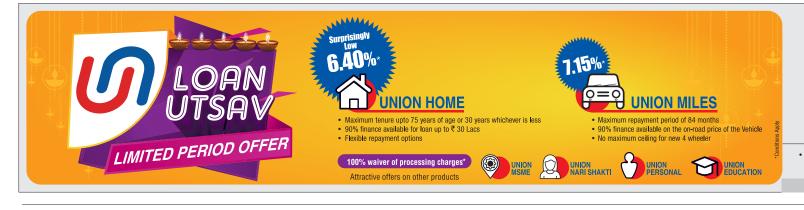
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IN BRIEF



The Delhi Disaster Management Authority on Wednesday issued orders permitting schools to reopen, after a gap of 19 months, for students from nursery to Class XII from November 1. Schools will function with a maximum capacity of 50% of students with classes continuing in a blended mode. The Government said attending physical classes will be optional. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 2

Delhi Govt. adds Ayodhya to free pilgrimage scheme

The Delhi Cabinet has decided to add Ayodhya to the list of pilgrimage sites under the 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojna', Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Wednesday. The scheme, which facilitates free pilgrimage for senior citizens residing in the Capital, had been halted due to COVID-19. The Delhi Government is also preparing to organise the live telecast of Deepavali celebrations. **STATES** ▶ PAGE 6

SC sets up committee to examine Pegasus allegations

Power of state to snoop into people's 'sacred private space' is not absolute: Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Stressing that the power of the state to snoop in the name of national security into the "sacred private space" of individuals is not absolute. the Supreme Court on Wednesday appointed an expert technical committee overseen by former Supreme Court judge R.V. Raveendran to examine allegations that the Centre used Israeli software Pegasus to spy on citizens.

A three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, said it decided to refuse the Centre's offer to appoint an expert committee to investigate the allegations because "such a course of action would violate the settled judicial principle against bias, i.e., that 'justice must not only be done, but also be seen to be done'."

Justice Raveendran would be assisted by Alok Joshi, former IPS officer (1976 batch), and Sundeep Oberoi, Chairman, Sub-Committee, International Organisation of Standardisation/International Electro-Technical Commis-

The mere invocation of national security by the state does not render the court a mute spectator N.V. RAMANA, CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDI-Privacy is not the singular concern of Every citizen of India ought to of privacy... Surveillance and

individual decides to exercise his or her rights sion/Joint Technical Committee. The three members of the committee are Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Professor (Cyber Security and Digital Forensics) and Dean, National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat;

Prabaharan P., Professor (School of Engineering), Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri, Kerala; and Ashwin Anil Gumaste, Institute Chair-Associate Professor

(Computer Science and Engi-

neering), Indian Institute of

Bombay,

Technology,

The court said it was "extremely difficult" to shortlist the members. Many had "politely declined" while others cited personal reasons. It formed the committee to ensure "absolute transparency

under the threat of being

and efficiency". The court said it consciously avoided "political thickets" but could not cower when allegations involved a "grave" threat to the privacy and free speech of the entire citizenry and raised the possibility of involvement of the Government, or even a foreign power, behind the

Big step to get to truth: Cong.

Describing the court's order as a "big step" to get to the truth, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Pegasus was an attack on the democratic structure of the nation. "This is not just a political matter, this is an existential matter for the country. That is why you find the Opposition

somewhat muted." ▶ PAGE 11

surveillance. The court said the petitions filed before it, including ones by veteran journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar, Editors Guild of India and victims of alleged snooping, had raised "Orwellian concerns" about an all-pervasive technology like Pegasus. The court said India could not remain mute in the face of Pegasus allegations when other countries had taken them seriously.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10 A CREDIBLE PROBE > EDITORIAL MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 11

Don't use new law to justify LAC moves, India tells China

'It will have no bearing on present boundary arrangements'

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

China must not use its new "Land Boundary Law" to justify any actions that alter the situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), said India, in a strongly worded statement that expressed "concern" over the law.

The Government called the law a "unilateral move", and said it could have no bearing on existing arrangements between both sides, as India and China have not resolved their boundary issues thus far. It also reaffirmed India's rejection of the China-Pakistan 1963 agreement, in which Pakistan handed over the Shaksgam Valley of Aksai Chin to China. India claims all of Jammu and Kashmir, which includes Aksai Chin, and has maintained that the agreement is "illegal and invalid".

In addition, New Delhi's latest statement indicates some apprehension that Beijing could use its new law, which authorises the state to combat any attempts on its land boundaries and to strengthen border defences and infrastructure, **Border intent** A look at what the new Chinese border law entails

According to observers, the law would formalise some of China's recent actions in disputed regions with India and

Bhutan

■ This

includes the

People's Liberation

along the India border and multiple transgressions across ■ China has also constructed new "frontier villages" along

Army stationing troops in areas

its border with Bhutan at the disputed Doklam plateau ■ The law will come into force

from January 1, 2022

as a "pretext" to formalise the People's Liberation Army (PLA) incursions into the LAC and building infrastructure along Indian territory

'Unilateral decision'

since April 2020.

"China's unilateral decision to bring about legislation, which can have implication on our existing bilateral arrangements on border management as well as on the boundary question, is of concern to us. Such unilateral move will have no bearing on the arrangements that both sides have already reached earlier, whether it is on the boundary question or for maintaining peace

along the LAC in India-China border areas," said a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs on Wednes-

"We also expect that China will avoid undertaking action under the pretext of this law, which could unilaterally alter the situation in the India-China border areas," said the statement released by the MEA, four days after the law was first reported in Chinese state media.

India and Bhutan are China's only land neighbours that don't have a resolved boundary, making them more of a target for the law, experts have argued.

⁺ Centre wants to keep birth, death database

Keen to be parallel repository of data, along with States

VIJAITA SINGH

The Centre has proposed amendments to a 1969 law that will enable it to "main-

Mullaperiyar

water level can

stay, says panel

The Supervisory Commit-

tee recommended in the Supreme Court on Wed-

nesday that there is no need to change the water

level in the Mullaperiyar

Bench led by Justice A.M.

Khanwilkar, Additional Sol-

icitor General Aishwarva

Bhati, for the committee,

informed the court that

Kerala did not agree with

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

India seeks

ANANTH KRISHNAN

HONG KONG

vaccine loans

from ADB, AIIB

The Government of India

has applied for loans from

the Asian Development

Bank (ADB) and the Asian

Infrastructure Investment

Bank (AIIB) to procure as

many as 667 million doses

which the U.S. and Japan are

the biggest shareholders,

and the Beijing-based AIIB,

where China and India are the biggest shareholders,

are in the process of consi-

dering the loans.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

The Manila-based ADB, in

of COVID-19 vaccines.

its opinion.

Appearing before a

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

tain the database of registered births and deaths at the national level".

The database may be used to update the Population Register and the electoral register, and Aadhaar, ration card, passport and driving licence databases, says the proposed amendment to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (RBD), 1969. Presently, the registration of births and deaths is done by the local registrar appointed by the States. It is proposed that the Chief Registrar (appointed by the States) would maintain a unified database at the State

level and integrate it with the

data at the "national level," maintained by the Registrar General of India (RGI).

The amendments will imply that the Centre will be a parallel repository of data. States send annual statistical

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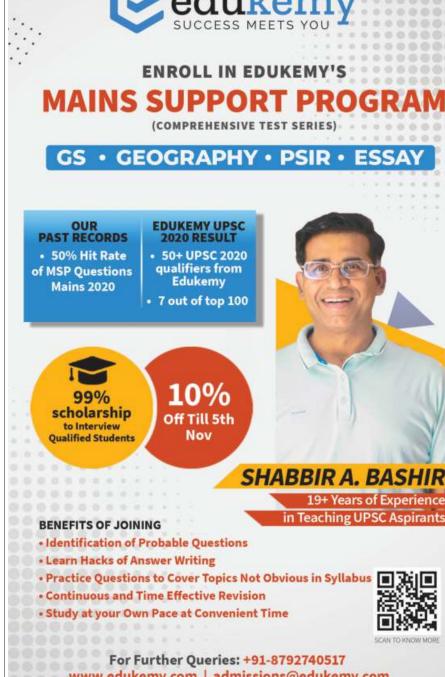
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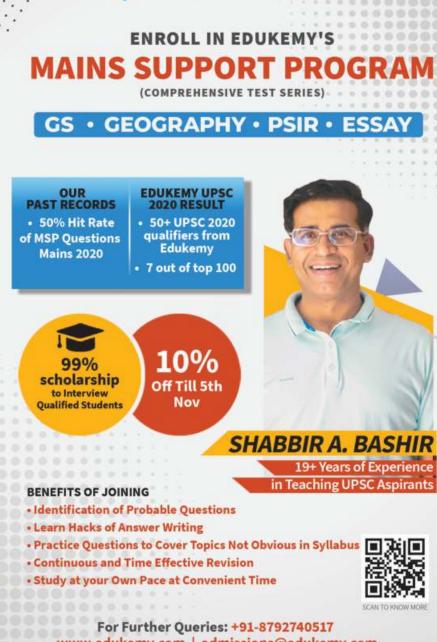
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Schools in Delhi to reopen from Nov. 1

Parental approval must for physical classes; maximum capacity is 50%; teaching will be in blended mode

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Wednesday issued orders permitting schools to reopen, after a gap of 19 months, for students from nursery to Class XII from November 1. Schools will function with a maximum capacity of 50% of students with classes continuing in a blended mode.

The Government further said that no management can force the children to come to school without the

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IDCO. IDCO Towers

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Nagar in Delhi. ■ FILE РНОТО

approval of the parents and attending physical classes will be optional. The DDMA had earlier allowed the reopening of schools for Classes

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"Construction of SFRC Pre tensioned & Pre cast Compound wall at Industrial Estate, Renua, District of Sundargarh, Rourkela (Balance work)".

IX to XII, colleges, and coaching institutions from September 1 and had issued guidelines for following COappropriate behaviour. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said due to

the closure of schools, student's education has severely been affected. "Children will not be compelled to attend school without parental approval. All the academic activities will continue to run offline as well as online. Schools will call 50% of the children of its maximum capacity to the classes," Mr. Sisodia said, announcing the DDMA order.

The standard operating procedure related to the reopening of these schools will soon be issued by the Government, he said.

All schools have been asked to ensure that their teaching and non-teaching staff are fully vaccinated. Mr. Sisodia said that about 98% of the teachers in Delhi schools have received at least the first dose of the vaccine. "If there is a sudden increase in the number of CO-VID-19 cases and the situation turns bad, schools will go back to the online mode of education," the Mi-

HC seeks presence of U.P. police officer over arrests from Capital

No intimation about action, says Delhi Police

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ordered the Station House Officer of Shamli police station in Uttar Pradesh to appear in person before it on October 28 after taking into account a case where two persons - father and brother of a man who got married to a woman against her family's wishes - were arrested and taken away without informing Delhi Police.

Justice Mukta Gupta, while hearing a petition by the couple, said: "It is trite law that the father and brother of the petitioner No. 2 (husband) could not be apprehended by U.P. Police and taken from Delhi without informing Delhi Police."

Justice Gupta termed it "unfortunate" that even without finding whether the woman was an adult or a minor, arrests were made by U.P. Police. "One fails to understand when petitioner No. 1 (wife) is major and has left her parental home of her own free will and married petitioner No. 2, how an offence under Section 366 (abduction) and consequential offence under Section 368 (wrongful confinement) of IPC is made out."

The couple told the court that for more than one month now, the whereabouts of the father and brother were not known.

Delhi Police, in its status report, said it was not intimated about the arrival of the police team from Shamli. An enquiry was made from the officers of Shamli police station who admitted that the father and son had been arrested, stated the report.

Firefighter succumbs to injuries

STAFF REPORTER

A 31-year-old firefighter, who had sustained burn injuries during a rescue operation at Bhorgarh in Narela, died on Wednesday, the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) said.

A resident of Rohtak in Haryana, Praveen Kumar joined the service in 2019 and was posted at DSIIDC Narela fire station.

On October 9, three firemen, including Kumar, were injured during the rescue operation after an industrial building collapsed following a blast at Bhorgarh. All of them were taken to a hospital, DFS chief Atul

Delhi Govt. allows Chhath Puja celebrations at designated ghats

DDMA approval is a result of CM's efforts, says Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said that the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has permitted Chhath Puja celebrations at notified ghats following persistent efforts by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal, who chaired a meeting of the DDMA, said on Twitter that following detailed deliberations, it was decided to continue with the 'Test, Track & Treat strategy' along with strict enforcement of COVID-19-appropriate behaviour to prevent any resurgence of infection, particularly in view of the festive

"It was decided to permit



at 'Designated Sites' subject to strict compliance of the Orders of Hon'ble NGT and SOPs laid down by the Revenue Dept in this regard (sic.)" Mr. Baijal tweeted.

Government has for the last one month been trying to seek approval from the L-G and the Centre to allow Chhath Puja in the city.

a letter urged the L-G to allow public celebration of Chhath Puja, while the Deputy Chief Minister had written to the Union Health Minister seeking permission for the festiv al," an official statement said.

Mr. Sisodia said the Delhi Mr. Sisodia said Chhath will be organised at designated ghats where COVID-19 protocols will strictly be followed and a standard operating procedure (SOP) will soon be issued.

"The Chief Minister had in 'How will you verify the age of liquor purchaser?'

HC seeks answers on home delivery

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the city Government as to how it will ensure that liquor is not provided to underage persons on home delivery under the new excise policy.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh additionally sought answers from the Delhi Government on the process of verifying the age of the person who is ordering for home delivery of liquor.

"How will you verify the age of a purchaser? You must answer this query. You cannot say you will not answer this," the court asked Delhi Government's Rahul senior counsel

Mr. Mehra responded that there would be provisions like giving the Aadhaar number or any other age proof whenever it comes into existence.

He said this was only an amendment to the existing rule and it is yet to come into existence.

The court's query came while hearing BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma's plea challenging the provision of home delivery of liquor under the new excise policy of the Delhi Government.

Mr. Verma said that the new policy was introduced at a time when the Capital was "still grappling with the second COVID-19 wave and acute shortage of medicines

Elderly couple found dead at home

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

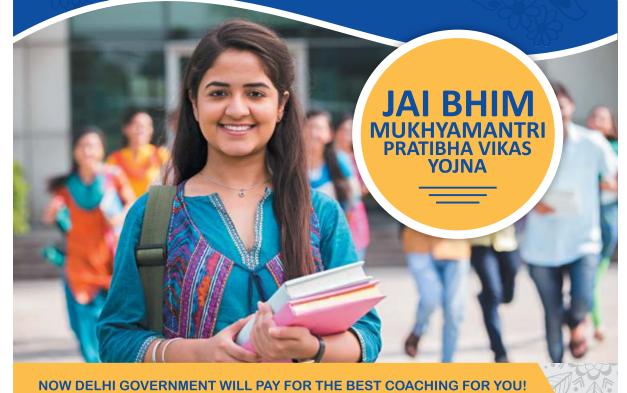
A 74-year-old man and his 69-year-old wife were found dead at their Govindpuri house on Wednesday. The victims worked as professors at Delhi University.

DCP (South-East) Esha Pandey said the victims' daughter said that the caretaker visited the house and rang the bell several times but no one responded.

Two notes were found in which both of them allegedly stated that they were fed up of their bedridden lives due to multiple fractures after an accident.

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- Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

Capital's AQI turns 'poor'

STAFF REPORTER

Tge air quality in the city deteriorated to the "poor' category on Wednesday and is expected to further worsen to "very poor" on Thursday, according to official data. The effect of stubble burning has increased and is likely to go up.

Meanwhile, the Government on Wednesday launched the 'Patake Nahi, Diye Jalao' campaign to motivate people to embrace tradition and eliminate pollution.

Open to trial court to consider Devangana's fresh plea: HC

Activist has sought videos of anti-CAA protests in riots case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Wednesday said the earlier order of rejection would not come in the way of the trial court in considering the fresh plea of Pinjra Tod activist Devangana Kalita seeking copies of certain videos of anti-CAA protests concerning a pending Delhi

riots case against her.

The High Court said it will be open to the trial court concerned to consider the same afresh.

Rejection order

Disposing of Ms. Kalita's petition challenging the rejection order passed last year, Justice Subramonium Prasad said that the order was passed by the trial court considering that the investiga-

tion against other accused in the case, at that stage, was still ongoing. The judge noted that now

the case was at the stage of cognisance of the chargesheet filed in the case.

Special public prosecutor Amit Mahajan clarified that the investigation was not "complete" and a supplementary chargesheet has to be filed in the case.

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Participants 'unhappy' with MPD-2041 online hearing

Many complain of 'confusion', 'haste'

MUNEEF KHAN NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Wednesday conducted its fourth online public hearing on the 'Draft Master Plan for Delhi-2041 (MPD-2041)' that touched upon subjects such as public spaces, spatial development framework, heritage and culture.

Some participants complained that "it was held in a very hasty manner" and there was "confusion and ambiguity" regarding the time to speak.

"I have sent suggestions that go up to 500 pages and it will take a while for me to convey the same. All we want is for them (DDA) to explain the time limit given for us to speak. Are they going to decide the future for the next 20 years in five minutes? We need a physical hearing and we have given a letter for the same to every person on the board of enquiry," said Vishal Ohri, general secretary, LSC Federation of Delhi, a traders' body.

The DDA has divided the online hearings into nine parts – between October 18

and November 10. Over 1,400 participants were invited to Wednesday's hearing to submit their suggestions before the board.

'Not invited' Some members of residents

welfare associations (RWAs) said they were not invited to the hearing "despite multiple requests". B.S. Vohra, president of East Delhi RWA, said while he had "managed to attend" the previous hearing on October 25, he received no communication for Wednesday's meeting. "I had also reached out to the DDA on Twitter in order to attend the meeting, and I was assured that it will be resolved soon, but nothing happened. They (DDA) know that we have good points to raise and maybe they don't want to discuss the issues with us," he said.

Rajiv Kakria, convener of Save Our City campaign, said he was not invited to the hearings despite several requests and objected to the process being conducted online.

A DDA official said participants who had applied to attend the hearing were invited according to the schedule.



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Tikait hints at support to Abhay for Ellenabad Assembly bypoll

The INLD leader had resigned from the seat in support of farmers' agitation

ASHOK KUMAR GURUGRAM

Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) leader Rakesh Tikait on Wednesday exhorted the electorate in Ellenabad to ensure the victory of Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) nominee Abhay Singh Chautala in the upcoming bypoll with an even bigger margin than the previous election.

Refraining from naming anyone, Mr. Tikait, through an analogy, suggested that someone had left his belongings with them and they must now return it to him with some addition.

In an obvious reference to Mr. Chautala, who had resigned as Ellenabad MLA in January this year in support of farmers' agitation, Mr. Tikait, speaking at a SKM rally in Sirsa's Nathursari Chopta, said, "someone had left his "papers" and other belongings with us six months ago



Rakesh Tikait at an SKM rally in Sirsa's Nathursari Chopta on

back. They should return it to him with an addition. Did you get my point on not?," His query was greeted with

Mr. Tikait further alleged that the Modi government was being run by big corporates, adding that its leaders were "conspirators" and wanted to buy the sarpanches.

"Now these media per-Mr. Chautala.

triangular contest with Pa-

Bharatiya Janta Party-Jannayak Janata Party coalition nominee Gobind Kanda in the predominantly rural Assembly constituency with three farm laws being one of the more important election issues. The voting is scheduled for October 30 and the counting of votes will be taken up on November 2.

'Double the margin'

Later, INLD, in a press note, claimed that Mr. Tikait had made an appeal to vote for

"Actually, Mr. Tikait has made an appeal to vote in favour of INLD nominee Abhay Chautala. He made it clear that Mr. Chautala had resigned as MLA in protest against the farm laws and the time had now come to double the margin of his victory. All those present in the rally strongly supported what Mr. Tikait said," it said.

Rajbhar vows to make Akhilesh U.P. Chief Minister once again

SBSP, SP formalise their alliance for 2022 Assembly election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

OBC leader and former Minister Om Prakash Raibhar put up a show of strength in Mau on Wednesday, where he vowed to unite voters from the OBC, Dalit and minority communities and make Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh once again.

With the huge rally - Vanchit, Pichda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak Bhagidhari Mahapanchayat - the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party of Mr. Rajbhar and the SP formalised their alliance for the 2022 Assembly election.

"Now no conspiracy of those who lie will work among Dalit and OBC people," said Mr. Yadav, targeting the BIP. He was the chief guest at the event held on the 19th foundation day of the SBSP. If there was a khela hobe in West Bengal, in U.P. there would be khadeda hobe (suggesting that BJP will be chased away), both the leaders said.

An alliance with the SBSP is significant for the SP as it not only helps the party bridge the gap between its core vote base of Yadav and



Show of strength: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party president Om Prakash Rajbhar (right) at a rally in Mau on Wednesday. • PTI

the non-Yadav OBCs in Purvanchal, but also because Mr. Rajbhar, a former BJP ally, is vocal on issues related to the Backward Castes. On stage, both the leaders donned red topis and yellow scarves to show their coming together.

By joining hands with the SP, Mr. Rajbhar had "shut the door" through which the BJP rose to power in U.P., Mr. Yadav said, referring to the BJP's support among the most-backward castes in the last election when it allied with the SBSP.

Mr. Yadav, who arrived at the rally site in Haldarpur in a helicopter, just as Mr. Rajbhar did moments before

him, told voters, especially the Dalits and OBCs, it was time to "snatch back the honour" they lost under the BJP government. The SP-SBSP alliance would restore them that lost honour, he said, even as he warned people to beware of "conspiracies" that the BJP might hatch before the election to divert their attention.

Speaking first at the wellattended rally, Mr. Rajbhar, an MLA from Zahoorabad in neighbouring Ghazipur, tried to woo the voters with a number of promises, including waiver of domestic power bills and implementation of the sub-categorisation of the OBC quota.

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The candidates may apply via online mode from 08.11.2021 to 13.11.2021 at www.admissions.hpushimla.in or www.hpuniv.ac.in. For any query contact 0177-2833770 email: mathhpuoffice@gmail.com Chairman

SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED PHI Building, Sheshadri Road, Opp. S.J.P. College, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-560001 Email: latha.mdksmscl@gmail.com

No: HFW/KSMSCL/Covid/SIX/EQPTTND/56/2021-22 Date: 27-10-2021

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

2021-22, Date: 27-10-2021 (IND-816) - Call-2. 2) Re-Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/Covid/IEB/EQPTTND/57/2021-22, Date: 27-10-2021 (IND-817) Call-2. 3) Re-Quotation Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/IT/UPS/06/2021-22 2021-22. Date: 27-10-2021.

tation for Commissioning of LAN Including Voice Connections at PHI Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore. (IFQ). 4) Re-Quotation for Supply, installation and Commissioning of UPS & Battery at PHI Building, K.R. Circle,

KSMSCL e-mail.

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and for IFQ https://www.ksmscl.kar.nic.in from 27-10-2021. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.





Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency

Ref. No. 2011/I1-02(xvi)/ITCO/URRDA/21

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

bids in electronic tendering system (Second Call) for construction of Roads and Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Barkot (District-Uttarkashi) for 09 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 3336.30 Lakh including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the Authorities. The bidders are required to submit original affidavit correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the Projects related to Garhwal Mandal at Office of BRIDCUL HQ Opp. Govt. ITI Majra, Niranjanpur, Saharnpur Road, Dehradun-248001" on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering 11.11.2021 01:00 PM For further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer, URRDA, Dehradun

in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract. Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2522941 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM. in any office days.



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We, (1) Harkesh S/o Shri Kalyar Singh and (2) Savitri W/o Shri Harkesh Both Residents of 18-A, Gali No.14 Sarojini Park, Shastri Nagar, Delhi 110031, have Declare that we have de-barred our son namely Shr Deepak S/o Shri Harkesh his wife Smt Madhu and their family members from our all moveable and immoveable properties including Property No.18 A, Gali: No.14, Sarojini Park, Shastr Nagar, Delhi-110031 due to involvemen of my son shri Deepak in illega acin-too-operative behavior of our sor and his family members towards us:

Harkesi

SITUATION VACANT **GENERAL**

LOST & FOUND

Lost & Found

Sujit Das S/o Shri Ruhidas Das, l, Sujii Das 3/0 Silii Rulindas Das, R/o Flat No. C-402, Saransh Apartments, Plot No. 34, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092, Solemnly and sincerely swear and State That I am the duly

swear and State That I am the duly constituted attorney of Shri Balram Gupta in respect of Flat No. C-402, Saransh Apartments, Plot No.-34, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092, against Membership No. 189. the Original Share Certificate vide No. 17832, Dated: 12.06.1987, Issued by Sara Co-operative Groun. ssued by Sara Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. in the name of Shri Balram Gupta, vide Membership No. 189, against the above said flat, which has been lost/misplaced.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Riya D/o Shri Kuldeep Chand, born on 14th December 1996, Residing at Chandpur, PO-Khouda, Sub Tehsil-Tihra, Tehsil-Dharmpur, Mandi, Hima-chal Pradesh-175026, shall henceforth be known as Riya Tapwal.

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2 पहले आयें, पहले पाएँ के आधार पर पास का वितरण।

DELHI

RISE 06:31 SET 17:39

Delhi Palam Today

mainly clear sky. **Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 28°C The weather will be dry.

remains cool and hazy

THEMAHINDU

Wednesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT and is now seeking them

loud cheers from the crowd.

Modi govt. flayed

intact," said Mr. Tikait.

sons will say that I have supported someone. I have not extended support to anyone. I have only said that the BJP leaders are thugs, and return the belongings to one who left it with them. It will help keep the prestige of SKM, the Khaps and the gurudwaras

wan Beniwal (Congress) and

Mr. Chautala is locked in a

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN
WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE e-Tender Notice Name of Work No. and Date

EP.No. 27 / Providing water supply infrastructure to the extended areas of ORR Villages by laying ORR Circle/ inlet, outlet and distribution network with Rs. 507.57 WS-Imp-ORR- | HDPE & DI K7 pipelines of different diameters and Construction of Service Reservoirs of Crores Areas/ Pack-I/ various capacities (GLSRs / ELSRs of varied staging) in Saroornagar, Maheswaram 2021-22, Shamshabad, Hayathnagar, Ibrahimpatnam Ghatkesar & Keesara Mandals - Package-I

(1) The bid documents download starts online from 05.11.2021. (2) Name an address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned- Chief General Manage (Engg), ORR Circle, HMWSSB, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004, Telangana 3) The contractors/firms are requested to upload the information in the 'ZIP' form preferably. (4) Further details can be seen @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in



Ref: 1) Re-Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/Covid/SIX/EQPTTND/56/ Date: 27-10-2021. 4) Re-Quotation Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/IT/IID/07

Nation wide Tender is invited through **e-Tendering system** and Quotation through website under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tenders:

1) Re-Tender for Supply and installation of ICU Cots, 100 MA Portable X-Ray and Syringe Pump for Covid-19. 2) Re-Tender for Supply and nstallation of Infusion Pump, ECG machine 12 Channel and Blood

Bangalore. (IFQ). The tenderers as who have registered under e-Procurement platform shall submit their e-tenders for above mentioned tenders. For IFQ submit through

Sd/- Managing Director Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited

rirst Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradu Ph : 0135-2608125 Fax : 2608126 Email : ut-urrda@pmgsy.nic.in, urrda@yahoo.com

The General Manager (Project), BRIDCUL on behalf of URRDA Uttarakhand invites the item rate

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 28-10-2021. Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available

*Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered





अपर मुख्य सचिव



INSPECTOR RAJ KHATAM

- 40,000 cases of VAT against industrialists and traders to be scrapped from 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17.
- 8000 remaining cases will be settled amicably by depositing just 30% of the total outstanding tax liability.
- Traders/ industrialists will only have to deposit 20% of the aforesaid tax liability during current fiscal year and the balance 80% by the next year.
- Faceless assessment of GST and VAT; now the traders and industrialists need not to present themselves physically before the taxation officers anymore.
- The number of Mobile squads reduced from 14 to 4 in Taxation department.
- Institutional Tax abolished.

CM YK

One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for the defaulters to be introduced in Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation (PSIDC), Punjab Financial Corporation (PFC) and Punjab Agro Industries Corporation (PAIC).

- Fixed charges on MS electricity connections have been slashed by 50%.
- Rs.150 crore to be spent on the upgradation of the infrastructure in the Industrial Focal Points in the State.
- The condition of 6 karam road for change of land use reduced to 4 karam.
- Amnesty scheme to be introduced for the plot holders of Punjab State Industries Export Corporation (PSIEC).
- The procedure for Change of Land Use to be simplified.
- The State government will acquire requisite land for Patti-Makhu rail link and hand over to the Ministry of Railways, Gol before the next budget.
- An Exhibition Centre will be set up at Amritsar to boost trade in the region.
- Film City will be set up at Mohali.
- District Bureau of Invest Punjab offices across the state to be set up. Six already inaugurated today.

Halwara airport to be operational within six months, Foundation stone to be laid on November 15, 2021



PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE **APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Anil S/o Inderjeet Singh, R/o E-11/30, Gali No. 11, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi and Native Address: Village Math Baijnathpur. Post Kuba Khas, Mehnazpur, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 109/21 U/S 363/366/376 IPC & 6 POCSO Act. P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Anil cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Anil has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Anil of FIR No. 109/21 U/S 363/366/376 IPC & 6 POCSO Act, P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before 20.12.2021.

Sh. Vaibhav Mehta, Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (North), Room No. 114, First Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi DP/1356/ON/2021(Court Matter



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: Approx 50 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'7", Built: Thin, Face: Round, Hair: Normal Long Black, was wearing one Yellow T-Shirt, one Black T-Shirt and Navy Blue Lower, was found in unconscious & injured condition at footpath, near 11 Murti, Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi on 24.10.2021 at about 07:15 PM. He was taken to RML

Hospital, New Delhi and admitted vide MLC No. E/230218/21, dated 24.10.2021 for treatment and died on 25.10.2021. In this regard a FIR No. 153/21 U/S 279/304A IPC, dated 26.10.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Chanakya Puri, New Delhi.

His dead body has been preserved in RML Hospital Mortuary for 72 Hrs. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos

DP/355/NDD/2021

P.S. Chanakya Puri, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23012003, 8750870523

Appeal for Identification



DP/354/RLY/2021

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead person Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 20-25 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Face: Long, Injury Marks: Body in two part from chest in train accident. **ID Mark:** 'ॐ' tattoo 'Mark on right hand. Wearing: Dark Blue Shirt, & Black Jeans Pant, Black Sandal in feet, was found dead at PF No.3,

ODRS Sadar Side Delhi. 21.10.2021 at 3.41 AM in Train Accident. In this regard, a DD No. 52A, dated 21.10.2021 has been lodged at PS ODRS, Delhi. Dead Body preserved Subzi Mandi Mortuary For identification.

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

P.S., Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-23961522, 9540360600

Punjab to scrap 40,000 pending VAT cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Punjab government said on Wednesday that it would scrap 40,000 pending cases on outstanding Value-Added Tax (VAT), out of the 48,000 cases related to financial years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 against traders and industrialists.

At the Progressive Punjab Investors Summit in Ludhiana, CM Charanjit Singh Channi said the remainingcases would be settled by asking the traders to deposit just 30% of the tax liability.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority VOIG5 Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

1, 1,		
S.no	Job no / Work name	Amount
1.	25/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2021-22, M/o Park C/o Banch plateform and Gaebo Hut in park of A, B,C,D block) in sector-105.	Cost Rs. 42.40 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 11/11/2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 12/11/2021 at 11.00 AM.

(-)-		
S.no	Job no / Work name	Amount
1.	220/D(H)/DD(H)-II/20-21, M/o Park E-2, Bal Udhyan Sector-51, Trifala Park, sector-61 & Sector-34.	Cost Rs. 47.97 Lacs
2.	221/D(H)/DD(H)-II/20-21, D/o Park sector-34, 50, 51, 52 & 61 Noida. (Sh: Dustbin & Garden Bench)	Cost Rs. 44.10 Lacs
3.	225/D(H)/DD(H)-II/20-21, D/o park with five year maintenance (Open gym) Kanshiram Colony Sector-45, Noida	Cost Rs. 30.84 Lacs
4.	226/D(H)/DD(H)-II/20-21,- D/o Park Sector-99, 100, 105, 108 (S/o Modern Children Open Equipment)	Cost Rs. 48.52 Lacs
5.	227/D(H)/DD(H)-II/20-21,D/o Park S/f Children Open Play Equipment Sector-48).	Cost Rs. 40.62 Lacs
6.	230/D(H)/DD(H)-II/20-21,D/o Park (S/f Children Open Play Equipment) Sector-47	Cost Rs. 48.52 Lacs
7.	236/D(H)/DD(H)-II/20-21,- D/o Park Sector-31, 36 (S/f of Children Open Equipment)	Cost Rs. 48.52 Lacs
8.	239//D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21,M/o Park (D/o Pathway , Painting work ono Grills, Demosling work, Grit wash plaster on boundary wall and other civil work in C-Block Park Sector -47)	Cost Rs. 42.76 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 08/11/2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 09/11/2021 at 11.00 AM.

Noida

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Ayodhya added to Delhi Govt.'s pilgrimage scheme

Deepavali celebrations, led by Kejriwal, to be telecast live

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet has decided to add Ayodhya to the list of pilgrimage sites under the 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yoina', Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced here on Wednesday.

The scheme, which facilitates free pilgrimage for senior citizens residing in the Capital, had been halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It would recommence within a month, he said.

announcement The comes ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, likely to be held early next year. The Delhi Government is also preparing to organise live telecast of Deepavali celebrations, led by Mr. Kejriwal and his Cabinet colleagues.

Advertisements for the event, in which Mr. Kejriwal invites citizens to join him remotely from their homes, have been playing out on various media, including radio and TV news channels.

"Hearty congratulations on the occasion of Diwali.



Arvind Kejriwal in Ayodhya. ■ FILE PHOTO

We will welcome Lord Ram together - but we will not burst firecrackers, we will not cause pollution," Mr. Kejriwal says in the 'Dilli Ki Diwali' ad. "All 2 crore of us Delhiites will perform Diwali Puja together at 7 p.m. Please join me in the puja from your homes... May our Delhi forever enjoy Lord Ram's benevolence. Jai Shri Ram," the Chief Minister

'Shravan Kumar' pledge Following a meeting of the Cabinet, Mr. Kejriwal said in a digital briefing that he had pledged to follow the footsteps of 'Shravan Kumar', a mythological figure from Ramayana who took his parents on a pilgrimage. "It gives me immense pleasure to inform the people of Delhi that we have approved a proposal, adding Ayodhya as one of the destinations under the Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojna," he said.

Under the Yojna, the Delhi Government bears the entire expense of the pilgrimage, including travel by air-conditioned trains, AC hotel stays, meals, local travel and more. There is also a provision to take someone young as an attendant to help the elderly in their journey. The expenses of the attendant are also borne by the Delhi Government.

Currently, there are 12 Yatra routes. The four-day-long Delhi-Ayodhya-Delhi trip will be the 13th route in the

"Till now, 35,000 people have made pilgrimages under the scheme. Today, I am beyond happy as I myself had the privilege of visiting Shri Ram Lalla in Ayodhya vesterday (Tuesday)," the Chief Minister said.

Rajasthan order on temples under fire

MOHAMMED IQBAL

An order issued by the Rajasthan police prohibiting the construction of places of worship in police stations and on the police office premises has evoked mixed reaction here, with the Opposition Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) targeting the Congress government for disturbing a tradition followed since before Independence for creating a "pleasant and spiritual atmosphere" for the law enforcement agencies.

While BJP State president Satish Poonia demanded an immediate withdrawal of the "unwarranted" order, civil rights groups here have supported the circular, pointing out that the construction of temples in public offices formed part of the politics of "religious competitiveness" and was against the

law in a secular State. Additional Director General of Police (Police Housing) A. Ponnuchami stated in the circular that the Rajasthan Religious Places and Buildings Act, 1954, disallowed the religious use of public places.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



RADHA

General Public is hereby informed that one lady Namely: Radha, W/o: Mahavir, R/o: H.No. A-121, J.J. Colony, Bakkarwala, Delhi, Age: 30 Years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Red Sari and Black Chappal in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 24.09.2021 from the area of P.S. Mundka, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 55-A, Dated 26.09.2021, has been registered at P.S. Mundka, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady but no clue

has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped lady please inform the undersigned.

Web-site: http://cbi.nic.in P.S. Mundka, Delhi E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334 Ph.: 011-28352010, 28352011 DP/1253/0D/2021

No question of alliance with TDP, asserts BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bharatiya Janata Party will contest all elections in Andhra Pradesh with the Jana Sena, its ally in the State, and there was "no question" of a tie-up with the Telugu Desam Party, BJP national secretary and its co-in-charge for the State Sunil Deodhar said on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, Mr. Deodhar said

"both parties" (referring to the ruling YSRCP and the TDP) were "not good for the health of Andhra Pradesh".

"There is no question of an alliance with the TDP," he said, in response to a question about that party's chief N. Chandrababu Naidu's recent visit to the Capital.

Mr. Deodhar also hit out at Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy for trying to appease Christian voters.

PARENTS' SAMVAAD LET'S TALK TO PARENTS

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- What support does my child need?
- What more can I do for my child?

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Launch

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Time: 10:30 AM

Venue: Thyagaraj Stadium



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DIP/Shabdarth/D/0115/21-22

Directorate of Education , Government of NCT of Delhi

CM YK



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Three Day

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28th-30th October, 2021

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3rd Prize



11 am | 28 October 2021 Science College Ground, Raipur

Chief Guest Shri Hemant Soren Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jharkhand

Presided by Shri Bhupesh Baghel Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Guests of Honour Shri K.C. Venugopal, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha

Shri P.L. Punia, Hon'ble Former MP, Rajya Sabha

Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Hon'ble MP, Lok Sabha

Dr Charan Das Mahant Hon'ble Speaker, Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly

Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala Hon'ble Former Minister, Govt of Haryana

Shri B.K. Hariprasad, Hon'ble Former MP, Rajya Sabha

Shri Bhaktacharan Das, Hon'ble Former Union Minister

Shri Manoj Mandavi Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Shri Mohan Markam, Hon'ble MLA

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Bhupesh Baghel Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh





A credible probe

The Centre must fully cooperate with the

inquiry instituted by the SC on spyware use The Supreme Court order instituting an independent probe into the possible use of Israeli spyware Pegasus is an effective intervention to protect citizens from unlawful surveillance, as well as a stern rebuff to the Government's attempt to cover up the issue by using the bogey of 'national security'. It was clear from day one, following the revelations that nearly 300 of some 50,000 phone numbers allegedly identified for surveillance belonged to Indians, that the Government would choose to brazen it out rather than hold or facilitate a credible inquiry. Ultimately, its tactic of sticking to a blanket denial of any wrongdoing, without acknowledging whether or not the spyware was available to government agencies, failed. The 46-page order by a Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, stands out for the enunciation of two clear principles: that surveillance, or even the knowledge that one could be spied upon, affects the way individuals exercise their rights, warranting the Court's intervention; and that there is no omnibus prohibition on judicial review merely because the spectre of national security is being raised. The Court deemed unacceptable the Government's refusal to shed any light on a controversy that involves possible violation of citizens' rights and made it clear that national security considerations cannot be used by the state "to get a free pass". The Court has approached the issue as one that raises an "Orwellian concern", recognising that intrusive surveillance not only violates the right to privacy but also has a chilling effect on the freedom of the press.

When damning revelations emerged that many phones of journalists, activists and even doctors and court staff were targets of military-grade spyware designed not only to grab data but also take control of devices, the Government ought to have responded, as some nations did, with alarm and alacrity. Instead, it resorted to a bald claim that illegal surveillance is not possible in India, and that the disclosure of whether or not a particular software suite was used by its agencies would compromise national security. The Court is right in making it plain that any such concern or claim of immunity ought to have been substantiated on affidavit. What is quite appalling is that the Government was unwilling even to disclose what action had been taken after it admitted in Parliament in 2019 that it was aware of some WhatsApp users being targeted by Pegasus. Its offer of ordering an inquiry on its own has been rightly rejected by the Court – it would command little credibility. The Court-supervised panel appears to have the required expertise and independence, but its success in unravelling the truth may depend on how much information it can extract from the Government and its surveillance agencies. For its part, the Government would do well to depart from its record of obfuscation and stonewalling and cooperate with the inquiry.

A world minus ads

Social media outrage against brand campaigns is fuelled by intolerance to progressive values

In a land of matchless diversity, where 138 crore people live, it is perhaps not surprising that social con-♣ flicts run along several lines including caste, class, gender, language and religion. Deepening fault lines touch every part of life, and advertising, which at a basic level nudges a consumer to make a purchasing decision but also does social messaging, is learning it the hard way. With the start of the festival season, at least two companies, Fabindia and Dabur, have had to pull out ads days after the launch for "offending sentiments" and huge social media outrage. In the case of Fabindia, people protested against the use of the words "Jashn-eriwaaz" for a new collection of clothes ahead of Deepavali. The brand later clarified that all its products in "Jashn-e-riwaaz" are "a celebration of Indian traditions" and that its Deepavali collection was yet to be launched. Yet it chose to withdraw the ad. BJP MP Tejasvi Surya led the campaign against Fabindia calling for an economic boycott; a hashtag #NoBindiNoBusiness also did the rounds, in protest against the models in the ad without bindis. Dabur's Fem brand had to pull out a Karwa Chauth ad which showed a same-sex couple observing the rituals. A Ceat ad featuring Aamir Khan asking people not to burst crackers on the roads too upset the right wing which said it should have also addressed the "problem of blocking roads" for *namaz*.

While advertisements which do not stick to the script can be a breath of fresh air, there are some which miss the mark completely with the messaging. So, if Shah Rukh Khan's latest Cadbury ad urging people to buy from small kirana shops this Deepavali is making the right noises, Kent RO's atta and bread maker ad last year and its tone-deaf portrayal of house-helps was decried. Tanishq, a jewellery brand co-owned by the Tatas, had to withdraw an ad last year that showed a Muslim family organising Hindu baby shower rituals for their Hindu daughter-in-law. It got vitriolic comments with some accusing the Tatas of promoting "Love Jihad". Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and others were aghast that a symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity could irk a section of people. They cried foul that nuance was getting lost in the cacophony of perceived hurt sentiments. If advertising is about selling a product, no company will willingly put out a campaign that may hurt its brand. The messaging must be sensitive, and that comes when a marketing team has its ear to the ground. It is nothing unusual for some ad campaigns to fail. But, worryingly, many brands have had to withdraw their campaign material after manufactured social media outrage that was fed by intolerance of progressive values and religious bigotry of the worst order.

The ground beneath the President's feet

Continuing failures and confusion in policy making and implementation are at the heart of Sri Lanka's governance crisis



JAYADEVA UYANGODA

hat has Gotabaya Rajapaksa achieved when he enters his third year in office as Sri Lanka's President on November 18? A not-so-attractive record of failures in governance.

President Rajapaksa (picture) has also been losing much of the public support, popularity and trust that brought him into power in November 2019.

The present crisis which President Rajapaksa and his regime are facing has four interconnected dimensions - economic, social, governance, and legitimacy.

Sri Lanka's worsening economic crisis is not Mr. Rajapaksa's creation. Yet, he and his team of policy advisers seem to be at a loss even to comprehend its gravity and its disastrous consequences which the people are forced to bear.

While the impact of the protracted public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on Sri Lanka's economy may take a few years to manage, its social impact has been devastating. The absence of any effective government interventions to alleviate economic hardships faced by the poor, the new poor produced by the pandemic, the working people and all strata of the middle class, both urban and rural, have a fresh social

A strong leader

Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa began his tenure as President in November 2019 by promising the Sri Lankan people a fresh beginning for a future of stability, security, development, and prosperity. He was also open about his ideological project that gave primacy to the aspirations of Sri Lanka's majority ethnic

community, the Sinhalese Buddhists. He did not have any democratic pretensions either. Mr. Rajapaksa's promise was for a 'strong government' under a 'strong leader' to ensure national security, law and order, political stability, and victor's peace with the ethnic mi-

Soon after assuming office, he launched a programme of restoring Sri Lanka's personalised model of executive authoritarianism, that had been suspended by the previous government under the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. For this objective, Mr. Rajapaksa made use of the public health emergency caused by the CO-VID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

Bypassing the then Oppositiondominated Parliament, Mr. Rajapaksa concentrated a great deal of financial and administrative power into his hands, thereby re-establishing the presidential executive as the central institution of state power. In October 2020, Mr. Rajapaksa used the newly gained twothirds parliamentary majority to abolish the 19th Amendment. Under the 20th Amendment, Sri Lanka was thus brought back to executive presidentialism, which has been the mainstay of Sri Lanka's democratic decay for decades.

Civil-military ties

Mr. Rajapaksa also initiated a new trend in civil-military relations in Sri Lanka's structures of governance. Appointing the army commander to head a new presidential task force to manage the public health crisis and placing the military over the politicians as well as medical and civilian professionals were its first signs. In the new political and administrative order, serving and retired senior military officers are given key roles.

As critics insist, militarisation of public administration is a key component of Mr. Rajapaksa's project of de-democratisation.

Continuing failures and confusion in policy making and imple-



mentation are at the heart of an on-going governance crisis since the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, mid last year. Having been persuaded by nativist ideologues and local conspiracy theorists, President Rajapaksa initially de-emphasised the urgency of launching a rapid vaccination programme throughout the country. His encouragement of magic and sorcery to combat the pandemic put the public health policy into disarray. It is only after the pandemic had reached crisis proportions by middle of this year that President Rajapaksa turned to science, expert advice and vaccination.

Meanwhile, the current controversy caused by the President's ideologically-inspired decision to ban chemical fertilizers and inputs in all spheres of agriculture epitomises the Rajapaksa regime's record of inept and autocratic approach to initiating economic and social transformation.

This inexplicably rash and inappropriate policy intervention has already caused much social unrest and discontent among very wide sections of the peasantry.

Similarly, the recent mishandling of Sri Lanka's chronic foreign exchange crisis, leading to further destabilisation of the country's currency and economy, has caused a fear among citizens that continuing economic policy failures might even trigger an eco-

Moreover, the government's repeated failures to intervene to bring the prices of essential consumer items down and manage the runaway cost of living, amidst uncertainties and confusion in policy decisions and their implementation, have further dented the President's much advertised claim to an efficient, result-oriented, professionalised, technocratic, and no-nonsense style of leadership and governance.

Core issues

Thus, the Sri Lankan government's apathy towards the suffering of the people amidst rapidly declining income levels and an erosion of living standards and economic insecurity caused by a rampant economic and financial crisis is just one among many instances of a serious failure in governance. Moreover, the severity of the economic crisis has also made it impossible for President Rajapaksa to initiate a state-sponsored social support programme for the poor, the new poor and vulnerable segments of the people. This, obviously, is at the mainstay of Sri Lanka's growing social crisis at present.

Amidst all this, what baffles the critics and the supporters alike of President Rajapaksa is the degree of insensitivity he and his government display to the consequences of his policy failures and crisis of governance for people's lives and their survival.

It is the accumulation of such failures at multiple levels of policy, governance, and leadership that has seriously eroded the popular support that Mr. Rajapaksa enjoyed just two years ago. It also constitutes the core of the legitimacy crisis he has to deal with at the personal level as well.

The Rajapaksa administration is now facing open defiance and protests by three large segments of citizens who may have overwhelmingly voted for him in No-

producers engaged in export agriculture, and public sector schoolteachers. As many of them are reported to have been saying at their protest rallies, defying police threats and the ridicule by ruling party politicians, they now regret that they have voted such a band of rulers into power.

It is this open expression of a generalised feeling of loss of political trust and public disillusionment with President Rajapaksa's leadership that symbolises the acuteness of the legitimacy crisis he has to deal with in the weeks and months to come.

International relations

One area where the President has managed to secure some success is foreign relations. He seems to have taken note of the bad press he got locally, regionally and internationally for his regime's close proximity to China at the expense of Sri Lanka's traditional allies and friends. Mending relations with India, Europe and America appears to be a recent policy shift he has engineered.

However, the President seems to be quite determined to stay in power till the end of his current term and beyond. If Charles de Gaulle and Lee Kuan Yew were the role models of former Sri Lankan leader J.R. Jayewardene, Lee Kuan Yew and Chinese President Xi Jinping are Mr. Rajapaksa's idols. One crucial lesson that he seems to have learnt from all those leaders is that one term of office is hardly adequate for a ruler who thinks of himself as personifying the nation's destiny.

Meanwhile, a weakened and politically unassertive parliamentary Opposition seems to be President Rajapaksa's only credible political asset at the moment.

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Energy cooperation as the backbone of India-Russia ties

Russian companies have the potential to be long-term partners with India in aiding its energy transformation arate memorandums of under-



DMITRIY FROLOVSKIY

India has been at the forefront of Lenergy and striving to diversify its trade relations. With its abundant energy sources and appetite for trade diversification, Russia could be an ultimate long-term partner. But the bilateral ties require more support from both government and corporate leaders to grasp its potential in this field.

In September, at the 6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in Russia's Vladivostok, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a virtual address said, "India-Russia energy partnership can help bring stability to the global energy market."

Indian and Russian Energy Ministers announced that the countries' companies have been pushing for greater cooperation in the oil and gas sector beyond the U.S.\$32 billion already invested in joint projects. India's Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri referred to Russia as the largest investor in India's energy sector.

Going green too

The novel coronavirus pandemic is still far from over but an economic recovery has been underway. India, Asia's third-largest economy, has expanded by more than 20% in the June quarter on a yearto-year basis and is expected to grow by around 9% by the end of 2021. The rate is expected to be higher than China's 8.5%, assuming the effective suppression of

The distinctive feature of this recovery is that it is advanced by

the quest for energy transformation and environmental concerns. India has been increasingly leaning toward green transition since the recovery started, and its appetite has been growing.

One of the examples of cooperation between the two countries in energy transformation is the joint venture between India's Reliance Industries Ltd. and Russia's Sib the country's largest petrochemicals producer. Set up in Jamnagar, Gujarat, the venture now leads the first butyl and halogenated butyl rubber production facility in South Asia. The facility became operational in 2019 and achieved a total throughput within the first year, establishing itself as a significant supplier of butyl rubber in the Indian market previously wholly dependent on imports. A joint venture will produce up to 120 ktpa of butyl rubber, 60 ktpa of which could be further converted to halogenated butyl rubber to meet the growing demand from domestic tyre manufacturers.

Overcoming supply chain risk In an interview, Alexander Petrov,

Sibur member of management board heading the Plastics, Elastomers and Organic Synthesis Division, said in an interview, "Reliance Sibur Elastomers is not only supplying most of the butyl rubber consumed in the country but is also exporting its products." He added, "Sibur is bringing to India unique technology, which is not commercially available in the market and the most advanced in terms of [an] ecological footprint. The project will tremendously support the growth of India's auto industry by securing uninterrupted critical raw material supply. This is of particular importance in the current pandemic, multiplying the risks of global supply chains

Apart from accounting for most



of the Indian butyl rubber market, Reliance Sibur Elastomers exports its products to Asia, Europe, the United States, Brazil and other countries. The venture is also promoting halogenated butyl rubber, which is a more premium product.

The project is a clear manifestation of the "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives, representing a practical example of technology transfer from Russia

Key factors

India is one of the fastest-growing markets for butyl rubber and halogenated butyl rubber due to its rapidly expanding car manufacturing industry pushing for electric vehicles. Further to this, India is emerging as a critical refining hub in Asia to boost its petrochemical capacity. Currently, the country has an installed capacity of more than 249.36 mtpa, with local companies planning to significantly expand the capacity by investing more than U.S.\$27 billion by

Over the past years, India's refineries have been expanding towards petrochemicals to capture additional value, the International Energy Agency wrote in the India Energy Outlook 2021 report in February. The agency estimates that the country's ethylene production is set to grow by two-thirds over the period to 2030.

Russia's Gazprom and India's ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) and the Indian Oil Corporation signed sepalso met with Sibur's Management Board Chairman Dmitry Konov at

standing at Vladivostok. Mr. Puri

Renewable, nuclear energy In efforts to transition to green

energy, India has recently stallation of 100 gigawatts of total installed renewable energy capacity, excluding large hydro. It now aims to hit 175 GW of renewable energy target by December 2022. If achieved, that would be close to half of India's current total installed power capacity. Furthermore, according to the survey of the government in New Delhi, "additional investments in renewables up to the year 2022 would be

about \$80 billion". Commitment to net zero emissions could positively impact the country's growth trajectory. A recent Deloitte report has forecasted that India could gain U.S.\$11 trillion in economic value over the next 50 years by limiting rising global temperatures and realising its potential

decarbonization'. However, unknowns of climate change and threats of a new pandemic suggest that the country should accelerate its energy transition. Russia, one of the key global players across the energy market, could emerge as an indispensable partner for such a transition. Notably, both countries have an extensive record of bilateral cooperation in the energy domain.

Russian companies have been involved in the construction of six nuclear reactors in the Kudankulam nuclear power project at Tamil Nadu. Of these, unit 1 and unit 2 have been operating at total capacity. Unit 3 is still under construction. Previously, Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed that

Russia is ready to build a dozen reactors in India over the next 20 years. Furthermore, India and Russia secure the potential of designing a nuclear reactor specifically for developing countries, which is a promising area of cooperation.

India's nuclear power generaachieved a significant milestone of tion capacity of 6,780 MW may intributing to the country's efforts to turn to green energy.

> A few years ago, Rosneft invested U.S.\$12.9 billion in India's second-largest private oil refiner, Essar Oil, renamed Nayara Energy, marking it one of the most significant foreign investments in years.

> In September, almost all of Russia's major energy companies were interested in projects in India, Russia's Energy Minister Nikolai Shulginov said at the Vladivostok forum in September, adding that he sees prospects for energy cooperation in all areas.

> However, the current bilateral exchange rate needs to accelerate for India to grasp its potential from energy transformation.

Still coal-centric

Despite significant progress, coal remains India's most important source of electricity production, and it does not spell good news for the environment.

To meet its growing energy demand and succeed in green transformation, India needs approximately U.S.\$500 billion of investments in wind and solar infrastructure, grid expansion, and storage to reach the 450 GW capacity target by 2030. Therefore, more efforts are needed to expand cooperation with such partners as

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

Vaccination drive In a heterogeneous

population as in India, with diverse religious practices. illiteracy, superstitions and beliefs, it is indeed a phenomenal achievement to get the vaccination drive going strong, that too in a short span of time. It speaks of the discipline of the common man to fall in line. But if one looks closely, the

drive is still half done. There has to be focus to A.V. NARAYANAN. Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

disturbance."

Disrespectful?

The report, "Welcoming hooves and tank threads" (Inside pages, October 27), was interesting. However, some of the references made by Bimal Patel -

whose design firm is the Centre's consultant for the entire Central Vista redevelopment project were jarring, an example being, "These guys who bring their horses during the Republic Day parade." It is rather sad that Mr. Patel has addressed Indian Army soldiers as "these guys". Also "these guys" do not bring "their" horses just

like that. The horses are from the famed cavalry of the Indian Army. Being a part of the Republic parade is service to the nation and fosters national pride. SHANMATHY. <u>Dharampuram,</u> Tamil Nadu

Getting monsoon ready That Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has chaired a meeting to review

the northeast monsoon is welcome (Tamil Nadu, October 27). However, this is certainly not enough. After Mr. Stalin's government took over from the AIADMK, the focus is on the main roads; many interior roads are in very

bad shape. In many

measures being taken in the

State in view of the onset of

the precautionary

online, scan the QR code

stretches, there are open manholes and the attention being given by the civic authorities is not encouraging. The Chief Minister must take note as people do not want an action replay of the year 2015.

A.P. THIRUVADI, Chennai

The need to move away from clientelism

Welfare initiatives embody civil rights, whereas freebies cultivate a patron-client syndrome



C. LAKSHMANAN & VENKATANARAYANAN S

A neoliberal economy encourages private capital and the market, while forcing the state to withdraw from welfare. The state is limited in taking concrete and constructive efforts to fulfil the aspirations of the people. Even as the poor perceive the state as an arbitrator of their well-being and a facilitator for their mobility in all spheres of life, today's political parties resort to unsolicited freebies to attract them. The line between welfarism and populism has blurred.

Welfare initiatives include a targeted Public Distribution System, providing social security for labourers, quality education, fair employment, affordable healthcare, decent housing, and protection from exploitation and violence. Freebies, on the other hand, are provided to attract voters to cast their vote in a particular election. They create limited private benefit for the receiver and do not contribute towards strengthening public goods/facilities.

A freebie culture

The culture of freebies in Tamil Nadu was started during the 1967 Assembly elections. The then Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief C.N. Annadurai offered three measures of rice for ₹1. The practice of providing freebies was followed by subsequent Chief Ministers of both the DMK and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), who promised free TV sets, free laptops to students, free rides for women in buses, free gas cylinders and stoves, a goat and a cow for poor farmers, and so on.

Initially, the government attempted to strengthen the redistribution of resources for all. After the 1990s, Dravidian parties moved towards clientelism, narrowly focussing on electoral gains. A study by Shroff, Kumar and Reich (2015) on the DMK's health insurance scheme demonstrated that the main beneficiaries were the party's core supporters and swing voters who could be influenced easily. Worse, after 2009, fewer people accessed public health



care centres.

In 2021, however, there was a qualitative difference in the manifesto of the DMK, which avoided most of the freebies except tablet devices to students studying in higher secondary schools and colleges. The manifesto reflected more of a programmatic policy intervention towards better public services than narrow private benefits in the form of freebies. But both the DMK and the AIADMK were silent on land distribution and enhancing budgetary allocation for maintenance of public infrastructure like schools, colleges, hostels and hospitals. The GSDP share for health was better under AIADMK rule compared to DMK rule, but both were below 1.5%. Tamil Nadu's 2021-22 Budget shows that it has allocated around 13.3% of its total expenditure for education, which is lower than average allocation for education by all States, which is 15.8%.

Depoliticising the poor

When Senior Counsel Arvind P. Datar submitted his arguments in S. Subramaniam Balaji v. Govt. of Tamil Nadu (2013), which challenged the freebies of both the DMK government in 2006 and AIADMK government in 2011, he emphasised that freebies violate the constitutional mandate of extending benefits for public purpose and instead create private benefits. He asserted that the literacy rate in Tamil Nadu was around 73% and there were 234 habitations across the State with no school access whatsoever, and distribution of free consumer goods to the people having ration cards cannot be justified as "public purpose". Further, distributing laptops does not serve the purpose of increasing the quality of education. According to a

report by 'Anaivarukkum Kalvi Iyakkam' (Sarva Siksha Abhiyan) in 2019, there were 3,003 government schools attended by less than 15 students. Due to lack of proper infrastructure facilities and specialised teachers, parents prefer to move their students to private schools. According to a report in this newspaper in 2019, more than 1,500 hostels for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) were in a dilapidated condition. Hence, freebies will not only depoliticise the poor and

marginalised communities but also

indirectly deny them their due share

of state resources. Freebies drastical-

ly widen the gap between the rich

and the poor. Populism encourages

mediocre political critics and erases

critical and rational thinking, which

are important to raise pertinent

questions to people in power.

Compared to other States, Tamil Nadu has made impressive strides in many development indicators such as education, healthcare (mortality rate and life expectancy) and infrastructure facilities. However, it lags behind in other aspects. According to the Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Department's publication, 'Salient Statistics on Agriculture, 2019', SCs, who constitute nearly 20% of Tamil Nadu's population, accounted for 10% of agricultural landowners and possessed 7.8% of the farmland in the State. Even though the literacy rate is high in Tamil Nadu, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 (2015-16), only 32% of women aged 15-49 had completed 12 or more years of schooling, compared with 38% of men. The NFHS-4 showed sharp differences between SCs and Other Backward Classes in Tamil Nadu. The neonatal mortality was 12.3% for OBCs, but 17.4% for

DATA POINT

SCs. Infant mortality was 18.4% for OBCs but 23.6% for SCs. And underfive mortality was 24.8% for OBCs and 31% for SCs. The data reflect inequal access to public health infrastructure.

According to a paper by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, 'Explaining the contractualisation of India's workforce' (2019), the share of contract workers in Tamil Nadu increased sharply from 8.3% in 2000-01 to 20.17% in 2013-14, which shows the withdrawal of the state in providing social security, and leaving the workforce at the mercy of neoliberal market forces.

A dichotomy

Theoretically, there is a qualitative distinction between being subjects in an authoritarian regime and being citizens in a democratic polity. Unsolicited freebies cultivate a patronclient syndrome and encourage personality cults in a democratic polity. Besides, they affect the critical faculties of citizens, particularly the poor and the marginalised. Providing freebies is to treat people like subjects, whereas citizens are entitled to constitutional guarantees. Welfare initiatives are an embodiment of civil rights, whereas unsolicited freebies show benevolence at best and apathy at worst towards the poor by the rul-

ing parties. There was a positive indication that the DMK is reconsidering unsolicited freebies/populism when it tabled a White Paper on the State's Finances in the Assembly recently. Thereafter, there has been a lot of public discussion on this issue, which may lead to a reorientation of public policy in a healthy direction. Political parties and civil society should consider quality aspects in education, healthcare and employment and ensure fair distribution and redistribution of resources for the marginalised communities. We draw the public's attention and debate to the dichotomy between welfare and unsolicited freebies or populism, so that the constitutional ideal of a secular, egalitarian and democratic India can be realised.

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Strengthening healthcare

ABHIM can fix the weaknesses in India's health system



COVID-19 exposed several weaknesses in India's underfunded health system. Rural primary care is underfunded and has shortages of staff, equipment, drugs and infrastructure in many parts of the country. Urban primary healthcare has still not emerged as an active programme in many States. District and medical college hospitals suffer shortages of specialist doctors and support staff.

The private sector ranges from advanced tertiary care hospitals in big cities to informal and often unqualified care providers in villages. During the pandemic, it could not assuredly provide affordable care or deliver vaccines in large parts of India. There was a disconnect between the various levels of care within the public system, and the private system operated in a separate universe. Most government-funded healthcare insurance programmes did not cover outpatient care. This patchwork quilt of a mixed healthcare system frayed fast when challenged by the surging second wave of the virus.

New scheme

Alerted by the experience of the first wave of 2020, the government proposed in the Budget greater investment in the health system. The Fifteenth Finance Commission too recommended strengthening of urban and rural primary care, stronger surveillance systems and laboratory capacity as well as creation of critical care capacity at different levels of the health system. The Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (ABHIM), announced recently, links these elements. It will support infrastructure development of 17,788 rural health and wellness centres (HWCs) in seven highfocus States and three north-eastern States. In addition, 11,044 urban HWCs will be established in close collaboration with Urban Local Bodies. The various measures of this scheme will extend primary healthcare services across India. Areas like hypertension, diabetes and mental health will be covered, in addition to existing services. Concomitantly, the network of centres will build a trained public health workforce that can perform routine public health functions while responding to a public health emergency.

Support for 3,382 block public health units (BPHUs) in 11 high-focus States and establishment of integrated district public health laboratories in all 730 districts will strengthen capacity for information technologyenabled disease surveillance. To enhance the capabilities for microbial surveillance, a National Platform for One Health will be established. Four Regional National Institutes of Virology will be established. Laboratory capacity under the National Centre for Disease Control, the Indian Council of Medical Research and national research institutions will be strengthened. Fifteen bio-safety level III labs will augment the capacity for infectious disease control and bio-security.

Many non-COVID-19 patients were denied treatment during the pandemic, as hospitals were crowded. Critical care hospital blocks, with 50-100 beds, will be established in 602 districts, to enable care for those with serious infectious diseases without disrupting other services. In non-pandemic situations, this capacity will be utilised for providing critical care for other disease conditions. For enhancing the level of disaster response readiness, 15 health emergency operation centres and two container-based mobile hospitals will be created.

Training public health professionals

There is a need to train and deploy a larger and better skilled health workforce. Upgraded district hospitals offer the best opportunity for creating new training centres. Public health expertise will be needed for programme design, delivery, implementation and monitoring in many sectors that impact health. We must scale up institutional capacity for training public health professionals.

To provide a continuum of care at different levels, HWCs will be linked with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, for all entitled beneficiaries. The hub-and-spoke model of block, district, regional and national public health laboratories will enable effective microbial surveillance. Private sector participation in service delivery may be invited by States, as per need and availability.

ABHIM, if financed and implemented efficiently, can strengthen India's health system by augmenting capacity in several areas and creating a framework for coordinated functioning at district, state and national levels. It can enable data-driven decentralised decision-making and people-partnered primary care at the block level while strengthening national connectivity for delivering universal healthcare. Many independently functioning programmes will have to work with a common purpose by leaping across boundaries of separate budget lines and reporting structures. That calls for a change of bureaucratic mindsets and a cultural shift in Centre-State relations. Perhaps the platforms for active citizen engagement can catalyse both.

K. Srinath Reddy, a cardiologist and epidemiologist, is President, Public Health Foundation of India. Views

The Man Thindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 28, 1971

UNSC presidency may go to China

The U.N. Secretary-General U Thant to-day

[United Nations, Oct. 27] urged Peking to

hurry up its appointment of a U.N. represen-

tative amid speculation that China could

take over leadership of the Security Council

on Sunday night. In his second cable to the

Chinese Foreign Ministry since Monday

night when the General Assembly decided to

seat the People's Republic of China and ex-

pel Taiwan, U Thant asked for a swift ap-

pointment so that the work of the Security

Council might not be interrupted. He ob-

served that a Council member's delegate

must present his credentials not less than 24

hours before taking his seat. The presidency

of the Council changes at midnight on Sun-

day and if the Chinese decided to be known

in the U.N. as the People's Republic of China,

it would go to them. Otherwise, Poland will

succeed Nicaragua under the system of al-

phabetical rotation. "I would be grateful if

you would inform me at your earlier conve-

nience of the name of your representative

on the Security Council, U Thant said in his

message to the acting Foreign Minister, Mr.

Chi Peng-Fei. "I may add that a meeting of

the Security Council might be called any mo-

Pegasus before the security cart

The Court's acknowledgement that the allegations of snooping have some weight go a long way

RAMESH KALPATHY VAIDYANATHAN & SUYASH SARVANKAR

The Supreme Court's recent record on civil liberties has not been inspiring, especially where the cryptic phrase 'national security' is uttered. The rationale has been that the government is best placed to assess the impact on national security as it is the one overseeing all intelligence agencies and enforcement efforts. Hence, courts must allow considerable deference rather than coerce the government into sharing details that may compromise national security. Any critique of the court's rationale for deferring to national security is hampered by the recent judgments marked by what they omit rather than what they state: the reasons. Hence, the Court's order on October 27 forming a committee to probe the use of military grade spyware in India on Indian citizens was refreshing.

It is telling that the order begins with a quote from George Orwell's 1984. The allegations against the government were indeed Orwellian: at considerable expense, the government infringed the right to privacy of several leading journalists and politicians by deploying spyware on their phones to monitor all communications. There are even graver allegations that Pegasus was used to implant false documents and evidences on the devices of persons under surveillance. The government supposedly did so through a software named Pegasus whose developer, the NSO Group, purportedly sells it only to certain undisclosed governments and the end user of its products are "exclusively government intelligence and law enforcement agencies".

No filing of an affidavit

The Constitution mandates that any restriction on the right to privacy must be through a valid law, be necessary to meet a legitimate purpose and be proportionate, i.e., there is a proper balance to be achieved between that purpose and the harm caused by limiting the right. It is likely that the snooping, if any, through Pegasus may not be sanctioned by any law to begin with, else the government would have filed an affidavit to that effect as nudged by the apex court. Instead, the government has repeatedly relied on a Minister's statement in Parliament denying the snooping allegations. Representations made in Parliament are generally protected by parliamentary privilege and consequences for false or misleading statements are rare. This is unlike an affidavit in court proceedings where such communication is punishable with imprisonment.

The Supreme Court observed that there is a broad consensus between the government and the aggrieved petitioners that unauthorised surveillance/accessing of stored data from the devices of citizens for reasons other than nation's security would be illegal, objectionable and a matter of concern. The only question that remained was whether such unauthorised surveillance and access of data had taken place in this case. To the surprise of no one, in the face of evidence of snooping produced by the writ petitioners themselves, the government resorted to ritualistic incantation of 'national security' to

avoid providing answers in affidavit. Thankfully, the Supreme Court did not buy these omnibus assertions to desist from interference. It said national security cannot be the bugbear that the judiciary shies away from, by virtue of its mere mentioning. Rightly, the Court observed that in a democracy governed by the rule of law, indiscriminate spying on individuals cannot be allowed except with sufficient statutory safeguards grounded in legality, necessity and proportionality. Hence, where the government refuses to divulge the information sought, it is incumbent on the government to not only specifically plead the constitutional concern or statutory immunity but also justify the same in Court on affidavit.

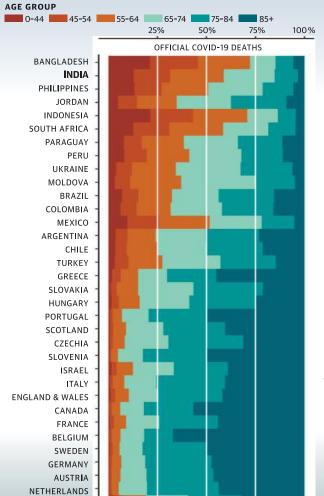
The Court's acknowledgement that the allegations of snooping have some weight go a long way. Yet, the Committee's conduct in investigating these allegations must go further. The investigation must be swift and its finding must be made public.

Ramesh Kalpathy Vaidyanathan is Managing Partner & Suyash Sarvankar is Associate, Advaya Legal

Not an old man's disease in poorer nations



1. VARYING AGE PROFILES | The graph shows the age distribution of officially recorded COVID-19 deaths in 2020 by country. A clear distinction in the age profiles of COVID-19 deaths is observed



SHARE OF DEATHS AT AGE (%)

Fewer deaths among the young were observed in relatively wealthy

SOURCE: WORLD BANK'S POLICY RESEARCH WORKING PAPER 9807, OUR WORLD IN DATA

nations. This trend does not hold for relatively poor countries

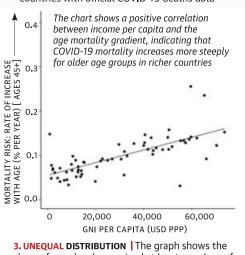
US

SWITZERLAND

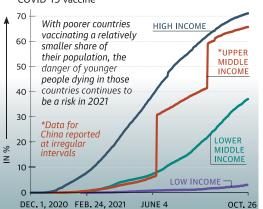
Using official COVID-19 death counts for 64 countries, a World Bank Policy Research paper

has found that middle-income countries saw a higher share of pandemic-related deaths in 2020 of the younger population compared to high-income countries. According to official reports, on average, across high-income countries, just 11% of the deaths were among those aged under 65. In contrast, people under 65 constituted on average 40% of official COVID-19 deaths in upper-middleincome countries and 54% of deaths in lower middle-income countries in 2020. The paper argues that differences in the population age structure of nations can only partly answer these contrasting profiles. Both COVID-19 and excess death age mortality curves are flatter in countries with lower incomes, the report finds. The report also observes that the contrasting mortality patterns could be due to a combination of variation in age patterns of infection rates and infection fatality rates

2. MORTALITY VS GNI PER CAPITA | The graph depicts the rate of increase in mortality by age in % per year starting at age 45 against 2019 Gross National Income (GNI) per capita for the 64 countries with official COVID-19 deaths data



share of people who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine



A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 28, 1921

The Anti-Drink Campaign

ment by the President."

Srungavarapukota, October 26: Srungavarapukota Taluq Pracharaks having done vigorous anti-drink propaganda after the first sale, almost all first sale bidders refused to open shops, applied for trees and applied to the Collector to cancel the sales. Salt officers came fifteen days back, went round inducing bidders to apply for trees but in vain. Consequently resales were announced and they commenced at Srungavarapukota taluq office on the 25th noon. The peon called for bidders. None came forward. Pandit Ramachandra Sasrrinad seven Vizag desasevans were in the compound preaching temperance with Swaraj flag amidst them. The Tahsildar asked the flag to be taken out of sight and so it was done. Meanwhile some constables bringing a bidder to the office, Sarveswara Sastri approached prostrating before the bidders' feet, preaching temperance. The bidders stopping to hear. Sastri rose and began begging and preaching the bidders when a constable dragged Sastri aside and necked him out.

FROM PAGE ONE

SC sets up panel to look into Pegasus allegations

The court asked the committee to submit its report "expeditiously". It posted the next hearing after eight weeks.

It said the gnawing fear of being spied on affected liberty and had a "chilling effect". Ordinary citizens, and not just activists and journalists, started to drift towards self-censorship.

"Members of a civilised democratic society have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Privacy is not the singular concern of journalists or social activists. Every citizen of India ought to be protected against violations of privacy. It is this expectation which enables us to exercise our choices, liberties, and freedom. It is undeniable that surveillance and the knowledge that one is under the threat of being spied on dual decides to exercise his or her rights," the Bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, said in The court highlighted

how the Union of India had not specifically denied the allegations. The Government, despite being given several opportunities by the court, chose to respond with an "omnibus and vague denial" in a "limited affidavit". The Government had refused to take a clear stand in court, citing national security reasons, despite the fact that the Pegasus allegations had first surfaced two years ago. The court, however, declined a plea by the petitioners to have the Cabinet Secretary submit an affidavit in court, responding to Pegasus allegations.

Centre wants to keep birth, death database

Repository of data A look at some of the proposed amendments to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (RBD), 1969

One amendment says the Chief Registrar (appointed by the State Government) is to maintain a unified database at the State level and integrate it with the data at the national level, which the Registrar General of India maintains

■ If implemented, the Centre could use the data to update the National Population Register

database prepared under the National Food Security

The amendments have been proposed by the RGI, which works under the Union Home Ministry.

A new Section 3 A is proposed to be inserted in the Act, which says, "The Registrar General, India shall maintain the database of registered births and deaths at the national level, that may be used, with the approval of the Central government, to update the Population Register prepared under the Citizenship Act, 1955; electoral registers or electoral rolls prepared under the Representation of the People Act. 1951: Aadhaar database prepared under the Aadhaar Act, 2016; ration card Act, 2013; passport database prepared under the Passport Act; and the driving licence database under the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, and other databases at the national level subject to proviso of Section 17 (1) of the RBD Act, 1969." If the amendments implemented, the Centre could use the data to update the National Population Register. The NPR already has a database of 119 crore residents and under the Citizenship Rules, 2003, it is the first step towards the creation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Mullaperiyar water level can stay, says committee

Tamil Nadu said the water level in the dam was 137.6 ft on Wednesday. Kerala wants the court to direct Tamil Nadu, which manages the dam, to not allow the water stored to cross 139 ft. It said that an increase in the water level and its eventual release would risk floods, and endanger the lives of lakhs of people in Kerala. Tamil Nadu argued that Kerala was exaggerating. Rain had already stopped. Besides, there were the top court's judgments that fixed the maximum water level at 142 feet. The court asked Kerala to

Ms. Bhati was given two days' time on Monday to report back to the court with

respond to the committee

report on Thursday.

the decision of the supervisory committee.

"The water level is 137.6 ft. Rainfall has abated," said senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, for Tamil Nadu. "In social media in Kerala there is a continuous campaign going on. The Kerala Chief Minister has made a statement in the Assembly that all these apprehensions are misplaced."

The case concerns a petition filed by Idukki resident Dr. Joe Joseph and officebearers of the Kothamangalam block panchayat in Kerala, who had expressed their apprehensions about the supervision of water levels in the Mullaperiyar dam located along the Periyar tiger reserve, especially

during the rainy season.

India seeks vaccine loans from ADB, AIIB

The ADB is expected to lend \$1.5 billion and the AIIB around \$500 million for the vaccine purchase by the Government of India, which has been made under the ADB's Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)

initiative. The 667 million doses will, however, have to be vaccines qualified by the World Health Organization (WHO). Covishield is among those vaccines but Covaxin is still awaiting the green light with a final assessment scheduled for November 3.

Launched in December 2020, APVAX offers "rapid and equitable support to its developing member countries as they procure and deliver effective and safe CO-

VID-19 vaccines" According to the ADB, for a vaccine to be eligible for financing, it must "be procured via COVAX [the global vaccine access initiative], prequalified by WHO, or authorised by a Stringent Regulatory Authority", which, according to the WHO, does not include India's health authorities.

Beijing-headquartered AIIB will co-finance the vaccine procurement. The bank said that this week, a number of loans were being considered for projects in India, including another loan for the next phase of the Chennai Metro rail system.

Memo did not give correct grounds of arrest: Aryan's plea

Bail petition tells Bombay High Court that NCB 'is misleading it on recoveries'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The hearing on the bail petition of Aryan Khan, son of actor Shah Rukh Khan who has been arrested in a drugs case, continued in the Bombay High Court on Wednes-

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Aryan Khan, argued before a Single Bench of Justice Nitin Sambre that no person should be detained without being informed about the grounds of arrest and the person should have the right to consult a lawyer of his choice.

Mr. Rohatgi contended that the arrest memo did not give the correct grounds for the detention, and said Article 22 of the Constitution was more important than Section 50 (person arrested to be informed of grounds of arrest and of right to bail) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Counsel pointed out that the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had the phone of Aryan Khan but it was not mentioned in the remand



Long stay: The entrance of Arthur Road Jail, where Aryan Khan is under custody.

application, and so Aryan Khan did not have access to the chats. He said the NCB chose to mislead about what was recovered from Aryan

Mr. Rohatgi said the remand application was misleading as if large quantities of drugs were recovered from Aryan Khan. He concluded his arguments seeking bail for Aryan Khan.

Draconian law

Senior advocate Amit Desai, representing co-accused in the case Arbaaz Merchant (also lodged in the Arthur Road Jail), argued that the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was a draconian law and there was a need to apply mind.

He also mentioned that on Tuesday, the Special NDPS Court granted bail to two guests who were on the same cruise which was raided on October 1. Manish Rajgaria and Avin Sahu were both charged under relevant Sections of the NDPS Act for consumption, possession and conspiracy. Rajgaria was accused of possessing 2.4 grams of cannabis.

The lawyer of another coaccused Munmun Dhamecha (lodged in Byculla Jail) will argue on Thursday.

NCB records statement of Wankhede

STAFF REPORTER

Sameer Wankhede, controversial zonal director of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), who is probing the Aryan Khan drugs case, is being investigated by the agency over the allegations of him demanding bribe and he has recorded his statement, said a senior NCB official on Wednesday.

Earlier, Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik released the nikahnama of Mr. Wankhede's first marriage with Shabana Qureishi. The document mentioned Mr. father Dawood as Wankhede.

The family of the officer accepted that the nikahnama is authentic. "This nikahnama was to fulfill the wish of his Muslim mother," said Mr. Wankhede's

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Union Home Minister Amit

Shah said on Wednesday

that Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi had increased the

value of the Indian passport

and the pride of the country

augural session of the three-

day national conference on

Two Decades of Prime Mi-

nister Shri Narendra Modi

as Head of Government",

organised by the Rambhau

tions, the Congress-United

Progressive Alliance [UPA] Government had completed

10 years and members of

the Cabinet would not con-

sider the Prime Minister as

the Prime Minister, but ev-

ery person behaved as if he

was the Prime Minister him-

self. There was policy para-

lysis, there was no guaran-

tee of national security, and

abroad was probably at its

lowest, due to scams and

corruption of ₹12 lakh

the country's

crore," he said.

"During the 2014 elec-

Mhalgi Prabodhini.

Democracy:

He was speaking at the in-

abroad.

"Delivering

'PM increased value

of Indian passport'

Shah sees upswing in pride of country

Dam storage well within permitted level: Stalin

Tamil Nadu CM writes to Kerala CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday wrote to his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan saying that the water level in the Mullaperiyar dam was being closely monitored and the current storage was well within the level permitted by the Supreme Court.

"We are already drawing the maximum quantity of water through the tunnel in the Vaigai dam as requested in your letter. Currently 2,300 cusecs of water is being drawn through the tunnel to the Vaigai basin since 8 a.m. today [Wednesday]," Mr. Stalin said. Recently Mr. Vijayan had written to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister urging the State to ensure that the maximum quantity of water is drawn from Mullaperiyar.

The current water level was "well within the storage level permitted" by the Supreme Court in its judgment and was also compliant with the upper rule levels approved by the CWC, Mr. Stalin pointed out. Tamil Nadu was closely monitoring the water level and its officials were in constant touch with

tions confronted the nation

on the internal security

front and it seemed as if the

democratic system would

decided that the Chief Mi-

nister of Gujarat would be

our party's prime ministe-

rial candidate in the 2014

elections. This announce-

ment brought about a new

type of change in the coun-

2019 Mr. Modi received the

mandate and on August 5,

2019 he took the historic de-

cision to abolish Articles 370

and 35A. He said the deci-

sion to build Shri Ram Jan-

mabhoomi was made by tak-

ing everyone along and

without any violence in the

country, and today the work

of temple construction was

Praising the 2016 demo-

Pradesh Assembly

netisation, the Home Minis-

ter said that despite the Ut-

elections few months away,

the Prime Minister took a

tough decision "so that the

nation moves towards e-

payment and the elimina-

Mr. Shah added that in

"At that time our party

collapse any time.

try," he said.

in progress.

the Kerala team.

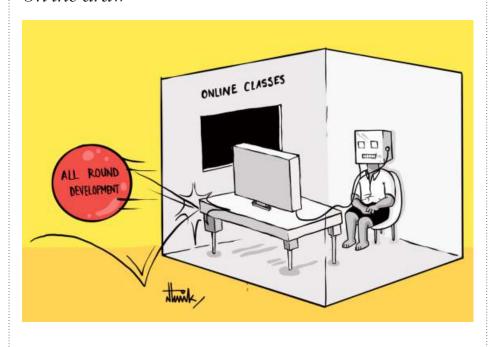
Mr. Stalin said he had directed the officials to continue to closely monitor the water levels and regulate the outflow accordingly. "In addition, I have specifically asked them to share in advance all the necessary information on water position and release, if any, so that your government can initiate such precautionary measures needed before the release of water."

On Wednesday, the water level at 9 a.m. was 137.60 feet with an inflow of 2,300

Mr. Stalin added that the Tamil Nadu Government and its people were concerned about the floods and the resultant damage suffered by Kerala and its people in the past 10 days.

"I wish to assure you that we will stand with you during these difficult times and would extend any help that is needed for alleviating the sufferings of the people. In this regard, I have already instructed the Collectors of the border districts of our State to extend all help and ensure the supply of all items needed for flood relief," Mr. Stalin said.

On the draw



PDS shops may sell LPG cylinders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Your nearby ration shop may soon sell five-kg cooking-gas cylinders, as the Centre is coordinating with the State Governments and oil companies to implement the plan, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said on Wednesday. This is part of a wider initiative to boost the financial viability of these

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India is committed to res-

pecting the rights of all na-

tions as laid down in the UN

Convention on the Law of

Seas (UNCLOS), Defence Mi-

nister Rajnath Singh said on

Wednesday, while reiterat-

ing that India is determined

to protect its legitimate mar-

to protect the legitimate

rights and interests of our

country in relation to our

territorial waters and Exclu-

sive Economic Zone, while

supporting the maintenance

of rule-based maritime sys-

tems, as mandated under

UNCLOS, 1982," Mr. Singh

said while addressing the In-

do-Pacific Regional Dia-

logue being organised by

the Navy and National mari-

tition over resources had in-

tensified, Mr. Singh said the

rise of serious threats such

as terrorism, piracy, drug

trafficking and climate

change had thrown new

challenges for the Indo-Pac-

Stating that while compe-

time Foundation.

"We are fully determined

itime rights and interests.

NEW DELHI

'India respects

UNCLOS rights'

But will guard its interests: Rajnath

Rajnath Singh

national

ific region. "The nature of

these challenges in the re-

gion has considerable trans-

which require a cooperative

response. There is, there-

fore, a need to find conver-

gence of interests and com-

monality of purpose on

maritime issues," he stated.

aware of the evolving nature

of competition and contes-

tation in the Indo-Pacific re-

gion, said Navy Chief Admi-

ral Karambir Singh. "There

is a day-to-day competition

for influence, leverage and

geostrategic space that is in-

creasingly being witnessed

in the Indo-Pacific."

There was need to be

implications,

The 5.32 lakh ration or fair price shops across the country mainly distribute subsidised foodgrains to the 80 crore beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act. The Centre is looking to leverage this network by introducing the retail sale of LPG cylinders. At a virtual inter-ministe-

rial and inter-State meeting, Mr. Pandey stressed the need for proactive measures

to enhance the fiscal health of ration shops. Apart from those of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry, representatives of Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum were present, a Ministry statement said.

A Financial Services Department representative outlined a proposal to offer financial services such as MUDRA loans through the

Dual degree for teacher education

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Education Ministry on Wednesday notified a fouryear Integrated Teacher Programme Education (ITEP), offering dual-major Bachelor's degrees which will become a mandatory requirement for recruitment of schoolteachers by 2030, according to the National Education Policy (NEP). As a pilot project in 2022-23, the integrated programme will initially be offered in 50 selected multidisciplinary institutions.

Admissions into the programme will be carried out by the National Testing Agency through the National Common Entrance Test (NET).

The curriculum, which has been designed by the National Council for Teacher Education, will enable student-teachers to get a degree in education and in a specialised discipline such as history, mathematics, science, arts, economics, or commerce, Students will walk out of the programme with a B.Ed. and a BA, B.Sc. or B.Com.

tion of black money." Mr. Shah said many ques-Nine convicted in Patna blasts case

respect

Explosion during Modi speech in 2013

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Wednesday convicted nine of the 10 accused in Patna Gandhi Maidan serial bomb blasts case in which six people were killed and 80 injured.

The punishment will be pronounced by the court on November 1.

The blasts took place during the 'Hunkar' rally addressed by then Gujarat Chief Minister and prime ministerial candidate, Narendra Modi, on October 27,

Mr. Modi addressed the rally even after the blasts at the venue.

One acquitted

The NIA filed a chargesheet against 10 persons. One Faqruddin was acquitted by the special NIA court for lack of evidence.

All the accused were suspected members of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and the Indian Mujahideen (IM).

Those who were convicted are Numan Ansari, Haider Ali, alias 'black beauty', Mohammad Mujibullah Ansari, Omar Siddiqui, Azharuddin Qureshi, Ahmad Hussain, Mohammad Iftekhar Alam, Mohammad Firoz Aslam and a minor person whose identity has been protected.

One of the accused, Tariq Ansari, died while placing a bomb inside a toilet at the Patna junction.

17 IEDs found

As many as 17 improvised explosive devices - seven of them were detonated were found in and around the Gandhi Maidan on October 27, 2013.

Most of the accused were residents of Sithio in Ranchi of Jharkhand.

They are currently lodged in the Beur central jail of

The NIA had taken up the case on November 6, 2013. Altogether 250 prosecution witnesses deposed before the trial court for cross-examination.

IN BRIEF

Stick to the book,

EC tells Assam CM GUWAHATI

The Election Commission on Wednesday asked Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to exercise restraint and adhere to the provisions of the model code of conduct while campaigning for the Assembly byelections to be held on Saturday. The byelections in five constituencies were necessitated by the death of

two MLAs and the defection of three to the BJP. The complaints to EC by the Congress listed a slew of poll promises the CM had made and sought a ban on him.

CBI arrests six in Bank of Baroda fraud case

NEW DELHI The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested six accused persons in connection with a bank fraud involving alleged overseas remittances of foreign exchange to the tune of ₹6,000 crore to Hong Kong and Dubai. Based on the CBI case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also launched a money laundering investigation. It was alleged that the funds were transferred on the pretext of advance payments for imports that never fructified.

'Decide on plea to evacuate Indians'

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the authorities to decide on a petition seeking to facilitate the evacuation of over 200 Indian nationals, and Hindu and Sikh Afghan nationals of Indian-origin stranded in Afghanistan. A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh also asked the petitioner, Parminder Pal Singh, former spokesperson and media advisor of the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee, how he obtained details of the stranded Indians facing

Agni-V successfully test-fired

launch of the

threat at the hands of the

NEW DELHI India on Wednesday successfully test-fired its longest range surface-to-surface ballistic missile, Agni-V. "A successful

surface-to-surface ballistic missile, Agni-5, was carried out on October 27, 2021 at approximately 1950 hrs from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha," the Defence Ministry said. The three-stage solid-fuelled engine missile is capable of striking targets at

ranges up to 5,000 km.

The use of technology for surveillance by the state must be evidence-based, says SC in Pegasus order

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Indiscriminate spying on individuals by the state is not allowed in a democracy, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday. The use of technology for surveillance by the state must be evidencebased, the court said.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, in its order in the Pegasus snooping case, said surveillance to flush out terror activities is essential to protect life and liberty. A need may arise to encroach into individual privacy to access information vital to prevent violence and terror.

However, the state can violate a person's privacy only if it is "absolutely neces-



Certain exceptions: The state can violate a person's privacy only if it is "absolutely necessary" to protect national security.

sary" to protect national security and interests. The necessity to trespass on individual privacy should be proportional.

"In a democratic country governed by the rule of law, indiscriminate spying on individuals cannot be allowed except with sufficient statutory safeguards, by following the procedure established by law under the Constitution," the Supreme Court noted.

"It is undeniable that surveillance and the knowledge that one is under the threat of being spied on can affect the way an individual decides to exercise his or her rights. Such a scenario might result in self-censorship," the CJI-led Bench observed in the Pegasus order.

The order was based on separate petitions filed by senior journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar; Rajya Sabha member John Brittas; Supreme Court lawver M.L. Sharma; and journalists including Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, S.N.M. Abdi, Prem Shankar Jha, Rupesh Kumar Singh and Ipsa Shataksi, who alleged that they were victims of Pegasus surveillance. They claimed to have been subjected to "deeply intrusive surveillance". They said a forensic examination done by Amnesty International on mobile phones had revealed traces of interference. The Government had "deliberately avoided" public debate on the issue, they said.

petitioners The sought a "complete overhaul" of the "surveillance architecture" by even challenging the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885; Rule 419A of the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951; Section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000; and the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption) of Information Rules, 2009.

be the bugbear, says court

'State cannot expect the judiciary to be a mute spectator'

The Union of India may decline to

considerations exist, such as those pertaining to

the security of the state. However,

this does not mean that the state

gets a free pass every time the

spectre of 'national security

is raised. National security

cannot be the bugbear that

from, by virtue of its mere

the judiciary shies away

provide information when constitutional

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

The state cannot keep a secret from the court merely on the bogev of "national security" and expect the judiciary to remain a "mute spectator", the Supreme Court drew the line for the Government on Wednesday.

The claim has to be backed by evidence to prove that the disclosure of the information sought by the court would affect national security concerns.

Court response

In its order, a Bench led by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana was responding to submissions made by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, in the Pegasus snooping case. Mr. Mehta had refused the court's repeated advice to file a detailed affidavit responding to the snooping allegations, blankly stating that "the disclosure of certain facts might affect the national security and defence of the nation".

Mr. Mehta's reluctance had seen the Bench ask itself the question whether the Union of India could actually decline information to the Supreme Court.

"Of course, the Union of India may decline to provide information when constitu-

tional considerations exist, such as those pertaining to the security of the state. However, this does not mean that the state gets a free pass every time the spectre of 'national security' is raised. National security cannot be the bugbear that the judiciary shies away from, by virtue of its mere mentioning," the court clarified.

Limited review

The court accepted that judicial review in national security matters was limited. The judiciary had been circumspect while dealing with matters of national security. However, the court's delicacy did not licence the Government to call for an "omnibus prohibition" against judicial review.

"The Union of India must

necessarily plead and prove the facts which indicate that the information sought must be kept secret as their divulgence would affect national security concerns. They must justify the stand that they take before a court. The mere invocation of national security by the state does not render the court a mute

Court emphasised. In the Pegasus order, the court reminded the Government that the petitioners do not contend that the state should not resort to surveillance/collection of data in matters of national security.

spectator," the Supreme

"The complaint of the petitioners is about the misuse or likely misuse of spyware in violation of the right to privacy of citizens," the court pointed out.

'Snooping on scribes assault on watchdog role of press'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said snooping on journalists or creating a fear that the media is being spied on creates a "chilling effect" on journalistic freedom and is an assault on the vital public watchdog role of the

"It is undeniable that surveillance and the knowledge that one is under the threat of being spied on can affect the way an individual decides to exercise his or her

IN BRIEF

Lalu tears into Centre,

Addressing a public meeting

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)

president Lalu Prasad Yadav

on Wednesday slammed the

Minister Nitish Kumar over

unemployment and the lack

public meetings, he said he

meeting of "all like-minded

parties". This was denied by

Congress leaders. The RJD

meeting for the first time

since the 2015 Assembly

elections. Bypolls to the

chief was addressing a public

Tarapur and Kusheshwarsthan

seats are scheduled to take

results will be announced on

Udaipur teacher held for

offensive post gets bail

A school teacher in Udaipur,

arrested after she posted

objectionable messages on

Pakistan's victory in a cricket

match, was granted bail on

under Section 153-B of the

IPC. A court granted bail to

that she did not intend to

hurt sentiments. Despite

tendering a public apology,

Udaipur where she taught has

Atari had put out a picture of

celebratory caption on social

India in T20 World Cup cricket

media after it won against

the Neerja Modi School in

terminated her service. Ms.

Pakistani players with a

match three days ago.

Nafisa Atari after she pleaded

Wednesday. She was booked

place on October 30. The

November 2.

country and in Bihar. Ahead of

had spoken to Congress chief

Nitish at poll rally

ahead of the bypolls.

Centre and Bihar Chief

of development in the

Sonia Gandhi to call

rights. Such a scenario might result in self-censorship. This is of particular concern when it relates to the freedom of the press, which is an important pillar of democracy," a Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana observed in its appointing an expert committee to examine allegations of the Government using the Pegasus software to

spy on citizens. The court said a democratic society valued the importance of protecting a press freedom. A chilling effect caused by apprehensions of being spied upon would undermine the ability of the press to provide accurate and reliable information, the court said.

Several journalists were parties, either as public interest petitioners or victims of the alleged Pegasus snooping, in the court.

"Having regard to the importance of the protection of journalistic sources for press freedom in a democratic so-

ciety and the potential chilling effect that snooping techniques may have, this court's task in the present matter, where certain grave allegations of infringement of the rights of the citizens of the country have been raised, assumes great significance," the Supreme Court observed, refusing the Government's offer to form a committee to examine the allegations.

The Bench said the apex court was "compelled to take up the cause to deter-

ing out the truth, former

Congress president Rahul

Gandhi on Wednesday said

Pegasus was an attack on the

democratic structure of the

matter, this is an existential

matter for the country. That

is why you find the Opposi-

tion somewhat muted," Mr.

Gandhi said at a press confe-

rence at the Congress

The Congress leader said

only Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi and Home Minister

DIPR/DDU/1988/SPAN/2021-22

headquarters.

"This is not just a political

NEW DELHI

mine the truth and get to the bottom of the allegations".

One of the petitioners, the Editors Guild of India, had sought an independent probe into the Government's alleged role in the Pegasus controversy.

The top editors' body had said "indiscriminate use" of top-end surveillance technology against journalists "destroys free speech" and "poisons the heart of democracy". It said freedom of press was a hard-won right essential to democracy.

'SC order a big step to finding truth'

Pegasus an attack on the democratic structure of the nation, says Rahul Gandhi

Court seeks mechanism for complaints

Panel should travel back

Pegasus trail to 2019: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Wednesday wants the Justice R.V. Raveendran expert committee not to just inquire into recent allegations of the Government using Pegasus to snoop, but travel back the trail to reports of the Israeli spyware being used to hack social media accounts of private citizens

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana asked the former Supreme Court judge and his panel to dig up the steps taken by the Government "after reports were published in the year 2019 about hacking of WhatsApp accounts of Indian citizens, using the Pegasus suite of spyware".

The court also wanted the committee to use its expertise to test the existing surveillance laws and procedures to see how much they valued and protected citizens' privacy.

The court said the committee should come up with recommendations to prevent state and non-state players from invading the fundamental right of privacy of citizens through illegal surveillance mounted on them. In fact, the court has asked the Justice Raveendran panel in its 46-page order to suggest a "mechanism" for citizens to raise grievances on "suspicion of illegal surveillance of their devices".

The court also pushed for suggestions from the committee for the setting up of a "well-equipped independent premier agency to incybersecurity vestigate vulnerabilities"

The Supreme Court's seven-point "terms of reference" for the expert committee comes across as far-reaching. It not only seems to deal with the recent trigger for the Pegasus controversy, but dives deep into the first public signs of the alleged use of the military grade spyware years

The job cut out for the committee in the list of seven is to "enquire, investigate and determine" whether the "Pegasus suite of spyware was used on phones or other devices of the citizens of India to access stored data, eavesdrop on conversations, intercept information and/or for any other purposes".

The other questions for the committee include whether Pegasus was used by the Centre or State against their own citizens.



Rahul Gandhi

Amit Shah could have ordered the use of the spyware and it was a "criminal" act.

'PM not above nation

"Pegasus is illegal. It is not legal in India to snoop using Pegasus. Hence, we would like to know why the Prime Minister is doing an illegal act. He is not above the nation," Mr. Gandhi said.

The former Congress

chief said though the Government did not want to answer the Opposition earlier when it had stalled the monsoon session of Parliament over the issue, they would once again raise the issue in the upcoming winter

"We were asking three basic questions. Who authorised Pegasus. Which agency or person authorised the spyware because we all know that it cannot be bought by a private individual. It has to be bought by a Government. Second, who was it used against. Finally, did any other country have access to the information of our people," Mr. Gandhi

"Pegasus is an attempt to crush the Indian democracy. It is an attempt to make sure

OPR-34117/11/0050/2122

that the vibrancy of the democracy and the conversations that take place within a democracy are crushed and that people are controlled. It is a big step that the Supreme Court has said that they are going to look into this matter. I am confident that we will get the truth out of this," he said.

Urging all freedom-loving citizens to welcome the order, former Union Minister P. Chidambaram said, "The primary basis of the order is that the spyware was acquired by an Indian Government agency. The second basis of the order is that Pegasus was used against Indian citizens. I am certain that the inquiry ordered by the Supreme Court will bring out multiple violations of the law by the Government".

'Several Cong. members are in touch'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Claiming that several Congress members were in touch with him, former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh (retd.) on Wednesday said he would launch his new party as soon as the Election Commission of India (ECI) cleared the name and the symbol.

"Our lawyers are working on it and they are in touch with the ECL As soon as the ECI clears the name and symbol, I'll share it. Many people from the Congress party are in touch with me and they will come out in the open when the time comes... We will contest all 117 Assembly seats," he presspersons.

No budget curbs for development of Army

NEW DELHI There are no budgetary constraints for capability development and meeting other requirements of the Army, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday while addressing the four-day 2nd Army Commanders Conference of

BJP MLA Krishna Kalyani joins Trinamool Congress

KOLKATA The defection of elected representatives of the BJP to the Trinamool Congress is continuing unabated in West Bengal as Krishna Kalyani, the BJP MLA from the Raiganj Assembly seat, on Wednesday

joined the Trinamool in the presence its leaders.

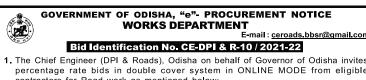


Cleaning / Sanitation / Drainage Lines / Lawn, Gardens and Miscellaneous Housekeeping Services for NIT Warangal. For details to visit www.nitw.ac.in/tenders and for bidding process visit www.cppp.gov.in. Last Date for e-bidding at CPPP is **30-11-2021**

KSEE KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE Office of the Chief Engineer, (CI&CC), VB, Pattom, Tvpm.

E-Tender ID_2021_KSEB_437268_1 PAC - Rs 117.33 Crores, **Last date** -19.11.2021 – 5.00 pm. Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref: PR/MC1/E314/E-Tender/2021

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Tender Due date 212213 Procurement of Liquid Chlorine 10.11.2021 Detailed terms & condition, Tender fee, EMD etc. are available in tende ocument at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in DIPR/3148/Tender/2021 "சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."



contractors for Road work as mentioned below: 2. Nature of work Road work

3. No. of work 1 No. Rs.10,000.00 4. Tender Paper Cost

5. Class of Contractor Super Class 6. Available of bid document: From 10.00 A.M. of 02.11.2021 to 05.30 PM of in the website. 02.12.2021

7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt. 03.12.2021 at 11.30 AM 8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen

from the website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha. OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BUILDING ORGANISATION, BLDGS (C&M) CIRCLE, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI-5 SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE No.08 BCM/2021-22 / Date: 26.10.2021 FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMPSUM Two Cover System.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sealed tender are invited from eligible registered contractors by the Superintendi Engineer, PWD., Bidgs (C&M) Circle, Chepauk, Chennai - 5 for the following work: EMD in favour of Two Cover System Renovation, Reconstruction, Repair and Maintenance works in various buildings in DPI Campus including Directorate of School Education, Directorate of Governme Examinations, Directorate of Non formal and Adult Education, Directorate of Elemental Educ and State Council of Educational Research and Training buildings pertaining to masonry repairs flooring, exterior elevation, ceiling repairs, Joineries and painting, etc., in DPI Campus at Nungambakkam, Chennai - 06. Tender schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the Website http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in" (or) http://www.tntenders.gov.in" and also availab in the olo the undersigned at a cost of Rs.15000/- + Rs.1800 (GST). Tender schedule will be made available from 28.10.2021 to 15.11.2021 Last date pt of tender is 16.11.2021 upto 03.00 P.M. and opened on the same day at 04.00 P.M. by the undersigned. Contractors Eligibility conditions and Superintending Engineer, PWD. Buildings (C&M) Circle, Chepauk, Chennai - 5.



சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways) Regd. office: I Floor, Samparka Soudha, Opp. Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru–10 Tel – +91 6366430945 CIN: U60100KA2000PLC028171 Email: jgmelec@kride.in e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: K-RIDE/DL/21/2021. Date: 27.10.2021 e-tenders are invited from experienced agencies for the following work "Shifting of Electrical Utilities Infringing to Proposed Track Doubling Work Between Yesvantpur to Hosur and Other Misc. General Service Works". (Estimated Value: Rs. 5.87 Cr) Last Date for Submission of the above tender is 28.11.2021 Sd/-For details, visit: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and www.kride.in JGM/Electrical



e-Tender Notice No. and Date EP. No. 01/CGM(E)/K'Pur Circle/WS-Imp-ORR-Extended Areas/Pack-II/ 2021-22, dated: 27.10.2021 Name of Work: Providing water supply infrastructure to the extended areas of ORR Villages by laying inlet, outlet an distribution network with HDPE & DI K7 pipelines of different diameters and Construction of Service Reservoirs of various

Government of Telangana
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN
WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Approximate Estimate Contract Value : Rs. 485.70 Crores 1. The bid documents download starts online from Date: 05.11.2021. 2. Name and address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned Chief General Manager (Engg), Keshavapuram Circle, HMWSSB, Khairatabad, Hyderabad - 500004, Telangana. 3. The contractors/firms are requested to upload the information in the 'ZIP' format preferably. 4. Further details

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), Keshavapuram Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad - 04,T.S.

कार्यालय अति. मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग टोंक क्रमांकः 2073-2083 दिनांक - 12.10.2021 निविदा सूचना संख्या : 08/2021-22 सा.नि.वि. संभाग, टोंक राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से संभाग टॉक में आर आई.डी. एफ-27 वर्ष 2021-22 के योजनान्तर्गत अन्तर्गत टॉक, सबाई माधोपुर, दौसा किलों में खिलोलिटेशन ऑफ एमडीआर/ओडीआर-वीआर सड़कों के नवीनीकरण के 12 पैकेजों के कार्य हेतु मय 5 पाँच वर्ष की डिफेक्ट लाईबिलिटी सहित के लिये प्रतिञ्चत दर के अनुसार जो संवेदक केन्द्रीय सरकार /राज्य सरकार व उनके अधिकृत संगठने में पंजीकृत हो, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ''ए'' एवं ''एए'' श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकश्च हो, उनसे निर्धारित प्रथत्र में ई-टेन्डींग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है:-ः कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग, टॉक

	सभाग टॉक में आर.आई.डी.एफ-27 वर्ष 2021-22 के योजना-तर्गत अन्तर्गत टॉक, सबाई माधोपुर, दौसा जिलों में रिहेबीलिटेशन ऑफ एमडीआर/ओडीआर-बीआर सड़कों के नवीननिकरण के 12 फैकजों के कार्य
1	Rs. 2757.18 लाख
1	Bid Securing declaration form attached in RFP.
:	20.10.2021 से 10.11.2021 सार्थ 6.00 बजे तक
1	20.10.2021 से 10.11.2021 सार्थ 6.00 बजे तक
:	निविदा में ऑकत निविदा खोले जाने वाले संबंधित कार्यालय में दिनांक 12.11.2021 साथ 02.00 बजे तक
:	निविद्य खोलने की तिथि 12.11.2021 अपरान्ह 05.00 बजे सम्बन्धित कार्यालय
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इन्बुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर र्गजस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है। PWD2122WS0808761 PWD2122WS0808763 PWD2122WS0808766 PWD2122WS0808767 PWD2122WS0B08770 PWD2122WS0B08771 PWD2122WS0B08772 PWD2122WS0B08773 PWD2122WS0B08778 PWD2122WS0B08782 PWD2122WS0B08785 PWD2122WS0B08782 PWD2122WS0B08785 PWD212

(आरएस, बेरवा) DIPR/C/10643/2021



under Bibek Debroy

The government on Wednesday reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), under current Chairman Bibek Debroy, for a period of two years. While V. Anantha Nageswaran has been dropped, Rakesh Mohan (former Deputy Governor of RBI), Poonam Gupta (Director-General of NCAER) and T.T. Ram Mohan (Professor, IIM-Ahmedabad) have been appointed as part-time members of the reconstituted EAC-PM. The other part-time members of the Council include Sajid Chenoy, Neelkanth Mishra and Nilesh Shah.

Gandhian Subba Rao passes away at 92

Veteran Gandhian leader Salem Nanjundaiah Subba Rao died here on Wednesday after a prolonged illness. He was 92. He was famous for his 'Shramdan' (voluntary contribution of labour) activities and camps, with which a large number of youth were associated across the country. Born in Bengaluru, Mr. Rao was arrested at the age of 13 for participating in the Ouit India Movement. He had a special attachment to Rajasthan, and he had come to Jaipur for treatment at the Sawai Mar Singh Government Hospital at the behest of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

NIA raids premises of Jel members in J&K

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) raided 17 places in seven districts of J&K on Wednesday in a case related to the Jamaat-e-Islami's (JeI) role in funding terror in the Union Territory. "Searches were conducted today on the premises of office-bearers and members of the Jel. During the searches, various incriminating documents and electronic devices were seized," an NIA spokesman said. Searches were made at locations in Ananthag, Kulgam, Ganderbal. Bandipora, Budgam, Kishtwar

L&T chosen for first part of Central Secretariat

and Jammu districts.

NEW DELHI The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) on Wednesday awarded its largest-ever contract at ₹3,141.99 crore, handing over the letter of award for construction of three buildings of the new Common Central Secretariat to Larsen and Toubro Ltd. The CPWD opened the financial bids of three bidders — L&T. Tata Projects Ltd. and NCC Ltd. on October 18. L&T was the only one to submit a bid below the estimate of ₹3.254 crore. The project includes construction of the three buildings.

'Knock every door' campaign to boost second-dose vaccination

Health Minister says 10.34 crore people due for the jab have not taken it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Wednesday that there were more than 10.34 crore people in the country who had missed the second dose of COVID-19 that they were due to take.

He added that adequate vaccine doses were available in the country, and more than 12 crore unutilised doses were available with the

According to a release issued by the Health Ministry, the "Har Ghar Dastak" (Knock Every Door) campaign is scheduled to start soon in districts with low vaccination rates to enthuse and motivate people towards getting their jab.

"No district should be without full vaccination," the Health Minister told State governments, adding that the goal is to cover the entire adult population with at least one dose of COVID-19



Jab for safety: A woman getting vaccinated at a centre in New Delhi. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

vaccine by the end of November.

Dr. Mandaviva on Wednesday held a meeting with Health Ministers of States and Union Territories to discuss issues related to the CO-VID-19 emergency response package and the scaling up of the vaccination drive. The State Health Ministers were requested to ensure continuous monitoring.

Dr. Mandaviya urged the

States to make regional and local-level plans with all the stakeholders to reduce the number of people with vaccination overdue.

He also called for innovative strategies to encourage stakeholders to achieve their targets.

The meeting also saw a discussion on the PM Avushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission scheme, the Health Ministry said.

Dr. Mandaviya said that the ambitious health infrastructure initiative, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 25, was drafted in consultation with States and would be implemented in coordination with them.

"We will work together, with the Centre providing all necessary support to make this happen in the next five vears," he said.

Delhi HC summons Ramdev over remarks on allopathy

Lawsuit filed by doctors' associations against yoga guru

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued summons to yoga guru Ramdev on a lawsuit filed by several doctors' associations for allegedly spreading misinformation against allopathy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Justice C. Hari Shankar, while granting four weeks to Ramdev to file his response, said the doctors' associations' suit was not frivolous. The court also issued summons to Acharya Balkrishna and Patanjali Ayurveda on the suit.

"I have seen the video clips. From the perusal of the video clips, your client [Ramdev] is scorning the allopathic treatment protocol. He has literally gone to scorn at the prescription of steroids, people going to hospi-Justice observed.

"From the perusal of the clips, there is definitely a case for the institution of the



Yoga guru Ramdev

suit. They may have nothing for an injunction but the case is not frivolous," the court said, clarifying that it had not expressed any opinion on the merits of the

Senior advocate Rajiv Nayar, appearing for Ramdev, said he had no objections to the issuance of summons in the suit but was opposed to the allegations made in the case.

The associations include three resident doctors' associations of the All India Insti-

tute of Medical Sciences at Rishikesh, Patna and Bhubaneswar; the Association of Resident Doctors, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh; the Union of Resident Doctors of Punjab (URDP); the Resident Doctors' Association, Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College, Meerut; and the Telangana Junior Doctors' Association, Hyderabad.

Their suit alleged that Ramdev was misleading and misrepresenting to the public at large that allopathy was responsible for the deaths of several people infected by COVID-19, and insinuating that allopathic doctors were causing deaths of the patients.

The associations have submitted that the voga guru was sowing doubts in the minds of the general public with respect to the safety and efficacy of not only allopathic treatment but also COVID-19 vaccines

Sweden set to launch 'Time for India' drive

It will promote business and trade

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

Sweden does not require vaccination from international travellers including those from India, its Ambassador in India Klas Molin told The Hindu in an exclusive chat on Wednesday.

The envoy said Sweden would soon launch a trade promotion event – Time for India - to boost bilateral trade and hinted that the Swedish Government may take a more liberal post-CO-VID visa policy for India soon.

"There is no requirement for vaccination for entry nor is there a quarantine regime in place. But travellers need to take a COVID-19 test on arrival," said Mr. Molin reiterating his country's general visa and entry policy. The envoy attended the Business Climate Survey (SCS) conducted by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in India.

Mr. Molin said Stockholm was allowing essential travel from India, which includes certain types of travel by business owners.

"Sweden has had an entry ban in effect during the pandemic. It is being reviewed and I'm hopeful travellers from India will soon be exempt. At the same time, we have issued visas throughout the pandemic for essential travel, for students and for business purposes," he said.



The envoy said there was no "blanket ban" for tourist visas but Sweden was vet to firm up the policy. India has not yet opened tourist visas which, the envoy said, has led to "fewer travellers" from Sweden to India.

Seminars planned

Mr. Molin will lead a Swedish diplomatic and economic delegation in the second week of November to Sweden and team up with the Indian embassy in Stockholm to launch a promotional campaign for Indian business. The team will hold meetings and seminars in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmo that are expected to be attended by a large number of companies and Swedish investors. Ambassador to Sweden Tanmaya Lal is scheduled to join the events.

"We will use these seminars to inform interested companies and people in trading and investing in India," said Mr. Molin.

AY4.2 'infrequent' in India: INSACOG

Variant said to be responsible for a 'slowly increasing' proportion of cases in U.K.

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

The latest mutation of the coronavirus variant, AY4.2, which has been linked to a rise in cases in the United Kingdom, is "very infrequent" in India, according to a weekly report by the India SARS-CoV-2 Genome Consortium (INSACOG), the body that tracks the emergence of new variants, Wednesday. AY4.2 was responsible for

a "slowly increasing" proportion of cases in the U.K., according to Public Health England (PHE) on October 22. It is also present in multiple other countries and is seen in travellers to the U.K. from a large number of countries. It is not clear where AY4.2 originated or when. This lineage of the coronavirus has the mutations of Delta - the dominant global variant – and AY.4, a sublineage. The characteristic mutations were S:A222V on the spike protein; and Y145H, which were mutations are in the N terminal



Surveillance continues: States continue to conduct COVID-19 tests, especially on travellers. • K. MURALI KUMAR

domain, or the region of the coronavirus that doesn't bind to the human cells.

Studies commissioned

It isn't yet clear what specific advantage these mutations confer to AY4.2 that aid its spread. However, in terms of its severity, it is still as potent as Delta. The PHE has said it has commissioned studies to establish the increase in severity, if at all, that AY4.2 confers.

As of October 21, 2021, there were 15,120 cases in England linked to AY4.2.

VUI-210CT-01 (the variant under investigation classified on October 21, 2021) accounted for 3.8%, 5.2% and 5.9% of Delta cases in England in the weeks beginning September 19, September 21 and October 3, 2021, respectively, according to the PHE.

INSACOG, in its latest bul-

letin made public on Wednesday, said that the recent rise in AY4.2 in genomic surveillance "needs to be interpreted with caution" as sequenced in India, of which there were technical issues with the detection of the Y145H mutation. Most se-

quences from India that are being classified as AY4.2 by PANGO, one of the global classification systems for coronavirus lineages, have only either Y145H or A222V in the spike, and not both the mutations appearing together. Delta (B.1.617.2) and its re-

lated sublineages (AY that numbered till 35) continues to be the main Variant of Concern (VOC) in India. No new VOI (Variant of Interest) or VOC are noted in India, according to the INSACOG. Many cases earlier labelled as AY.4 were now reclassified at AY.33. "It has been noted that due to greater diversity of Delta in India, PANGO classifications may sometimes be inaccurate, especially for new sub-lineages. INSACOG is thus further examining the data on AY.33," their report noted

So far about 107,000 coronavirus samples have been 88,000 have been "analysed" to establish their lineages.

Army enacts air landing of 1947 in J&K

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Army on Wednesday enacted an air induction exercise at Srinagar's technical airport to commemorate the 75th year of its arrival in Jammu & Kashmir on October 27, 1947. Paratroopers showcased their skydiving skills.

A video clip and a play depicting the events of the invasion by Pakistan in 1947, and the role of National Conference member Maqbool Sherwani and Kashmiri women militia in the defence of Kashmir, marked the occasion.

"It was the Pakistan Army disguised as Pashtun tribals that, on reaching Baramulla, created havoc and rampaged the entire town; burnt houses, hospitals and churches," J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha said.

He also laid a floral wreath at the war memorial and honoured the kin of Kashmir's defenders.

"The historic air landing operation conducted by the Indian Army and Air Force in the face of the enemy, and the subsequent eviction of Pakistani forces, was the first landmark military action of Independent India," L-G Sinha said.

It was 75 years ago that the Indian Army's first Dakota aircraft, with Lieutenant Colonel D.R. Rai and Army personnel on board, had reached the Srinagar

'In Tejpal case, trial court order retrograde'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Goa Government said in the High Court of Bombay in Goa on Wednesday that the victim in a 2013 rape case, in which journalist Tarun Tejpal was acquitted, was named and shamed and the

SCAN TO PLAY

trial court's judgement was "retrograde" and "fit for fifth century".

The Bench, comprising Justices Revati Mohite Dere and M.S. Jawalkar, later adjourned the hearing in the matter till November 16, when it will hear Mr. Tejpal's

application challenging the maintainability of the state appeal Government's against his acquittal in the

Responding to arguments by Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, who is representing the Goa Government, Justice Dere said "in not just this case, but in all the cases of rape, we will not allow lawyers to read the evidence, we will read it ourselves". She said a lawyer can point out the page number while submitting about

THE CROSSWORD+ 13388 Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids: ### Indeed to be a compared to b

14 ... insolent in character, should be put back to storage (8) **16** Parcel from sandwich shop – so... (8)

Display keystrokes of genius.

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18 ... check it has all users' desired starters first (5)

20 Not losing love for aliens... that's the bottom line (4) 21 Helping to trade in New York and London, the English are in dexterously-made clothing? (5,5)

24 What didn't come from abroad during the Ever Given crisis? Setter's wines (7)

25 Ask Democrat along with... (6)

26 ... thousand stuck-up leadership to leave? That's difficult (6)

1 Gold pinned on maiden often to decorate (5)

3 Additional price increase includes coal (9)

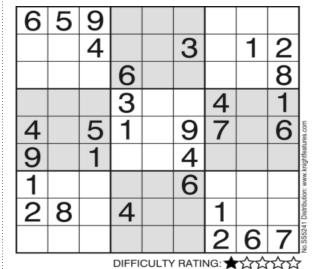
6 INXS takes drug to be great (7)

10 Employee's body part has many parts (9) 13 Peter looked up to favourite (9)

17 Hot period one's stuck in is temporary (7)

21 Organised protest is going up - supported by money (3-2) **22** Gate guard starting to stray away (5)

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FAITH

Relief from samsara

The greatest attainment for all beings is to get liberated from the perils of samsara, and human birth affords the opportunity for the jiva to strive for it. But even yogis steeped in meditation find it quite a challenge to fight the pulls of this samsara. So one can imagine the plight of those in Kali Yuga where people spend time and energy to earn money with the desire to enjoy the comforts of life.

Unless the jiva is able to understand the value of salvation as far exceeding that of all other attractions, such as the Chintamani stone or the Kalpa Vriksham that are supposed to grant the wishes of people, he will not strive for it, pointed out Sri Dushyanth Sridhar in a discourse.

In this context, the jiva owes much to his past good deeds, say the sastras. Even to be led to this path is the result of loving service to the Lord in the past several births. In addition, if the jiva is fortunate to get the grace of an acharya or gets into Sat Sanga, he imbibes the true purpose of his life and is shown the way for salvation.

The way Sabhari in the Ramayana attains moksha is extraordinary. She is devoted to Sage Matanga and does service in his ashram for many years.

When it is time for him to depart from this world, she wishes to go with him. But he advises her to stay in the ashram and wait for Rama, an incarnation of Vishnu, who would visit the place at some point of time in the future.

Sabhari continues to lead the life of simple penance in the ashram and at the appropriate time, she is blessed to have the darshan of Rama.

She offers Rama fruits, etc, by way of hospitality. She then wishes to be granted leave by Rama to depart to the heavenly abode.

ACROSS

1 Judge releases leader of common people to society (6) 4 Black? Face strict condition and charges (6)

8 Middlemen are mainly just thieves without a bit of remorse (7)

9 Last time to remove dead after second Everest mission (7) 11 Perfectly evil being in IT/HR – acts weirdly (10) 12 Message from posh school sent back (4)

13 Agreed – boring Public Relations employer... (5)

23 Puerto Rico's gold taken at America at a certain rate (3,4)

2 Bullpen's instincts to rally at the back with support (7)

5 Spy after years got new assignment, finally (5)

7 If returns on Rupee/dollar over time is put on most of stock exchanges, it could be an initial investment (5,4)

15 Merchant from Madras' often tense & confused (9)

19 How eater becomes dater? That's what usually happens on a

Adopt cordial approach, Iran tells Taliban

Afghanistan's six neighbouring countries meet in Tehran to chart the road map for an inclusive govt.

Iran's Foreign Minister called on the Taliban to adopt a "friendly" approach as Afghanistan's six neighbouring countries met on Wednesday to determine a "roadmap" following the Islamists' takeover of Kabul.

The meeting, two months since the Taliban swept to power in Kabul, brought the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to Tehran, while their Chinese and Russian counterparts joined via video-link.

'Take necessary steps'

"It is essential that the Taliban adopt a friendly approach towards its neighbours and take the necessary measures to assure them that there is no threat to their neighbours from Afghanistan," Iran's Foreign



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, second from left, at the conference on Afghanistan, in Tehran. • AFP

Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said.

"I hope that we can paint a clearer picture of the realities of Afghanistan, and the expectations of the neighbouring countries most affected by the developments in that country, and develop a roadmap."

Afghanistan is on the cusp of a humanitarian crisis, with UN agencies warning on Monday that more than half the country could face "acute" food shortages this

Iran's First Vice-President warned of the impact surrounding nations faced from the situation in Afghanistan.

Economic crisis

"If no solution is found as soon as possible to control and manage the economic crisis in Afghanistan, the crisis will certainly move beyond the borders of Afghanistan and affect its neighbours and the world," he said.

Iran, which shares a 900 km border with Afghanistan, did not recognise the Taliban during their 1996 to 2001 stint in power.

But Tehran has appeared to soften its tough stance in recent times in the name of pragmatism.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran insists on the establishment of an inclusive government with the presence and effective participation of all ethnic and religious groups in Afghanistan, based on inter-Afghan dialogue without the intervention of foreign actors," Mr. Amir-Abdollahian said.

The Taliban recently formed an all-male Cabinet made up entirely of members of the group, and almost exclusively of ethnic Pashtuns. It has severely restricted women's rights to work and study, prompting international condemnation.

"The Taliban must play an undeniable role in assuring security, countering terrorism and respecting the rights of diverse groups, including women," Mr. Amir-Abdollahian said.

He also said the Taliban must work on "providing the basic needs of Afghan citizens, putting an end to abuse of minorities, eradicating the causes that led to the displacement of part of the population and respecting inter-

Anti-coup protests continue in Sudan, PM held under guard

Politicians were inciting people against armed forces: General

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sudanese security forces on Wednesday made sweeping arrests of protesters who kept up demonstrations in the capital and other cities against this week's military coup, while the international community ramped up punitive measures.

Since the power grab on Monday, security forces have heavily deployed on the streets of the capital Khartoum and beyond.

Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok was detained before he was escorted home albeit allegedly ringed by a security cordon around his house - late Tuesday following intense international pressure for his release.

Some protesters drew grim parallels with life un-



watch outside a military hospital in Omdurman. • AFP

der autocrat Omar al-Bashir, whose three decades in power only came to an end in April 2019. "All security on the streets now look like the Bashir-era forces," said one protester, Hanaa Hassan.

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan on Monday declared a nationwide state of emergency, dissolved the government, and detained Ministers and civilian members of the ruling body and Cabinet.

Gen. Burhan said the Armv had no choice but to sideline politicians who, he said, were inciting people

against the armed forces. Protests were dispersed by tear gas and live bullets left at last four people dead, according to an independent doctors' union.

On Wednesday, military forces also stormed the building of the official news agency SUNA and forced out all reporters, according to journalists, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals.

The African Union said it has suspended Sudan until civilian rule is restored, saying it rejected the military takeover as an "unconstitutional" seizure of power.



Saudi Arabia to provide \$4.2 billion to Pakistan

Saudi Arabia has agreed to provide \$4.2 billion worth of assistance to Pakistan to support its economy, it emerged on Wednesday after Prime Minister Imran Khan held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman in Riyadh this week Mr. Khan thanked Crown Prince for the generous aid when Pakistan's economy was facing difficulties. "Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always been there for Pak in our difficult times incl now when world confronts rising commodity prices (sic)," he

Mullah Omar's son appears on TV

In his first public appearance, Yaqoob calls for investments in hospitals, clinics

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The son of Taliban founder Mullah Omar appeared in public for the first time on Wednesday, as Afghanistan's hardline rulers try to polish their media image. The televised event saw

Mohammad Yaqoob, Afghanistan's new Defence Minister, appealing to local businessmen to invest in hospitals and clinics, signalling that the Taliban are emerging from the shadows. As supreme leader of the

movement during their first reign of power, Yaqoob's father Mullah Omar rarely appeared in public, and photos of him were banned.

Even when the one-eyed



A video grab showing Mohammad Yaqoob. • AFP

cleric died in 2013, the news was not made public for more than two years.

But since the Taliban returned to power in mid-August after a 20-year war against a U.S.-backed government, its Ministers have been taking a more open public and political role.

"Let's spend some money here, businessmen brothers have to come here to build hospitals, clinics, doctors have to come here too," Yagoob said, at the Sardar Mohammad Dawood Khan military hospital in Kabul.

Crippling health sector Afghanistan's health sector has been shattered by war and Afghanistan's economy has ground to a halt since the return of the Taliban, who remain under international sanctions.

Thousands are seeking treatment abroad, adding to chaos at the borders as others flee Taliban rule.

Yaqoob was once head of the powerful military commission and benefited from the aura of his late father's cult-like status in the movement.

China's hypersonic test close to Sputnik moment: U.S. General

Gen. Milley calls it 'a very significant technological event

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

The Pentagon's top general said on Wednesday that China's recent test of an earthcircling hypersonic missile was akin to the Soviet Union's stunning launch of the world's first satellite Sputnik in 1957, which sparked off the superpowers' space

Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, confirmed for the first time the Chinese test of a nuclearcapable missile that would be very difficult to defend

"What we saw was a very

hypersonic weapon system. And it is very concerning," Gen. Milley told Bloomberg

significant event of a test of a

"I don't know if it's quite a Sputnik moment but I think it's very close to that," he said. "It's a very significant technological event that occurred... and it has all of our attention."

The Pentagon had previously declined to confirm the test, first reported by the Financial Times on October 16. The newspaper said the August test launch caught the U.S. by surprise.

The missile circled the

Earth at a low altitude and a velocity of more than five times the speed of sound, although it missed its target by more than 30 km, according to the Financial Times.

China denied the report, saying it was a routine test of a reusable space vehicle.

Hypersonic systems are the new frontier because they fly lower and so are harder to detect, can reach targets more quickly, and are maneuverable.

The U.S., Russia, China and North Korea have all tested hypersonics, and several others are developing the technology.

⁺ Hardline monk to head legal reforms panel in Sri Lanka

No representatives from the Tamil minority or women

A controversial Buddhist monk in Sri Lanka, who is accused of hate speech targeting Muslims, has been appointed head of a panel on legal reforms.

According to a gazette notification issued on Tuesday, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has set up a 13-member 'Presidential Task Force for One Country, One Law', chaired by Galagodaatte Gnanasara of the Bodu Bala (Buddhist Force).

2018 conviction

Apart from being accused of provoking anti-Muslim violence in the past, the monk made news in 2018 when he was convicted - on four charges - for contempt of court. He was given a sixyear jail term, of which he served only nine months until former President Maithripala Sirisena pardoned him in a move widely criticised.

The appointment of the Presidential task force comes months after a Cabi-



A file photo of Galagodaatte Gnanasara. • AFP

net decision to amend the country's Muslim personal laws. Sri Lanka also has the Kandyan Law and Thesawalamai Law, pertaining respectively to the Sinhalese and Tamil community.

The panel does not have representatives from the Tamil minority or women. It includes four Muslims. Commenting on the task

force Ambika Satkunanathan, an activist and former Commissioner at Sri Lanka's the Human Rights Commission, called it, in a tweet, a "farce masquerading as go-

vernance/government" Opposition parliamentarian Shanakiyan Rasamanickam from the Tamil National Alliance said: "This committee itself is the definition of irony. What is the purpose of establishing a committee if the existing law can't be implemented correctly? The appointment of a criminal to lead this committee is almost a joke in itself."

The task force, according to the gazette, is to "make a study of the implementation of the concept; One Country, One Law" within Sri Lanka and prepare a draft Act for the purpose and submit a report by February 28,

EU court tells Poland to pay €1 mn a day

The European Union's top court said on Wednesday it had ordered Poland to pay a penalty of €1 million per day for not suspending the disciplinary chamber of

the Supreme Court. Poland has been embroiled in a long-running dispute with Brussels over judicial reforms it says undermine the independence of courts. The row heated up in July when the Court of Justice of the EU ordered the country to suspend the disciplinary chamber.

"In the ruling issued today, the Vice-President of the Tribunal obliged Poland to pay... a penalty payment of EUR 1 mn per day, counting from the date on which this ruling was delivered to Poland," the Court of Justice statement read.

Poland has said it will abolish the chamber as part of broader reforms, but has not yet presented detailed plans. Deputy Justice Minister Sebastian Kaleta said the demand was "usurpation and blackmail" in comments posted on Twitter.

U.S. Senate holds confirmation hearing for Rashad Hussain

The Indian American has been nominated as an envoy for religious freedom

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON The Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a virtual confirmation hearing for Indian American Rashad Hussain for the post of Ambassa-

Large International Religious Freedom (IRF) on Tuesday. Several other Biden administration nominees were being heard during the same session. If confirmed, Mr. Hussain, whose parents are from Bihar, would be the first Indian American and Muslim to head the State Depart-

ment's office of IRF. During the hearing, Mr. Hussain, a 42-year-old attorney, spoke of his background in working to protect minorities, especially in Muslim majority countries, and committed to increase efforts to hold China accountable for its oppression of Uighurs, saying the country was one of the "worst abusers of religious freedom" globally.

"China is one of the worst abusers of religious freedom

judge would not have decid-

ed the relevant question in

in the world. I've visited Xinjiang province and I've seen firsthand China's blatant disregard for the Uighur community, their oppression via the genocide that's occurring there, and for their disregard of human rights toward a number of religious communities, including the Tibetan Buddhist Protestants, Catholics and Falun Gong," Mr. Hussain said.

The Trump administration had made a determination that China was committing "genocide" against the Uighurs, a determination that the State Department under the Biden administration has upheld.

"I will also leverage my existing relationships with Muslim majority countries to protect the rights of religious minorities there," Mr. Hussain said during his opening remarks. He had served as the U.S.'s Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) during the Obama adminis-

In response to a question



from Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen (Democrat) on how the State Department's IRF office would factor in recommendations for classifying countries according to religious freedom based on the recommendations of the U.S Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), Mr. Hussain suggested he would make those inputs part of the policy process in the department. Mr. Van Hollen noted that there had been discrepancies between the USCIRF categorisation and the Sate Department's own

"We will look at all of the data they provide and combine it with our research and our assessments, and will advocate vigourously within the Department of State to use every tool at our disposal, including, when appropriate, designations as 'Countries of Particular Concern' by making those recommendations as part of the policy process within the State Department," Mr. Hussain said.

The USCIRF is an independent bipartisan committee that advises the executive branch of government on the state of religious freedom in different countries. They make recommendations to classify countries accordingly, including as 'Countries of Particular Concern', the lowest grade for religious freedom. The US-CIRF had recommended that India be downgraded to CPC status in its April 2020 and April 2021 reports, but the State Department under the Trump administration had not put India on its CPC list.

Assange could go to Australian prison if convicted: U.S.

Officials appeal against judge's ruling in January, contend that WikiLeaks founder is not at risk of suicide

ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. authorities launched a new battle on Wednesday to make Julian Assange face American justice, telling British judges that if they agree to extradite the WikiLeaks founder on espionage charges, he could serve any U.S. prison sentence he receives in his native Australia.

In January, a lower U.K. court refused a U.S. request to extradite Mr. Assange over WikiLeaks' publication of secret American military docuJudge Vanessa Baraitser ruled that Mr. Assange, who has spent years in hiding and in British prisons as he fights extradition, was likely to kill himself if held under harsh U.S. prison conditions.

said Mr. Assange "has no his-

tory of serious and enduring

ments a decade ago. District

Appealing against the January decision, an attorney for the U.S. government denied that Mr. Assange's mental health was too fragile to withstand the U.S. judicial system. Lawyer James Lewis sentence of 175 years in pri-

meet the threshold of being so ill that he cannot resist harming himself.

No 'Supermax' prison

mental illness" and does not

U.S. prosecutors have indicted Mr. Assange on 17 espionage charges and one charge of computer misuse over WikiLeaks' publication of thousands of leaked military and diplomatic documents. The charges carry a maximum

son, although Mr. Lewis said

"the longest sentence ever

imposed for this offence is 63

Mr. Lewis said American authorities had promised that Mr. Assange would not be held before trial in a topsecurity "Supermax" prison or subjected to strict isolation conditions.Mr. Lewis said the assurances "are binding on the U.S." "Once there is an assu-

rance of appropriate medical

care, once it is clear he will

be repatriated to Australia to

serve any sentence, then we

can safely say the district

the way that she did," he The U.S. also says a key defence witness, neuropsychia-

trist Michael Kopelman, misled the previous judge by omitting to mention that Stella Moris, a member of WikiLeaks' legal team, was also Mr. Assange's partner and had two children with him. Mr. Lewis said that information was "a highly relevant to the question of likelihood to suicide."

New Hong Kong law to censor old movies for security breaches

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE HONG KONG

Hong Kong passed a toughened film censorship law on Wednesday empowering authorities to ban past films "national security" threats and impose stiffer penalties for any breaches in the latest blow to the city's artistic freedoms.

Authorities have embarked on a sweeping crackdown to root out Beijing's critics after pro-democracy protests convulsed the city two years ago.

curity law and an official campaign dubbed "Patriots rule Hong Kong" has since criminalised much dissent and strangled the democracy movement. Films and documentaries

A new China-imposed se-

have become one of many cultural areas authorities have sought to purge.

In June the city announced censors would check any future films for content that breached the security law.

But the law passed on

gislature - a body now devoid of any opposition – allows scrutiny of any titles that had previously been given a green light. It empowers Hong Kong's chief secretary to revoke the

Wednesday by the city's le-

terests of national security". Maximum penalties for screening an unlicensed movie have been raised to up to three years in jail and a HK\$1

screening license of past and

current films that are

deemed "contrary to the in-

million (\$130,000) fine.

	27-10-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,143	-0.34
US Dollar	75.03	-0.09
Gold	46,747	-0.86
Brent oil	84.30	-2.15

NIFTY 50		
MIFIT JU	DDICE	CHANG
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv		
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL	427.70.	-3.3
Britannia Ind		
Cipla	922.50	15.0
Coal India		
Divis Lab	5149.35	130.4
Dr Reddys Lab	4662.70	3.5
Eicher Motors	2583.90	6.3
Grasim Ind	1728.40	11.0
HCL Tech	1177.15	10.3
HDFC	2915.00	3
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life	693.85	3.8
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco	479.85	6.2
Hind Unilever	2396.60	40.2
ICICI Bank	835.00	5.6
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp	130.80	0.7

M&M

NTPC. ONGC

SBI Life

State Bank

Maruti Suzuki

Nestle India Ltd.

PowerGrid Corp Reliance Ind

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-213.00-1.90-5.20-0.15 ...-33.65

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157.90

Sun Pharma	825.10	11.6
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	818.75	9.8!
Tata Motors	497.90	10.7
Tata Steel	1326.15	17.50
TCS	3489.75	7.1
Tech Mahindra	1567.85	4.5
Titan	2460.10	5.3
UltraTech Cement	7354.20	85.10
UPL	741.50	28.2
Wipro	671.10	2.9!
EVELLANCE D	ATEC	
EXCHANGE R		
Indicative direct r except yen at 4 p.		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SEL
US Dollar	74.76	75.08
Euro	86.87	87.24
British Pound	103.34	103.79

Japanese Yen (100) 65.59...



Bharti CEO warns of rising cyber-fraud cases

warned customers about rising cases of cyber-frauds. citing a recent instance of a fraudster who posed as a executive and under the guise of updating KYC form, tricked a user into revealing bank details to transfer a large amount from the bank account. In an email to subscribers, Gopal Vittal urged users to be vigilant as such cases are becoming 'alarmingly frequent.' РТІ

TII Q2 net profit rises 27% to ₹121.42 crore

Tube Investments of India Ltd (TII) standalone net profit for the second quarter rose almost 27% to ₹121.42 crore. Revenue increased to ₹1,667 crore (₹1,087 crore). "The results are a testimony to the resilience shown by us in bouncing back with a healthy performance with most businesses reaching or surpassing pre-COVID levels," chairman M.A.M. Arunachalam said.

K.V. Kamath appointed as NaBFID chairperson

The government announced the appointment of veteran banker K. V. Kamath as chairperson of the newly set up ₹20,000-crore National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID). Mr. Kamath, the first head of the New Development Bank set up by the BRICS group of emerging market economies, had completed his five-year tenure last year. PTI

Policybazaar parent firm's IPO to open Nov. 1

PB Fintech, that operates online insurance platform Policybazaar and credit ₹5,710-crore initial share sale, which will open on November 1. The three-day initial public offering (IPO) will conclude on November 3, the company announced at a virtual press conference. PTI

Maruti Q2 profit slumps 66% as input costs, chip shortage bite

Carmaker suffers shortfall of 1.16 lakh units; sees single-digit sales growth this FY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. on Wednesday reported a 66% fall in second-quarter profit at ₹487 crore, due to an "unprecedented" increase in commodity prices and a semiconductor shortage.

The country's largest carmaker said the quarter saw it suffer an estimated production shortfall of 1.16 lakh vehicles - normal monthly output is about 1.5 lakh units owing to the electronic components shortage, while material costs soared to a record 80.4% of net sales at the end of the quarter.

Chairman R. C. Bhargava said the company had more than 2 lakh pending orders



Blind spot: The component shortage had a bigger impact on Maruti than other OEMs, says Chairman R.C. Bhargava. • AFP

at the end of September, a majority of them for CNG vehicles due to the rising

ponents and increase in the prices of petrol and diesel. prices of commodities like steel, aluminium and pre-"The COVID situation, in the second quarter particucious metals on a pretty unlarly, was not too bad," Mr. precedented scale has upset Bhargava said at a virtual all the earlier estimates and

The component shortage had a bigger impact on MSIL than on other OEMs as one particular component was from a single German vendor whose factory in Malaysia had suffered a big hit from COVID, he said. "Both of these factors have had a major impact on our results in terms of volumes, in terms of profits," he added.

Consolidated revenue from operations rose to ₹20,551 crore, from ₹18,756 crore a vear earlier. Total vehicle sales, however, slid 3% to over 3.79 lakh units.

"We will not have doubledigit growth," Mr. Bhargava said, giving his outlook for sales growth this fiscal.

A tenth of coal-fired plants still at risk for outages, says Crisil

Erratic supply, high import costs to hurt 20 GW of capacity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

An immediate power crisis may have been averted for now, but about a tenth of India's coal-fired thermal power plants remain in danger of shutdowns and outages due to erratic coal supplies and high prices for imported coal, rating agency Crisil said on Wednesday.

Domestic coal supplies have been erratic due to rains hampering mining operations, while non-coking coal imports have slid more than 20%. As a result, coal stocks at power plants have depleted to an average of five days' worth of supplies.

Ankit Hakhu, Crisil Ratings director, expects global coal prices and domestic e-



auction premiums to remain elevated over the next few months, rendering about 20 GW of private power generation capacity out of a total 209 GW of coal-based capacity to be 'most vulnerable'.

"Most of these plants don't have fuel supply agreements and depend heavily on the open market or imports for coal, with committed tariffs for the power sold to utilities. Therefore, if these gencos continue operations at these elevated current coal prices, it may lead to operating losses and thus these capacities may prefer to shut down till coal prices cool," Mr. Hakhu said.

Power demand grew about 9% in the July to September quarter compared with the corresponding period in the pre-pandemic 2019-20, but reliance on thermal energy sources rose disproportionately as hydel and nuclear power generation were lower this year.

Even at units with fuel supply pacts, coal supply may be 'just about adequate for their current generation', noted Crisil's associate director Rohan Kulshreshtha.

Aluminium sector takes coal supply issue to PMO

'Disruption threatens 1 mn jobs, SMEs'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Aluminium Association of India has reached out to the Prime Minister's Office to help address the "precarious situation" the industry is in due to limited coal supply, warning of more than one million job losses.

In a letter dated October 26, the association said: "The current shortage due to stoppage/curtailment of coal supplies and rakes has threatened the very survival of the domestic aluminium industry with risk of loss of over one million livelihood and [about] 5,000 SMEs in the downstream sector".

Since August 21, the industry has been getting only 50% of required coal sup-



plies, which has declined to 10% currently. The industry has coal stocks of only 1.5-3 days and is on the verge of a stockout, it said.

"If coal shortage is not immediately addressed, it may lead to collapse of the aluminium industry and associated SMEs," the representative entity said, adding that this would also lead to additional national foreign exchange loss of ₹90,000 crore due to higher imports.

L&T net falls 67% to ₹1,819 cr.

Firm had one-time gain from sale of business in Q2 last year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

press conference. "But the

shortage of electronic com-

Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) reported second-quarter consolidated net profit plunged 67% to ₹1,819.45 crore, from ₹5,520 crore in the year-earlier period when it had a one-time gain from the sale of its electrical & automation business.

"The profit after tax for the quarter at ₹1,819 crore includes ₹144 crore gain on divestment of stake in hydel power plant in Uttarakhand and tax expense of ₹47 crore arising on transfer of the NxT Digital Business from the parent to Mindtree Ltd.,' the company said in a filing.

Consolidated profit after tax (excluding exceptional items and discontinued operations) at ₹1,723 crore, however, surged 56%.



R. Shankar Raman

"The growth is mainly driven by higher profits in the IT&TS portfolio and improved margins from the projects & manufacturing portfolio as the pandemic induced stress in previous periods progressively wanes," CFO R. Shankar Raman said on a conference call.

Revenue rose 12% yearon-year to ₹34,773 crore, with international sales con-

tributing 35% at ₹12,318 crore. L&T bagged orders worth ₹42,140 crore during the quarter, a 50% jump over the year-earlier period.

Orders covered segments including oil & gas, metros, rural water supply, minerals and metal and power transmission and distribution. International orders at ₹22,116 crore accounted for 52%. The group's consolidated

order book at ₹3,30,541 crore was near record levels, with international orders having a share of 23%.

Infrastructure segment secured orders of ₹12,108 crore, a decline of 17% over the year-earlier period. Defence engineering seg

ment recorded order inflow of ₹441 crore, a decline of 67% year-on-year on account of deferral of 'awards'.

profit at clients' expense'

Sector lacks level-playing field: RBI's Rao

'MFIs must stop chasing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Micro-finance lenders must refrain from chasing profits and introspect on the 'negative consequences' of pushing their borrowers into a debt trap, using harsh recovery practices and harassing customers as this could undo the sector's progress, a top central banker said.

Arguing that there is no longer a level-playing field in the sector as specialised micro-finance institutions (MFIs) governed by the central bank's regulatory framework now account for just 30% of gross loans, Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao said this is posing 'difficulties for customers' and divergence

in practices.

Addressing the national conference of MFIs' self-regulatory organisation Sa-Dhan, Mr. Rao also stressed that lenders partnering fintech firms to deliver services and onboarding customers must ensure that customerprotection needs are not compromised in the pro-

Urging MFIs to turn their immediate focus towards revamping their risk management systems, improving the skills of the field-level staff and institutionalising an effective grievance redressal system, Mr. Rao emphasised that lenders should not throw caution to the winds to chase higher asset growth and returns.

A Business Initiative

ITC Q2 profit rises 10% to ₹3,763.7 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ITC Ltd. reported a 10% increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹3,763.7 crore for the second quarter ended in September.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹3,418.69 crore during the July-September quarter of the previous fiscal, ITC said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from opera-

tions was up 12.1% to ₹14,662.6 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹13,075.1 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

Total expenses were at ₹10,258.3 crore, up 11.9% in Q2/FY 2021-22 as against ₹9,164.7 core in the yearearlier period.

Shares of ITC Ltd. on Wednesday settled at ₹238.40 on BSE, up 0.68% from the previous close.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Indian Overseas Bank's

(IOB) standalone net profit

for the quarter ended Sep-

tember rose 154% to ₹376

crore due to 'strong perfor-

mance'. "The bank has

made a fresh start after six

years," said Partha Pratim

"It will grow much stron-

Emphasisingk that the

RBI had removed IOB from

its Prompt Corrective Action

framework due to strong

performance, he said curbs

such as on branch opening

and fresh recruitment had

been removed. "We will be

looking at expanding [num-

ber of] branches or restruc-

turing some of them and re-

cruiting more people."

Sengupta, MD & CEO.

ger in coming quarters."

Indian Overseas Bank

net more than doubles

Lender eyes more branches, staff

Auto dealers seek law to protect against OEM exits

Contract law not enough, says FADA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on Wednesday has urged the government to introduce a law to protect the interests of automobile dealers.

This comes in the backdrop of many foreign vehicle makers, such as General Motors and Ford, exiting India over the last four years.

"Most dealerships in India are MSMEs and their contractual arrangements with OEMs that are large corporations have historically been tilted in favour of OEMs due to dealers' lack of bargaining power. What is surprising is that the same OEMs offer much better contracts to their dealers in many international jurisdictions," FADA president Vinkesh Gulati told reporters.



Compared to Indian agreements, pacts abroad often have more balanced and comprehensive clauses on termination, indemnification and repurchase obligations, while affording more flexibility to dealers.

"The existing legal regime in India is inadequate to address these specific concerns of dealers. While OEM-Dealer agreements are governed under the Indian Contract Act, the law does not contain any clear solutions for us," he said.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

Kent Launches 'Alkaline

Kent launches Alkaline water Pitcher which converts drinking water into alkaline water Increases the pH Level of Water up to 8.5 and Converts Your Drinking Water into Alkaline Water New Delhi: A leading name in water purification space, Kent RO Systems has launched an which Increases the pH Level of Water up to 8.5 and Converts Your Drinking Water into Alkaline Water. People wish to stay healthy and Water plays a crucial role in daily health management People are trying to consume the safest water which will provide them with health benefits while boosting their immunity. People want their drinking water to be free of all impurities not only from Bacteria and Viruses but also from dissolved impurities. Further the pure water should maintain essential Minerals. Recent Studies shows that Drinking Alkaline Water with pH level around 8.5 gives health benefits due to Reduce ORP as well as reducing Acidity. People have been buying costly ionizers (Rs 2 lac) to meet this objective. KENT has innovated and broken the Price barriers and introduced this in a jug that converts your water into alkaline water with pH level of 8.5 with a cost of just Rs 1990. The Alkaline water reduces acidity regulates body's pH levels, boosts immunity, and fortifies one's health and help you stay healthy It comes with 3.5L storage capacity, and the best part is that the pitcher works without electricity! Just fill the water from top and get alkaline water for a healthy body and mind. Commenting on this innovative Product Dr Mahesh Gupta, Chairman KENT Ro said "Kent continues to offer innovative health and lifestyle products by keeping customers' best interests in mind. Being in the industry for over two decades, their stateof-the-art products and home appliances have scored the trust of people in the country. The company implements futuristic mechanisms in all its products and Kent's Alkaline Water Filter Pitcher, is no exception! We have a lot of people buying and enquiring about our Alkaline Water Filter Pitcher. It's commendable how people have become more health conscious than ever design as it is space saving that easily fits into all types of refrigerator doors. This pitcher comes with an easy fill lid and comfort grip handle that provides great convenience while dispensing water into a bottle or glass. It is available at

Punjab becomes preferred investment destination for global firms

Amazon & Flipkart.

Having strong ecosystem, business friendly policies and excellent factors of production, Punjab has become a preferred investment destination for the global firms in last few years. In the last four-and-a-half years, investors from across the globe as well as those from different regions in the country have shown their confidence in Punjab, which has resulted into securing investments worth Rs 99000 crores in rarious sectors.The sectors include Bicycle, Agri & Food Processing, Logistics, Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, Textiles, Alloy and Steel Sector, Engineering, Auto Components, New and Renewable Sources of Energy, IT Services, Education, Real Estate and Infrastructure. These investments are coming into the State from companies from diverse countries including USA, UK, UAE, Denmark, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Singapore, said Gurkirat Singh, Minister of Industries and Commerce, Punjab, adding that Punjab is scripting an unmatched success story. Pertinently, the State Government has made consistent efforts in the last 4.5 years, to develop an ecosystem where both the domestic and global businesses can thrive competitively.

It is encouraging to see it bearing results with

alobal investments pouring in from 10 foreign

'Punjab Investors Summit ' held on October 26 & 27 in Chandigarh

The Punjab Chief Minister reviewed the Investors Summit held on October 26 and 27, 2021 and directed all the stakeholders especially the Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion to leave no stone unturned in ensuring effective State's upward growth. The Chief Minister exhorted the leading champions of the industry from across the country to avail the pro-investor facilities and incentives to set up their ventures in Punjab. Apprising the Chief Minister, the CEO, Invest Punjab, Rajat Agarwal said that guided by the Business First philosophy, it is Punjab's endeavour to provide a truly non-intrusive environment to businesses where they have full freedom to do business and

PSPCL Clears Outstanding Arrears of

Government only acts a facilitator. "The State is

committed to building a conducive & sustainable environment in the State to boost industrial

activity and creating ample

opportunities", added the CEO.

electricity bills worth Rs. 77.37 Cr Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has cleared the outstanding arrears electricity bills worth Rs. 77.37 crore of 96,911 domestic consumers having load below 2 KW till date.Disclosing this here today, a spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said that these consumers from five zones across the state namely; Border zone comprising Sub Urban Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Tarn Taran. City Amritsar circles, Central zone (East Ludhiana, West Ludhiana, Khanna, Sub Urban Ludhiana), North zone (Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Nawanshahr), South zone (Patiala, Sangrur, Barnala, Ropar, Mohali) and West zone (Bathinda, Ferozepur, Faridkot, Muktsar) have as many as 15.85 lakh beneficiaries with total liability of Rs. 1505 crore, out of which the outstanding arrears worth Rs. 77.37 crore has been waived off so far. Giving the zone-wise breakup of beneficiaries with financial liability on this count, the spokesperson said that Border zone has 4.27 lakh beneficiaries with liability of Rs.407 crore, Central zone has 1.84 lakh beneficiaries (Rs.1.57 crore), North zone has 2.11 lakh beneficiaries (Rs.1.78 crore), South zone has 2.86 lakh beneficiaries (Rs. 2 crore) and West zone has 4.76 lakh beneficiaries (Rs.5.62 crore).

Punjab announces Major Industrial Investment for development of Sri Chamkaur Sahib Assembly Constituency

The Punjab Chief Minister announced the major industrial investment for the overall development of Sri Chamkaur Sahib Assembly constituency. He said that the establishment of the industrial units would give a major boost to the development of the region besides ensuring ample job opportunities for the youth thus improving the economic standard people living in the area. The Chief Minister disbursed the cheques worth Rs. 21 crore for development purposes to 56 villages. Coming to the development centric measures, the Chief Minister announced 16 state of the art stadiums for Sri Chamkaur Sahib in order to inspire the youth to take sports. Announcing a grant of Rs. 1 crore for the stadium coming up in the memory of the farmers of village Haripur alias Roadmajra who died during the ongoing anti- farm law agitation, Channi also released an amount of Rs. 25 lakh apart from Rs. 2.50 crore towards kickstarting of the construction of stadiums in the 6 villages of the constituency. Afterwards, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of the new building as part of upgrading

the C.H.C. at Sri Chamkaur Sahib into a Sub Divisional Hospital at a cost of Rs. 10 crore. He also said that the upcoming hospital would also see the installation of modern machinery worth Rs 2 crore The Chief Minister also announced reconstruction of the buildings of rural health as

Ludhiana all set to become north

The Government of Puniab is further set to elevate the status of Ludhiana as North India's industrial hub with the Hi-Tech Valley being developed in an area of 378.77 acres in Village Dhanansu by Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation a State Government undertaking Approvals for Layout plan, Change of land use (CLU), Environmental Clearance under EIA notification, RERA, etc have already been received for the entire chunk of 378.77 acres land. The project would entail the cost of Rs 365 crore.Hero Cycles Limited, a prominent player in the cycles industry has come up with its state-of-the-art unit for manufacturing of Highend bicycles and E-Bikes in the Hero Industrial Park of size 100 Acres located within the Hi-Tech Valley. The unit was inaugurated in April 2021 The Hero Industrial Park would also have the ancillary units of this Anchor unit Similarly Aditya Birla Group, a Fortune 500 company, has chosen the State of Punjab as an investment destination

land has been allotted to J K Papers Ltd. for setting up their unit for manufacturing corrugated boxes and packaging products. **PNB Observes Vigilance Awareness**

for its upcoming paints business through its

flagship company Grasim Industries Ltd. The

group has procured industrial land measuring

61.38 acres in the Hi Tech Valley for its new

venture. Besides, a 17-acre industrial chunk of

Week 2021 Observance of VAW every year is part of the multi-pronged approach of the Commission to encourage all stakeholders to collectively participate in the prevention of corruption. On similar lines. PNB has taken various initiatives to inculcate a sense of honesty and integrity among the employees and control the internal systems making them more transparent. Last year. PNB launched a user-friendly portal namely Tracking & Monitoring of Staff Accountability Cases (TMSAC), to track Staff Accountability matters on

real-time basis. Addressing the PNB Parivar, Shri Rao stated, whether it is in our daily or professional life, we are reiterating our commitment to preventive vigilance. As the public sector bank dealing with the public assets, we have a sense of responsibility towards our customers stakeholders and fellow employees on the one side and towards the nation at large on the other side. Even in the face of a challenging time pandemic in the last two years, we as PNB Parivar have always fulfilled our duties with full honesty. He also motivated all officials to promote spread the culture of PIDPI (Public Interest Disclosure & Protection of Informers) system amongst the public/staff.

Dr. Ramjass Yadav joins Punjab & **Sind Bank as Executive Director**

Dr. Ramiass Yadav has joined Puniab & Sind Bank as Executive Director with effect from 21st October 2021. Prior to joining Punjab & Sind Bank, Dr. Ramjass Yadav was the Chief eral Manager of Bank of Baroda

NBCC Secures work of Jaipur **International Airport**

NBCC, a Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has been awarded the work of Independent Engineer for operations, management and development of Jaipur International Airport at a cost of Rs. 12.40

comparison portal Paisabazaar, on Wednesday fixed a price band of ₹940-₹980 a share for its



would be raising between ₹500 crore and ₹1,000 crore in the fourth quarter to meet tier-II capital norms. In FY23, the bank hopes to raise funds to meet capital growth either through tier-I

capital or via equity, he said. In the second quarter, interest income fell to ₹4,254 crore (₹4,363 crore); net interest margin dipped to 2.43% (2.57%); and net NPAs declined to 2.77% (4.3%).

from Myanmar investments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Gujarat-based Adani Group said it has decided to exit from its investments in

Group company Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) made the announcement in its quarterly results.

to actively work on a plan on exiting company's investment in Myanmar, including divestment opportunities (expected to be concluded by March - June 2022)," the firm said.

been cited by the firm for the decision. The APSEZ has till now invested \$151 million in International Container Terminal at Ahlone Port in Yanon region.

Adanis to exit

Myanmar by next year.

"The board has decided

No specific reason has

De Kock's

refusal to take

knee mystifies

South Africa

Roy turns on the heat as England demolishes Bangladesh

His 38-ball 61 helps the team reach the target in 14.1 overs after Mills, Woakes, Moeen and Livingstone restrict Mahmudullah's men to 124

ICC T20 WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

England cruised to a second successive victory at the ICC Twenty20 World Cup, defeating Bangladesh by eight wickets on Wednesday. It was the first meeting between the two in T20s

Opener Jason Roy smashed 61 off 38 balls as England reached its target of 125 in 14.1 overs. Roy's partner Jos Buttler made a run-a-ball 18 before losing his wicket to leftarm spinner Nasum Ahmed.

Roy, playing in his 50th T20, reached his seventh T20 half-century with a six. He smashed five fours and three sixes, taking the sting out of the Bangladesh attack.

Roy added 73 with Dawid Malan (28 n.o., 25b, 3x4) for the second wicket.

Earlier, Bangladesh lost regular wickets after electing to bat and finished at 124 for nine. Left-arm quick Tymal Mills (three for 27), Woakes (4-0-12-1), Moeen (two for 18) and Livingstone (two for 15)

kept the Bangladesh batters on a leash.

After giving away 10 in his opening over – the first of the innings – off-spinner Moeen Ali was on a hat-trick in his second, but was denied by Mushfigur Rahim. Moeen had Liton Das caught at deep square-leg and immediately sent back Mohammad Naim.

Bangladesh slipped to 26 for three as Shakib Al Hasan fell to Chris Woakes, with Adil Rashid taking a superb catch running back from short

Mushfiqur and skipper Mahmudullah repaired the damage with a 37-run partnership before leg-spinner Livingstone through. He trapped Mushfiqur in front as England's review was successful after the on-field umpire had ruled it not out.

No. 9 Nasum hit leggie Rashid for two sixes and a four in the 19th over and remained unbeaten 19 off nine balls to give the Bangladesh total some respect. However, it proved inadequate once Roy got going.



In top gear: Roy struck five fours and three sixes in his match-winning knock. • AFP

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH

Liton Das c Livingstone b Moeen 9 (8b, 2x4), Mohammad Naim c Woakes b Moeen 5 (7b), Shakib Al Hasan c Adil Rashid b Woakes 4 (7b). Mushfigur Rahim lbw b Livingstone 29 (30b. 3x4), Mahmudullah c Woakes b Livingstone 19 (24b, 1x4), Afif Hossain run out 5 (6b, 1x4), Nurul Hasan c Buttler b Mills 16 (18b), Mahedi Hasan c Woakes b Mills 11 (10b. 2x4), Nasum Ahmed (not out) 19 (9b, 1x4, 2x6), Mustafizur Rahman b Mills O (1b); Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-5): 7; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 124.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-14 (Liton, 2.2 overs), 2-14 (Nain, 2.3), 3-26 (Shakib, 5.7) 4-63 (Mushfiqur, 10.4), 5-73 (Afif, 12.4), 6-83 (Mahmudullah, 14.5), 7-98 (Mahedi, 17.1), 8-124 (Nurul, 19.5), 9-124 (Mustafizur,

ENGLAND BOWLING

Moeen 3-0-18-2, Woakes 4-0-12-1, Adil Rashid 4-0-35-0, Jordan 2-0-15-0, Mills 4-0-27-3, Livingstone 3-0-15-2.

ENGLAND

Jason Roy c Nasum b Shoriful 61 (38b, 5x4, 3x6), Jos Buttler c Naim b Nasum 18 (18b, 1x4, 1x6). Dawid Malan (not out) 28

(25b, 3x4), Jonny Bairstow (not out) 8 (4b, 1x4); Extras (lb-6, w-5): 11; Total (for two wkts. in 14.1 overs): 126

FALL OF WICKETS 1-39 (Buttler, 4.5), 2-112 (Roy,

BANGLADESH BOWLING Shakib 3-0-24-0, Mustafizur 3-0-23-0, Shoriful 3.1-0-26-1, 3-0-26-1,

Toss: Bangladesh; MoM: Roy. England won by eight wickets with 5.5 overs to spare.

Next assignment

Bangladesh: Oct. 29 vs West Indies, Sharjah, 3.30 p.m. IST

England: Oct. 30 vs Australia, Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

Innings scan					
BANG- LADESH		ENGLAND			
52	Dots	25			
10	Fours	10			
2	Sixes	4			
27/3	PP	50/1			

Quinton de Kock's refusal to take the knee at the ICC T20 World Cup, despite the

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

potential cost to his career, divided opinion in South Africa and highlighted persistent concerns about racism in sport. "De Kock divides opi-

nion" read a banner on news channel eNCA, where commentators debated his right to self-expression against his responsibility to support his team and his

However, many agreed that there will probably be huge implications for de Kock. "This is probably the end of his participation in the World Cup and maybe even his international career as a cricketer," wrote analyst Max du Preez in a column on an Afrikaans news site.

Sindhu and Lakshya win, Srikanth and Kashyap exit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

P.V. Sindhu and Lakshya Sen sailed into the second round, but it was curtains for Saina Nehwal and K. Srikanth on a mixed day for Indian shuttlers at the French Open Super 750 badminton here tournament Wednesday.

Sindhu beat Denmark's Julie Dawall Jakobsen 21-15, 21-18 in the women's singles. Lakshva beat Vietnam's Nhat Nguyen 21-10. 21-16. Srikanth lost 18-21, 22-20, 19-21 to top seed Kento Momota and Kashyap came up short against Brice Leverdez of France, losing 17-

21, 21-17, 11-21. Other results (first round): Men: Chou Tien-chen (Tpe) bt H.S. Prannoy 21-11, 21-14; Sourabh Verma bt Ygor Coel-

ho (Bra) 22-20, 21-19. Doubles: M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila bt Joshua Magee & Paul Reynolds (Ire) 21-13,

Women: Sayaka Takahashi (Jpn) bt Saina Nehwal 21-11, 9-2 retd. **Doubles:** Alyssa Tirtosentono & Imke Van Der Aar (Ned) bt J. Meghana & Poorvisha S. Ram 11-4, retd; Lee

(Kor) bt Ashwini Ponnappa & N. Sikki Reddy 21-16, 21-17. Mixed doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Ashwini bt Mathias Thyrri & Mai Surrow

Sohee & Shin Seungchan

Sathiyan advances

(Den) 21-19, 21-15.

SPORTS BUREAU

G. Sathiyan defeated Alvaro Robles of Spain 11-9, 11-9, 11-9 to progress to the singles second round of the WTT Contender Tunis here on Wednesday.

The results: Men (roundof-32): G. Sathiyan bt Alvaro Robles (Esp) 11-9, 11-9, 11-9; Vitor Ishiy (Bra) bt Sharath Kamal 5-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10. Women (round-of-32): Nina Mittelham (Ger) bt Manika Batra 11-6, 10-12, 11-8, 11-3; Dina Meshref (Egy) bt Selena Selva-

kumar 11-8, 11-3, 11-4. Doubles (round-of-16): Sathiyan & Harmeet Desai bt Kilian Ort & Tobias Hippler (Ger) 15-13, 6-11, 11-9, 5-11, 12-10; Sharath & Manav Thakkar bt Alexander Chen & David Serdaroglu

(Aut) 12-10, 5-11, 11-5, 11-5. Mixed doubles (round of 16): Sathiyan & Manika Batra bt Horacio Cifuentes & Camila Arguelles (Arg) 9-11, 11-9, 11-8,

A ND-NDE

Plucky Namibia scripts historic win Wade backs Finch and

Registers first victory in maiden appearance in Super 12s

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ruben Trumpelmann led a lethal bowling show by taking three wickets in the first over as Namibia restricted Scotland to 109 for eight in its ICC T20 World Cup on Wednesday.

In reply, JJ Smit's unbeaten 32 (23b, 2x4, 2x6) took the team to a four-wicket win in its first-ever appearance in the Super 12s. Scotland suffered its second straight loss. Smit and David Wiese (16) were involved in a crucial 35-run stand for the fifth wicket to swing the contest Namibia's way.

Earlier, left-arm quick Trumpelmann justified his team's decision to bowl first as he struck with the first ball and then got two off successive balls, including Richie Berrington for nought.

Trumpelmann returned his best T20 figures of three for 17 in his sixth match in tne snortest format.

The other left-arm seamer, Jan Frylinck, returned figures of two for 10 in four ov-

Next assignment

Namibia: Oct. 31 vs **Afghanistan,** Abu Dhabi, 3.30 p.m. IST

Scotland: Nov. 3 vs New Zealand, Dubai, 3.30 p.m. IST

Innings scan

	NAMIBIA
Dots	58
Fours	5
Sixes	4
PP	29/1
RR	6.00
	Fours Sixes PP

Dream start: Trumpelmann scalped three in his first over.

SCOREBOARD

SCOTLAND George Munsey b Trumpelmann 0 (1b), Matthew Cross b Frylinck 19 (33b, 1x4), Calum MacLeod c Green b Trumpelmann 0 (2b). Richie Berrington lbw b Trumpelmann O (1b), Craig Wallace lbw b Wiese 4 (13b), Michael Leask b Smit 44 (27b, 4x4, 2x6), Chris Greaves run out 25 (32b, 2x4), Mark Watt c Erasmus b Frylinck 3 (6b), Josh Davey (not out) 5 (5b); Extras (lb-5, w-4): 9; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 109.

FALL OF WICKETS (Munsey, 0.1 ov), 2-2 (MacLeod, 0.3), 3-2 (Berrington, 0.4), 4-18 (Wallace, 5.3), 5-57

(Cross, 11.1), 6-93 (Leask, 16.2), 18.1), 8-109 7-99 (Watt, (Greaves, 19.6)

NAMIBIA BOWLING Trumpelmann 4-0-17-3. Frylinck 4-0-10-2, Smit 4-0-20-1. Wiese 4-0-22-1, Scholtz 2-0-16-0, van Lingen 1-0-12-0, Ya France

Craig Williams st. Cross b Watt 23 (29b, 1x6), Michael van Lingen c Berrington b Sharif 18 (24h. 2x4), Zane Green c Munsey b Greaves 9 (13b, 1x4), Gerhard Erasmus b Leask 4 (6b), David Wiese c Watt b Leask 16 (14h. 1x6), J.J. Smit (not out) 32 (23b, 2x4, 2x6), Jan Frylinck c MacLeod b Wheal 2 (4b), Pikky Ya France (not out) 0 (2b); Extras (lb-9, w-2): 11; Total (for six wkts.

in 19.1 overs): 115 **FALL OF WICKETS** 1-28 (van Lingen, 5.3), 2-50

(Green, 9.1), 3-61 (Erasmus, 11.2), 4-67 (Williams, 12.3), 5-102 (Wiese, 17.4), 6-109 (Frylinck,

SCOTLAND BOWLING Wheal 4-0-14-1, Davey 2-0-15-0, Sharif 3.1-0-21-1, Greaves 4-0-22-1. Watt 4-0-22-1. Leask 2-0-12-2.

Toss: Namibia MoM: Trumpelmann.

Warner to come good

Sri Lanka sweats on Theekshana's fitness

AYAN ACHARYA

Australia will face Sri Lanka in Dubai on Thursday in a bid to firm up its position in the points table as the scramble for the semifinal spots picks up pace in the ICC Twenty20 World Cup.

Both teams won their respective last matches albeit contrasting fashion. While Australia scraped through after an outstanding bowling performance, Sri Lanka rode on Charith Asalanka's unbeaten 80 and Bhanuka Rajapaksa's 53 off 31 balls to win after being 79/4, chasing 172.

For Australia, Aaron Finch and David Warner will continue opening despite struggling for runs. Matthew Wade has backed them to come good. "I don't see a lack of form at all. They're terrific players. They're just short of runs. To be honest, guys that are world-class



Stoinis steered Australia home against SA. • AFP

players for as long as they have been in this format are never out of form. They're iust short of runs at the moment," Wade said on Wednesday.

Marcus Stoinis and Wade played crucial cameos in the lower order in the first Super 12 encounter and are likely to retain their batting But if the top three fire in

unison, Glenn Maxwell and either Stoinis or Wade could be sent ahead of Steve Smith, who batted at No. 4 against South Africa. Meanwhile, Australia will

be pleased with the way Josh Hazlewood bowled in the PowerPlay. Maxwell's four overs are a bonus. On the other hand, Sri

Lanka head coach Mickey Arthur has confirmed that spinner Maheesh Theekshana will play if fit. "He's improved tremendously. So we'll warm him up tomorrow; and if everything goes well, he'll be playing," Arthur said.

Lahiru Kumara might ask probing questions of a wobbly Australian top-order with his pace.

TODAY'S MATCH



Australia Sri Lanka DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST

H2H IN T20IS Played: 16 Australia Sri Lanka

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Dew has proved to be a deciding factor



Time to regroup: The Indians, who will be keen to bounce back, had a practice session on Wednesday. •TWITTER/BCCI

AMOL KARHADKAR

As noticed during the last week of the IPL, all three venues in the UAE (Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah) witnessed dew having an impact in the latter half of ev-

No wonder then that of the first seven Super 12 matches in the T20 World Cup, six have seen teams that batted first walking away with full points. The conditions, where the appearance of dew effectively makes a captain winning the toss having no qualms in electing to field.

"Yes, toss definitely is going to be a factor in this tournament. If the dew keeps creeping in in the latter half the game, you need those extra runs in the first half," India captain Virat Kohli said after the loss to Pakistan last Sunday.

The last thing that a World Cup requires is the toss dictating results of games. But a combination of sticky surfaces, the dew making an impact only in the second innings, and the match timings adjusted primarily to suit television vie-

wership in the Indian subcontinent, has resulted in teams being forced to plan strategies around the dew and toss.

"A bit of dew is something we saw at the back-end of the IPL, as also a number of different factors that come with the conditions. We were aware of that going into it," Williamson said after the Black Caps went down to Pakistan in Sharjah on Tuesday.

New Zealand, in fact, came closest to defending a target after Afghanistan's crushing win against Scotland earlier in the week. However, Pakistan's big-hitters saw the team through. South Africa, on the oth-

er hand, restricted the West Indies power-hitters in Dubai on Tuesday and then chased down the target comfortably in a day game, when the dew wasn't a factor at all.

"The wickets are not particularly flat. They offer something for the bowlers," pacer Kagiso Rabada had said ahead of the game.

It seems that all teams will have to adapt to the dew

TTFI's evidence could lead to suspensions

Sanmay's text message could blow the lid off Manika's allegations of match-fixing

TABLE TENNIS

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

Manika Batra's allegations against table tennis coach Soumyadeep Roy that he put pressure on her to lose to Sutirtha Mukherjee in the Olympic qualification match in Doha in March could backfire after her coach Sanmay Paranjape's text message, contradicting the player's claim, has surfaced.

Manika, whose serious allegations against Soumyadeep led to a legal battle with the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) and a High Court-ordered inquiry by the Sports Ministry, could face the heat from the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Integrity Unit, known for its zero-tolerance policy in unethical matters.

It may be recalled that on March 18, Sutirtha defeated



Manika and gained the South Asian Olympic quota and Manika made the grade on the basis of her higher ranking. Had Manika won, Sutir-

was doubtful. As part of the documents submitted by the TTFI to the ITTF, a text message from Sanmay sent to a former player on March 19 at 11.14

tha's qualification on ranking

a.m. has the potential to blow the lid off Manika's It reads: "My respect for

Manika has doubled now. What she did for Sutirtha, that too, after facing so much in life! She reached a position where she could help or not help! She chose to help! This is real strength, good heart and real positive mind! Real big-hearted lady she is. Country matters.

Another document presented to the ITTF is from a ITTF-certified Blue Badge Umpire who officiated during the qualifying tournament in Doha.

His statement reads: "I am

testifying what I witnessed on March 18 and reconfirming the talks I had with Sanmay on the morning of the match between Manika and Sutirtha. "When Sanmay came and exchanged pleasantries with me, I asked if both Indians were going to Tokyo. He smilingly replied 'you guessed it right.'

fice-bearers of the TTFI remained tight-lipped, a source in the know of the proceedings mentioned the likelihood of the ITTF suspending Manika, Sutirtha, Soumyadeep and Sanmay for their roles in Doha.

Though the principal of-

11 athletes recommended for Khel Ratna Neeraj, Dahiya, Lovlina, Mithali and Chhetri among those selected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who became the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold at the Tokyo Games, and silver medal-winning wrestler Ravi Dahiya were recommended along with nine others for the Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna, the country's highest sporting honour, on Wednesday.

Boxer Lovlina Borgohain, who won a bronze in Tokyo Olympics, hockey goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh and woman cricket Test skipper Mithali Raj were also recommended for the Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna. Sunil Chhetri became the first footballer to be selected for the honour.

Shooters Avani Lekhara and Manish Narwal, javelin thrower Sumit Antil, and shuttlers Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar, who all won Paralympics gold medals,



complete the list of those re-

commended for the Khel Rat-

The committee also picked 35 athletes for the Arjuna Award, eight more than last year's number. Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan, para TT player Bhavina Patel, para shuttler Suhas Yathiraj and high jumper Nishad Kumar are among those selected.

All members of the Tokyo Olympics bronze medal winning men's hockey team have also been recommended.



Women's hockey team members Vandana Katariya and Monika, fencer Bhavani Devi, boxer Simranjit Kaur, wrestler Deepak Punia, shooter Abhishek Verma, kabaddi player Sandeep Narwal, and women's tennis player Ankita Raina are among others to get recommendation.

The Dronacharya award has been accorded to athletics coaches Radhakrishna Nair and T.P. Ouseph and hockey coach Sandeep Sangwan among others.

TV PICKS

Badminton: French Open. Star Sports 3, 4,30 p.m. Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. Men's boxing World Championships: Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Lakers edge Spurs

Los Angeles Lakers posted a 125-121 overtime win over San Antonio Spurs in the NBA

on Tuesday The results: New York 112 bt Philadelphia 99, Golden State 106 bt Oklahoma City 98, Dallas 116 bt Houston 106, LA Lakers 125 bt San Antonio 121 (OT), Utah 122 bt Denver 110. REUTERS

Suhana Saini and Preyesh clinch titles

Tamil Nadu's Preyesh Suresh Raj and Suhana Saini (Haryana) clinched the youth boys' and girls' u-17 titles respectively in the UTT National ranking North Zone table tennis here.

The results (finals): Youth: Bovs: Prevesh Suresh Rai (TNTTA) bt Shankhadip Das (Ben) 11-6, 11-8, 11-8, 11-5: Girls: Suhana Saini (Har) bt Kayyashree Baskar (TTTA) 6-11, 11-9, 10-12, 11-9, 11-9,

Giroud delivers for Milan in dreary clash

Olivier Giroud scored in AC Milan's 1-0 win over Torino on Tuesday to move his side to the summit of Serie A. The results: Serie A: AC Milan 1 (Giroud 14) bt Torino 0; Spezia 1 (Sirigu 66-og) drew with Genoa 1 (Criscito 85). La Liga: Espanyol 1 (De Tomas 33-pen) drew with Athletic Bilbao 1 (Williams 52).

Easy for K. Devils

NEW DELHI Delhi Tigers will take on K. Devils and BMW will face Baale Golf in the semifinals of the Delhi Golf Club League on Friday. In Wednesday's quarterfinals, K. Devils beat Bajaj Foundation 14.5-1. Other quarterfinal results: Delhi Tigers bt Tee Birds 9-7; BMW bt Coca Cola 8.5-7; Baale Golf bt Athletic Drive

Nitin Kumar has Vishnu Vardhan's measure

Top seed Zeel rallies to overcome Shreya; Shrivalli advances

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Nitin Kumar Sinha played a robust all-court game to beat former champion Vishnu Vardhan 6-4, 6-1 in the men's pre-quarterfinals of the Fenesta National tennis championship at the DLTA Complex on Wednesday.

Ready for the challenge

The 22-year-old Nitin, seeded third and having played a lot over the past few weeks in the international circuit in Egypt, was ready for the challenge against the 34year-old Olympian who has not played the circuit since April. Vishnu did serve and stroke with intensity but Nitin was able to turn the flow in his favour with a better

Nitin will play S.D. Prajwal Dev who beat another former champion V.M. Ranjeet for the loss of four games.

Paras Dahiya, who had to fight it out in three sets against Fardeen Qamar, will take on Rishi Reddy, who beat fifth seed Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam.

Digvijay Pratap Singh beat former champion Dalwinder Singh to set up a quarterfinal against another former champion Siddharth Vishwakarma.

In the women's section, top seed Zeel Desai had to step up her game to beat Shreya Tatavarthy 2-6, 6-3, 6-1, and will play reigning champion Shrivalli Bhamidi-

Reshma Maruri beat National junior champion Shruti Ahlawat 5-7, 6-4, 6-1. Reshma had lost to Shruti rather tamely in the semifinals of the National juniors a fort-

Reshma will face Sharma-

da Balu who overcame her doubles partner Sravya Shivani when the latter retired early in the third set.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Men: Niki Poonacha bt Faisal Oamar 6-4, 6-3: Prithvi Sekhar bt Jatin Dahiva 4-6, 6-2, 6-4: Paras Dahiya bt Fardeen Qamar 6-1, 2-6, 6-2; Rishi Reddy bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-3, 7-6(3); S.D. Prajwal Dev bt V.M. Ranjeet 6-0, 6-4; Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Vishnu Vardhan 6-4, 6-1; Digivjay Pratap Singh bt Dalwinder Singh 7-6(4), 6-4; Siddharth Vishwakarma bt Kaza Vinayak Sharma 6-4, 7-6(2).

Women: Zeel Desai bt Shreya Tatavarthy 2-6, 6-3, 6-1; Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Nidhi Chilumula 6-2, 6-2; Sai Samhitha bt Sudipta Kumar 6-2, 6-3; Vanshita Pathania bt Jagmeet Kaur 6-4. 6-3: Reshma Maruri bt Shruti Ahlawat 5-7, 6-4, 6-1.

Sharmada Balu bt Sravya Shivani 5-7, 6-1, 2-0 (retd.); Akanksha Nitture bt Smriti Bhasin 6-4, 6-1; Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Farhat Aleen Oamar 6-4, 6-1,



Easy progress: Shrivalli Bhamidipaty cruised into the last eight on Wednesday. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Ramkumar-Cornea duo in last eight

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU SMANING (GERMANY)

Ramkumar Ramanathan and Romania's Victor Vlad Cornea beat Germany's Tim Sandakaulen and Henri Squire 6-3, 3-6, [10-7] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament in Ismaning (Germany).

Other results: €44,820 Challenger, Ismaning, Germany: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): (Pol) bt Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja 7-5, 7-6(10).

€66,640 Challenger, Brest, France: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Denys Molchanov (Ukr) & Aleksandr Nedovyesov (Kaz) bt Sriram Balaji & Divij Sharan 6-3, 7-5

\$52,080 Challenger, Las Vegas, US: Singles (first round): Stefan Kozlov (US) bt Sasikumar Mukund 6-2, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF men, Madrid, Spain: Singles (first round): Stefan Micov (Mkd) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(3).

\$15,000 ITF men, Tallahassee, US: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Dusty Boyer & Toby

Boyer 9US) bt Suraj Prabodh &

Dhruv Sunish 6-2, 6-2. \$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round): Sidharth Rawat bt Ajeet Rai (Nzl) 7-5, 6-4,

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Egor Tsarapkin (Rus) & Matas Vasiliauskas (Ltu) bt Serinho Wijdenbosch (Ned) & Ajay Pruthvi Nemakal 6-2, 6-3.

\$80,000 ITF women, Poitiers, France: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Estelle Cascino (Fra) & Camilla Rosatello (Ita) bt Sowjanya Bavisetti & Karman Kaur Thandi 7-5, 5-0, retd.

\$25,000 ITF women, Austin, **US: Singles (first round):** Kayla Day (US) bt Praniala Yadlapalli

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round): Giulia Crescenzi (Ita) bt Niditra Raimohan 6-3, 6-0,

Nitu too good for Manju Rani

BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI

Two-time World youth champion Nitu recorded a shock win over World championships silver medallist Manju Rani to claim her maiden gold medal in the National women's boxing championships here on Wednesday.

Nitu outsmarted Maniu 5-0 in a well-controlled 48kg final bout to prove herself at the elite stage.

Reigning World youth champion Arundhati Choudhary showed her mettle as she defeated Railways boxer Pooja 5-0 to take the 70kg crown.

Nikhat Zareen was named the Best Boxer.

The results (finals): 48kg: Nitu (Har) bt Manju Rani (RSPB) 5-0;



Cleanly done: Nitu, left, relied on a fluid footwork and accurate jabs to defeat Manju. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

50kg: Anamika (RSPB) bt Komal (Pun) 5-0, 52kg: Nikhat Zareen (Tel) bt Minakshi (Har) 4-1; 54kg: Shiksha (RSPB) bt Renu (Har) 3-2; 57kg: Sonia Lather (RSPB) bt Manisha Moun (AIP) 5-0; 60kg: Meena Rani (RSPB) bt Jaismine Lamboria (Har) 3-2; 63kg: Parveen (Har) bt Monika (RSPB) 5-0; 66kg: Anjali Tushir

(Del) bt Jyoti (RSPB) 4-1; 70kg: Arundhati Choudhary (Raj) bt Pooja (RSPB) 5-0; 75kg: Saweety Boora (Har) bt Bhagyabati Kachari (RSPB) 5-0; 81kg: Pooja Rani (Har) bt Nupur (RSPB) 5-0; 81+: Nandini (RSPB) bt Neha (Har) 5-0. Team championship: Winner: Railways, Runner-up: Haryana.

Nishant moves up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BELGRADE

Nishant Dev (71kg) sailed into the second round while Govind Sahani (48kg) made the prequarters with a superb come-from-behind effort in his opening bout as Indian boxers continued to impress in the AIBA men's boxing World Championships here on Wednesday.

While Nishant notched up a dominating 5-0 triumph over Hungary's Laszlo Kozak, Sahani rallied from a round down to beat Ecuador's Billy Arias Ortiz 3-2 in an edge of seat showdown.

Sumit (75kg) and Narender Berwal (+92kg) advanced to the second round on Tuesday night.

Shoan blazes away to glory

Srihari, Kushagra continue their record-breaking spree

AQUATICS

N. SUDARSHAN BENGALURU

Karnataka's Shoan Ganguly won his first-ever senior Nationals gold with a blistering freestyle leg in the 200m medley, at the Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre here on Wednesday. Elsewhere, Srihari Nataraj

and Kushagra Rawat continued their record-breaking spree, setting new best marks in 100m freestyle and 800m freestyle respectively. The results (winners only):

Men: 100m freestyle: Srihari Nataraj (Kar), 49:94 (NMR; OR: 50.17, Srihari Nataraj, 2021); 800m freestyle: Kushagra Rawat (Del), 8:08.32 (NMR; OR: 8:09.47, Kushagra Rawat, 2019); 50m breaststroke: S.



Thrilling win: Shoan Ganguly's blistering freestyle leg landed him the 200m medley ahead of S. Siva. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Danush (TN), 29:27; 200m medley: Shoan Ganguly (Kar),

Women: 100m freestyle: Shivangi Sarma (Asm), 59.07; 1500m freestyle: Prachi Tokas (Del), 17:47.28; 50m breaststroke: Chahat Arora (Pun), 33.86; 200m medley: Apeksha Fernandes (Mah), 2:26.28. Mixed 4x50m freestyle: Karnataka (Srihari, Ridhima Veerendra Kumar, Nina Venkatesh, R. Sambhavv), 1:41.73.

Diving (3m springboard): Men: Siddharth Pardeshi (SSCB), 338.00; Women: Palak Sharma



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