playing nations,

hammad Hafeez will certainly help it soak up the big-match pressure. Both Malik and Hafeez were part of the inaugural T20 edition 14 Septembers ago. For India, only vice-captain Rohit Sharma featured

Hazlewood delivers
Earlier, Australia's bowlers responded splendidly to captain Aaron Finch's call to bowl first.

After Maxwell's part-time off-spin found a way past South Africa captain Temba Bavuma's defence, seamer Josh Hazlewood extracted bit of extra bounce to pick up two wickets to reduce the opponent to 32 for three. South Africa did not recover from the shaky start and with Australia picking up wickets at regular intervals, it never threatened to post a big total.

Aiden Markram's 36-ball 40 and Kagiso Rabada's unbeaten 19 helped the Proteas go past the 100-run mark.

Rashid, Moeen run through West Indies

Pollard's men skittled out for 55; Morgan's side chases it down in 8.2 overs

AYAN ACHARYA
DUBAI

As the first ball of the Super 12 match between England and West Indies at the ICC T20 World Cup was bowled on Saturday, the frisson of excitement that accompanied the Caribbean's epoch-making win in the final five and a half years ago fizzled into a distant memory.

Batting first, West Indies collapsed for 55, its second-lowest T20I score. England stuttered in its response, losing four wickets before getting home in 8.2 overs. Akeal Hosen's athletic one-handed stunner off his own bowling to dismiss Liam Livingstone was the silver lining for Kieron Pollard's men.

Earlier, West Indies suffered an early blow when, in the second over, Chris Woakes deceived Evin Lewis with a slower ball and Moeen Ali ran back from mid-off to take the catch over his shoulder. In the next, Moeen accounted for Lendl Simmons, who hit straight to deep mid-wicket. With two left-handers – Chris Gayle and Shimron Hetmyer – at the crease, Moeen, who opened the bowling, got a third over in the PowerPlay. The move paid off as Hetmyer flat-batted to Eoin Morgan at mid-on.

Gayle started his innings aggressively, driving Woakes through the covers and cutting one past Jason Roy. But he couldn't maintain the intensity and fell, miscuing a pull off Tymal Mills to David Malan, who ran backwards

from midwicket and held on to the ball.

Gayle's dismissal also bookended the PowerPlay, during which England snaffled four wickets and went for a tad over five an over. Moeen bowled his four overs on the trot, returning figures of two for 17 including a staggering 18 dot balls.

With England making quick inroads, West Indies sent Dwayne Bravo at No. 5. But he was dismissed for a run-a-ball five as Pollard's men lost half the side for less than 50. Mills, returning to international cricket after four years, had Nicholas Pooran caught behind – his second scalp.

Andre Russell was castled by Adil Rashid for a duck. The leggie then got rid of Pollard and Obed McCoy off successive balls before shattering Ravi Rampaul's stumps in



No clue: Russell is bamboozled by a Rashid beauty. •AFP

his next over to finish with remarkable figures of 2.2-0-2-4. There was ironic cheering from the crowd when West Indies reached 50 in the 13th over. It was that kind of a night for the defending champion.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES
Lendl Simmons c Livingstone b Moeen 3 (7b), Evin Lewis c Moeen b Woakes 6 (5b, 1x6), Chris Gayle c Malan b Mills 13 (13b, 3x4), Shimron Hetmyer c Morgan b Moeen 9 (9b, 2x4), Dwayne Bravo c Bairstow b Jordan 5 (5b, 1x4), Nicholas Pooran c Buttler b Mills 1 (9b), Kieron Pollard c Bairstow b Adil Rashid 6 (14b), Andre Russell b Adil Rashid 0 (2b), Akeal Hosen (not out) 6 (13b), Obed McCoy c Roy b Adil Rashid 0 (1b), Ravi Rampaul b Adil Rashid 3 (8b), Extras (w-3); Total (in 14.2 overs): 55.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-8 (Lewis, 1.3 overs), 2-9 (Simmons, 2.2), 3-27 (Hetmyer,

4.4), 4-31 (Gayle, 5.6), 5-37 (Bravo, 7.2), 6-42 (Pooran, 8.5), 7-44 (Russell, 10.1), 8-49 (Pollard, 12.1), 9-49 (McCoy, 12.2).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Moeen 4-1-17-2, Woakes 2-0-12-1, Mills 4-0-17-2, Jordan 2-0-7-1, Adil Rashid 2.2-0-2-4.

ENGLAND
Jason Roy c Gayle b Rampaul 11 (10b, 1x6), Jos Buttler (not out) 24 (22b, 3x4), Jonny Bairstow c & b Hosen 9 (6b, 2x4), Moeen Ali run out 3 (4b), Liam Livingstone c & b Hosen 1 (2b), Eoin Morgan (not out) 7 (7b, 1x4), Extras (nb-1); Total (for four wkts. in 8.2 overs): 56.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-21 (Roy, 3.1), 2-30 (Bairstow, 4.1), 3-36 (Moeen, 5.2), 4-39

Next assignment

West Indies: Oct. 26 vs **South Africa**, Dubai, 3.30 p.m. IST
England: Oct. 27 vs **Bangladesh**, Abu Dhabi, 3.30 p.m. IST

Innings scan

WEST INDIES	ENGLAND
59	21
6	6
1	1
31/4	39/3
3.83	6.72

Anamika stuns Sarjubala

SPORTS BUREAU
HISAR

World youth medalist Anamika upset former World championships silver medalist S. Sarjubala Devi in a 50kg bout of the National women's boxing championships here on Saturday. Anamika beat Sarjubala 4-1 to move into the quarterfinals. **Important results (preliminary rounds):** 48kg: Laxmi (Del) bt K. Bina Devi (AIP) 4-1, Manju Rani (RSPB) bt Bhabani Barik (Odi) 5-0, Nitu (Har) bt Swasti Arya (Raj) 5-0, Jyotika Bisht (HP) bt Ruby Yadav (Cht) 5-0. 50kg: Anamika (RSPB) bt S. Sarjubala Devi (Man) 4-1, G. Ramya (AP) bt Rinky Kishor (UP) 4-1, Komal (Pun) bt Deepa

Kumar (MP) 3-2. 52kg: Minakshi (Har) Ojibala Thounaojam (Man) 5-0, Vanladuati (AIP) bt Sowmya Avala (AP) RSC-R1, Jyoti (RSPB) bt Eva Wayne Marbaniang (Meg) 5-0, Manju Basumatary (Asm) bt Himani Pant (Utk) 5-0, Nikhat Zareen (Tel) bt Pooja (Del) RSC-R1; 54kg: Shiksha (RSPB) bt Rina Kumari (Bih) RSC-R1, Baburojiana Chanu (Man) bt Mariyam Ayesha (WB) RSC-R1, Jamuna Boro (Asm) bt Hetal Dama (Guj) RSC-R3, Sonia (UP) bt Tanvi Kaushal (Del) 5-0. 57kg: Radha Patidar (MP) bt Jyoti (Del) 5-0, Sonia Lather (RSPB) bt Roshni Subba (Sik) RSC-R2. 60kg: Simranjit Kaur (Pun) bt Sabiha Khanam (Jha) RSC-R2, Pwiliaw Basumatary (Asm) bt Rinky Sharma (UP) 5-0.

Mount on the treble as Chelsea runs riot

Tuchel's men hit seven goals in the demolition of Norwich

EURO LEAGUES

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Chelsea coped just fine without its injured strikers on Saturday, as the Premier League leader romped to a 7-0 win over last-place Norwich, with Mason Mount scoring a hat trick and the other goals spread around the team in the injury-enforced absence of Romelu Lukaku and Timo Werner. **Important results:** Premier League: Chelsea 7 (Mount 8, 85-pen, 90, Hudson-Odoi 18, James 42, Chilwell 57,

Aarons 62-og) bt Norwich 0; Everton 2 (Davies 3, Richardson 63) lost to Watford 5 (King 13, 80, 86, Kucka 78, Dennis 90+1); Leeds 1 (Rodrigo 90+4-pen) drew with Wolves 1 (Hwang 10); Southampton 2 (Livramento 41, Broja 50) drew with Burnley 2 (Cornet 13, 57). LaLiga: Valencia 2 (Guedes 90+3, Pena 90+8) drew with Real Mallorca 2 (Rodriguez Diaz 32, Diakhaby 38-o.g.). Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 4 (Gnabry 16, Lewandowski 30, Choupo-Moting 82, Coman 87) bt Hoffenheim 0; RB Leipzig 4 (Poulsen 46, Forsberg 53-pen, Szoboszlai 65, Novoa Ramos 88) bt Greuther Fuerth 1 (Hrgo-

ta 45-pen); Wolfsburg 0 lost to Freiburg 2 (Lienhart 27, Hoeler 68); Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Klos 87-pen) lost to Borussia Dortmund 3 (Can 31-pen, Hummels 45, Bellingham 72). On Friday: Premier League: Arsenal 3 (Partey 23, Aubameyang 45+6, Smith Rowe 56) bt Aston Villa 1 (Ramsey 82). Serie A: Torino 3 (Sanabria 14, Poberga 31, Brekalo 77) bt Genoa 2 (Destro 70, Caice 81); Sampdoria 2 (Gyasi 15-og, Candreva 36) bt Spezia 1 (Verde 90+5). LaLiga: Osasuna 1 (Avila 45) drew with Granada 1 (Montoro 90) Bundesliga: Mainz 4 (Onisowo 10, Bell 15, Burkardt 26, 71) bt Augsburg 1 (Zeqiri 69).



In seventh heaven: Mason Mount is gung-ho after scoring Chelsea's seventh goal and completing a hat-trick. •AFP

Olympic sprinter shot dead

ASSOCIATED PRESS
EQUADOR

Ecuadorian sprinter Alex Quinonez was fatally shot in the city of Guayaquil, police said on Saturday. Quinonez, who was 32, became a national hero in 2012 when he reached the 200m final at the London Games, finishing seventh in a race won by Usain Bolt. Guayaquil-based newspaper *El Universo* reported that Quinonez was shot on a street around 9.20 p.m. on Friday and that another man was also killed.