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IN BRIEF



30-ft-high Ram Mandir for 'Dilli ki Diwali'

NEW DELHI
 The Delhi Government has started building a replica of Ram Mandir — the one under construction in Ayodhya — at the Thyagaraj Stadium Complex as part of its 'Dilli ki Diwali' celebrations. The 30-foot-high and 80-foot-wide replica is a part of the stage where the Deepavali puja will be performed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on November 4, the day of the festival, an official source said.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

J&K students roughed up outside Agra court

LUCKNOW
 Three Kashmiri students, who were arrested in Agra for allegedly celebrating the Pakistan cricket team's victory over India in a T20 World Cup match, were on Thursday roughed up by a group of men outside a court in Agra while being produced before a magistrate. The men also raised slogans against Pakistan.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

India will stress 'climate justice' at global summit, says Minister

Will push developed nations to transfer technology at COP26: Bhupender Yadav

JACOB KOSHY
 NEW DELHI
 India will emphasise climate justice and exhort developed countries to transfer the finance and technology necessary to deal with the fallout of global warming, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav told *The Hindu* on the eve of his departure to Glasgow to participate in the 26th edition of the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP).

"In the forthcoming COP, the assistance that developing countries such as India need for mitigating carbon emissions, adapting to a warming world, and insisting on a firm, transparent framework that lays out how this can be met, will be the points of discussion," Mr. Yadav said in an interview on Thursday.

Mr. Yadav said the world had publicly acknowledged India's commitment to install 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030 as "ambitious". There was also similar acknowledgement of India's electric vehicle policy,



BHUPENDER YADAV
 Environment Minister

its commitment to increase forest cover as well as the national hydrogen policy, he said. These steps by India, which were in line with achieving the target of the 2015 Paris Agreement, would be raised at the conference, the Minister added.

The COP26 is expected to be fractious with many developed countries, led by the United States, likely to push for a deadline by which all countries agree to cease net carbon dioxide emissions. India is among the major emitters, the third largest in the world, not to have indicated any deadline or even a tentative pathway towards

In the coming COP26, to implement the adaption and mitigation measures from increased global temperatures, we will be discussing access to technology and finance with the developed countries

INTERVIEW ▶ PAGE 12

Modi to meet Pope on his way to COP26

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
 NEW DELHI

Ahead of his visit to the U.K. to attend the COP26 World Leaders Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet Pope Francis on Saturday morning in the Vatican City, where he will also participate in the first in-person G20 summit since the beginning of the pandemic.

"Over the next few days, I will be in Rome, the Vatican City and Glasgow to attend important multilateral gatherings like the G20 and COP26," Mr. Modi said.

The PM will also hold meetings with Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi and U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Aryan Khan, two others get bail 25 days after NCB arrest

Conditions of release to be announced today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 MUMBAI

Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, was on Thursday granted bail by the Bombay High Court, 25 days after his arrest by the Narcotics Control Bureau in the case of seizure of banned drugs aboard a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast earlier this month. The drugs bust has triggered a series of controversies and put the Central agency and its officials under the spotlight.

However, Aryan Khan is not likely to walk out of the Arthur Road jail, where he is under judicial custody, immediately as the court is yet to give its operative order on the bail conditions.

A Single Bench of Justice N.W. Sambre also granted bail to Aryan's co-accused — Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha. Hearing on the bail applications started on Tuesday.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10



Moment of relief: Shah Rukh Khan with friends and the legal team in Mumbai after his son was granted bail. •PTI

'Independent witness' arrested in cheating case

STAFF REPORTER
 PUNE

The Pune police on Thursday arrested Kiran Gosavi, a controversial 'independent witness' of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and a self-styled private investigator, in the Mumbai cruise drugs case, in connection with a 2018 cheating case.

Gosavi was later produced before a local court which remanded him in a week-long police

custody till November 5.

Earlier, a team of policemen from the anti-extortion cell of the Pune Crime Branch took the absconding Gosavi into custody from a lodge in the city's Katraj area at around 3 a.m.

The Pune police began searching for him in earnest and formed several teams to nab him after his pictures with the young Khan went viral.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

The Apple Story



Helping farmers deliver fresh

Harvesting at farms



Machine Grading
 (Size sorting & cleaning)



Quality Grading
 Determining the sugar level & crunchiness



Sustained Temperature
 Ideal temperature maintained during transit



Packaging at warehouse
 Final quality check & packed hygienically



Farm-to-fork
 Within 12 hrs



Apple Kashmir	₹120/kg
Apple Kinnaur	₹149/kg
Apple Shimla(M)	₹130/kg
Apple Shimla(S)	₹99/kg



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Timings

DELHI		
FRIDAY, OCT. 29		
RISE	06:31	SET 17:39
RISE	00:00	SET 13:44
SATURDAY, OCT. 30		
RISE	06:32	SET 17:38
RISE	00:28	SET 14:22
SUNDAY, OCT. 31		
RISE	06:32	SET 17:38
RISE	01:29	SET 14:59

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	28	15
Safdarjang	28	15
Palam	28	17

Delhi Palam Today
29°C Pollution level will be moderate with dry weather. Day will be comfortable with mainly clear sky. Night will be cool and hazy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm with mainly clear sky. Night remains cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU

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Barricades being cleared near protest site at Tikri

Decision on how to route the traffic likely in a day or two

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM

The Delhi police have started removing barricades from the Tikri border where farmers have been protesting for the past 11 months against the new farm laws.

A senior police officer said there are several layers of barricades and the process of removal started on Thursday. The barricades are being removed from one side on the way to Bahadurgarh, Haryana. "Because there are layers of barricades, the removal may take a day or two after which a decision will be taken on how to route the traffic," the officer said.

The decision comes as the Supreme Court is hearing the matter of road blockade at the border. The court has asked the Central Government and Delhi's neighbouring States to find a solution to the issue.

Farmers have been protesting against the new farm laws since November 26 last year at Delhi's borders in-



A crane being used to remove the barricades placed near the farmers' protest site at Tikri border. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cluding Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur.

Truck kills 3 farmers

Three women farmers were killed and two sustained injuries on Thursday after a speeding truck hit them near a protest site in Bahadurgarh, close to the Tikri border. The women were standing on the central verge waiting for an autorickshaw. The erring truck driver, Mangal, fled the spot but was later arrested.

Haryana State committee of All India Kisan Sabha demanded a detailed probe in-

to the accident saying that eyewitnesses had seen the truck parked near the accident spot before it hit the women. The police have ruled out foul play. "The truck driver was coming from the direction of Badli. He said during interrogation that he did not have enough sleep the previous night and dozed off leading to the accident," said Inspector Nar Singh, SHO, Sector 6, Bahadurgarh.

The deceased have been identified as Gurmail Kaur, Amarjeet Kaur and Sukhvinder, all belonging to Punjab's Mansa district.

Councillors in Delhi civic bodies score low on performance, says Praja report

It ranks them in terms of attendance, number of issues raised from 2018 to 2021

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

The performance of councillors in Delhi's three municipal corporations – North, South and East – has been on the decline in the last three years in terms of attendance in house meetings and the number of issues raised, a report card released by the NGO, Praja Foundation, said on Thursday.

A majority of the 265 councillors across the BJP-led civic bodies were ranked abysmally in the report. North Delhi Municipal Corporation councillor and Delhi BJP president Adesh Kumar Gupta was ranked 80 (scoring 50.34 out of 100) and Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh was ranked 70 (scoring 53.11 out of 100).

The data for the report titled 'Delhi Councillor Report Card 2021' was collated through RTIs and public accounts. But unlike the previous years, this year's is a consolidated report that documented the performance of 265 municipal



Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh and Adesh Gupta

councillors from 2018 to 2021.

The average score of councillors of the North Delhi civic body has dropped from 60.50% in 2018 to 57.92% in 2021, while that of South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) councillors has dipped from 60.48% in 2018 to 56.85% in 2021. In the case of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), it has declined from 61.5% in 2018 to 54.40% in 2021.

'Poor attendance'

"The attendance for the North Delhi corporation has

come down from 78.81% in 2018 to 72.39% in 2021 and for the SDMC, it has dropped from 79.62% in 2018 to 68.79% in 2021. While the attendance for the EDMC was 82.34% in 2018, it has fallen to 69.37% in 2021," the report said.

Furthermore, the general body meetings and statutory meetings were "not fully utilised" in all three corporations. "On an average, only one ward committee meeting has been conducted monthly per zone, whereas the monthly average of general body meetings per civic body is only two during

2018-2021," it said.

Important issues

The report said that there was "no improvement" in the "quality of issues raised" in the meetings. The average score on "quality of issues raised" for the North Delhi civic body has declined from 48.24 in 2018 to 46.01 in 2021. While for the SDMC, it has dipped from 47.97 in 2018 to 45.48 in 2021, for the EDMC, it has dropped from 46.77 in 2018 to 39.75 in 2021 – the lowest among the corporations.

North Delhi civic body councillor Ravinder Kumar (BJP), SDMC councillor Abhishek Dutt (Congress), and EDMC councillor Sanjay Goyal (BJP) were ranked first in overall performance in their respective corporations.

Commenting on the report, EDMC Mayor Shyam Sunder Aggarwal said he had "not seen" the scores and that he was "concerned" about the decline in performance.

'Less deaths during pandemic year in Delhi'

2,495 more people died in 2019 as compared to 2020, says annual report

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

The number of deaths and births in Delhi fell during 2020, when COVID-19 hit the Capital, as compared to 2019, says the "Annual Report on Registration of Births & Deaths in Delhi-2020" of the city Government.

A total of 1,42,789 deaths were registered in the city in 2020 as compared to 1,45,284 in 2019. The total number of births registered during 2020 was 3,01,645 as against

3,65,868 in 2019.

The 'Sex Ratio at Birth' has increased to 933 females per thousand males in 2020 from 920 in 2019. The Infant Mortality Rate fell to 20.37 in 2020 from 24.12 a year ago, says the report.

Lockdown effect

"In Delhi, a lot of people come from other States for treatment and some of them die in hospitals. But because of lockdowns, people from other States coming to Delhi

fell drastically during 2020. This could be one reason for the fall in the number of deaths," a Delhi Government official told *The Hindu*.

As per the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, municipal bodies are responsible for registering every birth and death in the city and the report is a compilation of these figures.

According to the report, 10.11% of total deaths happened due to COVID-19, identified and not identified,

which is more than the official death figures of 2020 given by the Delhi Government.

The total deaths due to COVID in 2020 were 10,536, according to the Delhi Government bulletin. But as per the report, the total deaths identified and not identified are 14,436. "Identified deaths are those which are confirmed COVID deaths. Not identified are deaths that happened outside a hospital and families are claiming them to be COVID-related," an official said.

'97% of surveyed people have antibodies against COVID-19'

Blood samples were collected as part of serosurvey in Sept.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

As many as 97% of the 28,000 people, whose blood samples were collected in September from across the city, have developed antibodies against COVID-19, according to authorities.

Blood samples of random people of different age groups were collected as part of a serological survey to check how many of them had developed antibodies against the virus.

Higher in women

"The survey was done in 280 wards of Delhi. At least 100 samples from each ward were collected. The government collected 28,000 samples of random people. Sero prevalence was higher in women [90.1%] as compared to

men with only [88.2%] positivity. Serosurvey was conducted in all the 11 districts of the national capital and the data showed that 97% of people had antibodies against COVID-19," Health Minister Satyendar Jain said.

He said that all districts showed a value of above 95% and almost all vaccinated people had developed antibodies. The Minister said the survey showed that the population with a past history of symptomatic COVID-19 infection, irrespective of severity, had significantly higher odds of having antibodies compared to those without such history.

Of the people surveyed, 95.3%, who had taken both the doses of Covishield, had developed antibodies. For Covaxin, the figure stood at

93%. Similarly, 95.6% of people who had taken one dose of Covishield had antibodies. It was 92.1% for Covaxin.

What is a sero survey?

Blood samples collected from across the city are tested in a lab using antibody testing kits to understand whether the person was infected by the virus and developed antibodies.

A positive result would imply that the person has developed antibodies. This means that the person was infected at some point and developed immunity against the virus or has developed antibodies after vaccination.

The first such survey done in the city in June-July last year had shown that 23.4% people surveyed had developed antibodies.

Second chargesheet filed in Sushil Kumar case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police have informed a court here that it has filed a supplementary chargesheet against the remaining accused in the Chhatrasal Stadium murder case involving Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar.

The first chargesheet which was filed by the police on August 2 named 13 persons, including Sushil Kumar as the "main" accused. There are a total of 17 accused in the alleged murder case, according to the police. Mr. Kumar, along with others had allegedly assaulted former junior national wrestling champion Sagar Dhankar and his friends at the stadium in May over an alleged property dispute.

Delhi Cong. gets new executive committee ahead of civic polls

Panel reflects mix of youth, experience, says State unit chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the municipal polls early next year, the Delhi Congress on Thursday got its new executive committee.

Congress national general secretary K.C. Venugopal in a press statement said party president Sonia Gandhi has approved the formation of the executive committee and appointment of office-bearers of Communications Department and Doctors Cell,

chairman and vice-chairman of Booth Management Committee and Disciplinary Committee of the Delhi unit.

"The 83-member executive committee has a mix of our youth power and experience of leaders. Many of our leaders and workers who served people committedly during the pandemic have been rewarded," Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said.

The committee includes

the Delhi Congress president and all the vice-presidents.

The list of permanent invitees to the Executive Committee included names of senior leaders J.P. Aggarwal, Ajay Maken, Kapil Sibal, Jandaran Dwivedi, Arvinder Singh Lovely, Subhash Chopra, Jagdish Tytler, whose name figured in connection with the anti-Sikh riots in 1984, was also made a permanent invitee to the Executive Committee.

DCW and police rescue four-month-old infant

Father sold her off after 6 days of birth

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW), with the help of city police, rescued a four-month-old infant who had been sold off by her father when she was six days old, from north-west Delhi's Jahangirpuri.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal said they received a complaint on October 21 that a man had sold his newly born daughter. A team was immediately formed and the police were contacted.

The mother of the girl was then approached who informed the police that she was suffering from epilepsy and when her daughter was born, her husband sold her to a woman named Madhu

before abandoning her and heading to Ranchi. She also said that her husband had given away their other daughter to a distant relative and the child had died.

'Sold' in Panipat

An FIR was lodged and subsequently Madhu was interrogated who allegedly admitted that she had sold the child to someone in Panipat, Haryana. However, the police could not trace the child there.

The baby was traced to a lawyer's house in Jahangirpuri on Tuesday. The lawyer allegedly said he had bought the child from a man named Mahesh and a woman named Meenakshi from Panipat.

BJP hits out at Govt. over finance panel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Thursday accused the Delhi Government of ignoring constitutional obligations by delaying formation of the Fifth Finance Commission by a year.

The Finance Commission recommends on allocation of tax revenues to the municipal corporations. Mr. Bidhuri said according to Article 243 (1) of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the Delhi Government to form a State Finance Commission every five years. The Fourth Finance Commission was constituted in 2016 in Delhi.



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30-ft-high Ram temple part of 'Dilli ki Diwali'

Kejriwal to perform puja on the stage at Thyagaraj Stadium

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has started building a replica of Ram Mandir – the one under construction in Ayodhya – at the Thyagaraj Stadium Complex as part of its 'Dilli ki Diwali' celebrations.

The 30-foot-high and 80-foot-wide replica is part of the stage where the Deepavali puja will be performed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on November 4, the day of the festival, an official source told *The Hindu*.

The total height of the stage, including the lights, will be around 60 feet.

"The construction work is being done as per the directions from the Deputy Chief Minister's (Manish Sisodia) office. An event management company was selected and a work order has been issued," the source said.

There have been several references to Lord Ram by Mr. Kejriwal since the Aam Aadmi Party came back to power in Delhi last year.

In March this year, the Chief Minister had said in the Delhi Assembly that he was trying to establish the model of "Ram Rajya" in the city. "All of us worship Lord Ram... He was the king of Ayodhya. During his rule, people were content as they had access to all basic facilities. This was called the 'Ram Rajya'... We have been constantly striving to establish this model in Delhi for the last six years," he had said.

Eye on U.P. election

AAP will contest the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, which is due early next year, and several senior party leaders, including Mr. Kejriwal,



At work: Construction of the replica of Ram Mandir under way at the Thyagaraj Stadium; (right) a model of the temple. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



have visited Ayodhya in the last two months.

On Wednesday, the Delhi Cabinet also took a decision to add Ayodhya to the list of pilgrimage sites.

The 'Dilli ki Diwali' programme was started in 2019 when the city Government organised a four-day cultural event, including laser shows, at Central Park, Connaught Place. The event was organised with the aim to encourage people to not burst crackers and attend the event instead in the evenings.

In 2020, a "grand puja" was performed by the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister and other AAP leaders at Akshardham Temple on November 14, the day of Deepavali, and it was telecast live on TV channels.

This year, the Government is preparing to organise a live telecast of Deepavali celebrations at Thyagaraj Stadium. Advertisements for the event, in which Mr. Kejriwal invites citizens to join him re-

motely from their homes, have been playing out on various media, including radio and TV news channels.

Preparations under way
On Thursday afternoon, workers were busy at Thyagaraj Stadium, making a frame of metal pipes.

"The Ram Mandir will be part of the stage. It will be built on a metal frame and will have plywood over it. The exterior of the temple will be made of thermocol," a worker said. Work on the temple replica began on Tuesday and is expected to be completed by Sunday.

One of the football goalposts at the ground has been removed, officials said.

HC seeks status report on Jamia violence cases from Delhi Police

Matter posted for further hearing on December 23

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked Delhi Police to submit the latest position of cases relating to incidents of violence on the Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) campus in December 2019 during the student protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh said the police should inform it about the status of cases that were going on in the trial court, including the number of chargesheets filed, charges framed, trial commenced, and the num-



ber of witnesses examined.

As the counsel for Delhi Police sought time to gather the information, the HC posted the case for further hearing on December 23.

The HC was hearing a batch of petitions, moved by lawyers, students of JMI, and residents of Okhla in south

Delhi, seeking setting up of a judicial commission to look into the Jamia violence and registration of FIRs against the erring police officers.

Delhi Police had earlier defended its decision to enter the campus of the university during the violence that occurred in December, saying it was done to control the "aggravated form of unlawful assembly".

The petitioners had said that there was a need for an SIT that was independent of the police and the Centre, which by their conduct had shown that their investigation into the violence was "not independent".

CEO meets Education Department officials

NEW DELHI
The Chief Electoral Officer of Delhi, Ranbir Singh, on Thursday interacted with officials from the Department of Education to seek their cooperation in creating awareness of the special summary revision - 2022.

City's air quality likely to be 'very poor' today

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The air quality in the city deteriorated to the higher end of the "poor" category on Thursday and is expected to worsen to the "very poor" level on Friday, official data showed. The effect of stubble burning has increased and is likely to further go up.

"As predicted by SAFAR, the AQI is now forecasted to degrade to the very poor category by tomorrow (Saturday) and likely to remain so till the next day," government-run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research) said in a statement.

On Thursday, the contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5, a chief pollutant, in Delhi increased to 19% and

the number of active fire counts in the region was 502.

The air quality index (AQI) of Delhi was 268 on Thursday, up from 232 on Wednesday, as per the Central Pollution Control Board's 4 p.m. bulletin, which is an average of the last 24 hours and considered the day's AQI.

Chatbot

The Delhi Government has launched 'Paryavaran Saathi Chatbot' to connect with the youth in the fight against air pollution, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said.

The chatbot is an initiative with the UNICEF's Yu-Waah with over 10 lakh youths already connected, of whom 50,000 are from Delhi, according to the government.

'Phones of riots accused have private content'

Delhi court raises concerns over privacy

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday raised concerns over the privacy of several accused in the Delhi riots larger conspiracy case after noting that the phones of some of them had "obscene material", which if provided to the co-accused would have an impact on their personal lives.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat was hearing an application filed by the counsels of some of the accused under Section 207 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC), which sought supply of evidence and all material relied upon by the prosecution in the case in which former JNU student Umar Khalid is among the 18 accused.

Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad said that personal data contained in the mobile phones of the accused cannot be supplied to others in view of privacy concerns.

For this purpose, he also showed to the court two

sealed envelopes which contained photographs taken from the mobile phones. "These photographs contain nude pictures, private intimate moments, and other self-made porn videos by accused," ASJ Rawat said in the order.

SPP Prasad further said that in view of this, the same cannot be provided to anyone else.

"It appears that there is a question of right to privacy of the accused and supply of any such data, as asked for, will have an impact on personal lives of accused and thus, supplying of any photographs or video as contained in the mobile phones of accused to any other accused or even to the counsels of the accused would not be possible," the order said.

In response, the counsels of the accused said that it was a case of conspiracy for which they would require the contents of mobile phones of other accused who are stated to be related to each other.

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- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

EOI on Setting up Cycle Manufacturing Plants in West Bengal

Govt of West Bengal has distributed over 1 crore bicycles free of cost to students of class IX to XII studying in government run and government aided schools and madrasahs.

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 - Uninterrupted 24X7 power supply.
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Important information date and time schedule:

Sl.	Particulars	Date & Time
1	Publication of EOI	29-10-2021
2	Pre-Bid meeting	17-11-2021 at 11:00 hrs.
3	Start date and time of submission of EOI	06-12-2021 10:00 hrs.
4	Last date and time of submission of EOI	13-12-2021 up to 15:30 hrs.

Intending Manufactures may download the Information Memorandum document from the website <https://wbenders.gov.in>. and <https://www.wbidc.com/>

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Temple visits key part of CM Mamata Banerjee's Goa visit

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Temple visits are going to be crucial part of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's itinerary as she ar-

rived for a three-day tour of Goa on Thursday.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson is scheduled to visit three temples on Friday. After an interactive session

with members of the fishermen community, Ms. Banerjee will visit the Mangueshi Temple, followed by the Shri Mahalsa Narayani Temple and Tapobhoomi Temple.

The visit to three temples in a day assumes significance as the TMC chairperson is trying to extend her party's footprint in the western State.

However, Ms. Banerjee has always visited religious places as a part of her political campaigns.

During the West Bengal Assembly polls earlier this

year, when she contested from Nandigram and later during the Bhabanipur by-polls, she visited temples on a daily basis during her campaign.

HC warns of action against U.P. Police

It made 'uninformed' arrests in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI



The Delhi High Court on Thursday warned that it will take action against Uttar Pradesh Police for arresting and taking away two persons - the brother and father of a boy who got married to a girl against her family's wishes - from the Capital without informing Delhi Police.

Justice Mukta Gupta said that such illegal acts are not permissible and will not be tolerated here. "I will call for CCTV. I will direct departmental enquiry if I see U.P. Police arresting from Delhi. I want all CCTV footage and vehicle number. If I see U.P. Police entering, I will take action. We will not permit this. You can't do illegal acts here," Justice Gupta cautioned.

The High Court remarked that U.P. Police personnel, who came to the Capital and took away the father and son without intimating Delhi police, "violated the law at every step" which "won't be tolerated in Delhi".

The SHO of Police Station Shamli in U.P., who was present in the court, said they

were not aware if the girl was a major or a minor as her mother had not shown them any document to ascertain the age. He also claimed that the arrest was made from Kudhara Bus Stand, District Shamli in U.P.

'Age in FIR'

The court, however, pointed out that the FIR itself clarifies that the girl was 21-years-old. "They can file a case against you [U.P. Police] for illegal custody. The FIR says she was 21 years of age but you arrest the brother and father without ascertaining her stand. If you close your eyes and brains while working, nothing can be done. There is no solution if you and your IO [investigating officer] can't read," the judge remarked.

Three held guilty of gang rape of Rewari girl

Five of the accused acquitted

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Three persons, including an Army constable, were held guilty by a trial court in Narnaul on Thursday on charges of gang-rape of a teenage girl three years ago. Five of the accused in the case were acquitted.

Pronouncing the verdict, Mona Singh, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Special Court for Crime Against Women, held the prime accused in the case - Pankaj, Manish and Nishu - guilty on charges of gang-rape, causing hurt by means of poison, and abduction.

The five other accused in the case - Deendayal, Sumit, Naveen, Abhishek and

Mohit - were acquitted. Deendayal, the owner of the tubewell room where the crime was committed, was accused of concealing design to commit offence, and criminal conspiracy.

Sumit was also charged with concealing design to commit offence, and Naveen was arrested on charges of intentional omission to give information of an offence.

Abhishek and Mohit were charged with harbouring the offender.

Prosecution counsel Karan Singh Yadav, appointed at the behest of District Legal Services Authority, said the court had fixed October 29 for the quantum of sentence.

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IN THE COURT OF THE DISTRICT MUNSIF, KOVILPATTI THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT, (TAMILNADU) Original Suit No.115/2020
Subulakshmi Through her Power Agent Muthuramalingam ... Plaintiff
- Versus -
M/s. RAJARAN AGROTECH (PVT) LIMITED, Through its Authorised representative SUBBOOH KUMAR NATH, Estate Manager, S/o. Sudhir Kumar Nath, at 171, Visali Pitteram, New Delhi 110088, residing at 3/186, Vidhyapuram, Lucknow, Uttarpradesh State ... 2nd Defendant
NOTICE
The above named plaintiff has filed the suit in respect of the Purja land bearing Survey No. 112/3 (Now 112/3A) measuring 3 acres 61 cents situated in Uraiaikudi Village, Tuticorin District, Tamil Nadu and the case is posted for the appearance of the 2nd Defendant on 18.11.2021 at 10.00 A.M. The case will be decided as experts if the defendant fails to appear in this Court.
(By Order of the Court)
M. Siva, M.A., B.L., M.S.No. 741/2010, Advocate, 145/A4, Kadaiyalar Road, Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi Dt. Tamilnadu. Call: 98429 - 807699

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SC grants bail to Kerala student

Thwaha Fasal was booked under UAPA for alleged Maoist links

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted bail to journalism student Thwaha Fasal, accused under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) of having Maoist links.

Rastogi and A.S. Oka also rejected an appeal filed by the National Investigation Agency challenging the bail granted to Alan Shuhaib, third-year law student and Fasal's co-accused in the case.

The court said the youth from Kerala was arrested in November last. While a trial

court granted them bail, the Kerala High Court cancelled Fasal's bail while not interfering with Shuhaib's. The judgment read out by Justice Oka set aside the HC decision concerning Fasal and restored the order of the Special Court, which had enlarged him on bail.

Support for terror outfit doesn't attract UAPA: SC

It clarifies on Sections 38 & 39 of Act

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday held that "mere association" with a terrorist organisation as a member or otherwise is not sufficient to attract an offence under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967.

Association or support for a terror outfit should be accompanied with an intention to commit acts to further the activities of the terrorist organisation, a Bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Abhay S. Oka clarified in a judgment which may create significant ripples about the State's use of powers to arrest and detain young persons under the terror law.

The court was dealing with Sections 38 (membership of a terrorist organisation) and 39 (supporting a



terrorist organisation) of the UAPA. Both Sections attract imprisonment up to 10 years or fine or both.

"Mere association with a terrorist organisation is not sufficient to attract Section 38 and mere support given to a terrorist organisation is not sufficient to attract Section 39. The association and the support have to be with the intention of furthering the activities of a terrorist organisation," Justice Oka, who authored the judgment, drew the distinction.

CMs Baghel, Soren go for 'jugalbandi' to woo tribals

Bid to strengthen their parties in the times of change

ANUP DUTTA
BHOPAL

With a view to strengthen their parties' position among the tribal vote base, Chief Ministers of the two tribal-dominated States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand did a 'jugalbandi' by playing traditional musical instruments at the National Tribal Dance Festival in Raipur on Thursday.

When Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren started playing the *thodda*, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel joined him with a traditional trumpet *turhi* at a stall where several musical instruments of indigenous communities were on display, an official said.

Both Mr. Soren and Mr. Baghel understand that tribal electorate can play an important role in govern-



Hemant Soren and Bhupesh Baghel in Raipur on Thursday. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik) bagged one.

In the 2018 Assembly polls in Chhattisgarh, tribals showed a clear shift towards the Congress. The seats with major ST population contributed in a big way to the Congress' sweeping victory.

The party was led by the then State chief Bhupesh Baghel. It won 25 out of 29 ST reserved Assembly seats while the BJP managed only three and Ajit Jogi's Janata Chhattisgarh Congress (J) got one.

Addressing the gathering during the inaugural ceremony on the dance festival on Thursday, Mr. Soren praised the efforts of Chhattisgarh Government in preserving the culture of the indigenous communities of the State.

SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMEN

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Napisa W/o Haneef R/o H. No. 36, House of Pappan, Pana Mamur Pur, Narela, Delhi.** Age 30 years, Height 5'2", Complexion Fair, Round Face, Wearing White Colour Suit-Salwar & Blue Colour Chappal in feet has been missing since 20.09.2021 from her house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this women, but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 102-A dated 29.09.2021 has been lodged at PS Narela, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing women may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218
DP/1367/ON/2021

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR VARIOUS ELECT. TRD WORKS

1. Tender Notice No.: TRD_NGP_Tender_21-22_28 Dated: 08.10.2021
IRPSM ID: 13.02.36.21.3.51.004

Name of the Work: Provision of critical implantation of 130 Nos. in Durg-Nagpur section.

Tender Value: ₹ 1,32,44,977.72
Last Date for Submission of Electronic Offers (Online): 15.11.2021 up to 15:00 Hrs.

2. Tender Notice No.: TRD_NGP_Tender_21-22_29 Dated: 25.10.2021
IRPSM ID: 13.02.36.21.3.51.005

Name of the Work: Replacement of rusted Cantilever Assembly in Nagpur Division.
Tender Value: ₹ 1,58,75,496.00
Last Date for Submission of Electronic Offers (Online): 17.11.2021 up to 15:00 Hrs.

For further details regarding the above Tenders, please visit our website: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Elect. Engineer (TRD)
South East Central Railway - Nagpur

Office of the Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division No-2, Dumka.

e-Procurement Notice

E-Tender reference no. - DWSD/ DUMKA-2/27/2021-22 Date- 28.10.2021

1	Name of the Work	Implementation of Cluster wise Single Village Water Supply Schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission for Cluster: -03(B) under D.W. & S. Division No. 02, Dumka "On Turn Key Basis" for the year 2021-22.
2	Estimated Cost	797.72 Lakh
3	Earnest Money	7.98 Lakh
4	Cost of BOQ	10,000.00
5	Time of Completion	09 (Nine) Months
6	Date of publication of Tender on Web site	03.11.2021 / 02:00PM
7	Date & Place of pre bid meeting	09/11/2021/ 11:30 AM held on Office of the EIC, Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi
8	Last date /Time for receipt of Bid	22/11/2021 / 5:00 PM
9	Last date of submission of Earnest Money (Bank Guarantee/T.D. Pass Book/N.S.C) and cost of B.O.Q.	23/11/2021 / 02:00 PM
10	Date of opening of Tender	23/11/2021 / 05:00 PM
11	Name & address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division No-2 Dumka, Jharkhand
12	Name & address of Opening officer	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division No-2 Dumka, Jharkhand
13	Contact no of Procurement office	7739802331
14	Helpline no of e-procurement cell	7739802331

Note :- As per BOQ Estimated Cost may be decrease or increase Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> (Anuj Kumar Mishra) Executive Engineer D.W. & S. Division No. 02, Dumka PR 255845 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 21-22 (D)

Office of the Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division No-2, Dumka.

e-Procurement Notice

E-Tender reference no. - DWSD/ DUMKA-2/21/2021-22 Date- 28.10.2021

1	Name of the Work	Implementation of Cluster wise Single Village Water Supply Schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission for Cluster: -01(B) under D.W. & S. Division No. 02, Dumka "On Turn Key Basis" for the year 2021-22.
2	Estimated Cost	688.70 Lakh
3	Earnest Money	6.89 Lakh
4	Cost of BOQ	10,000.00
5	Time of Completion	09 (Nine) Months
6	Date of publication of Tender on Web site	03.11.2021 / 02:00PM
7	Date & Place of pre bid meeting	09/11/2021/ 11:30 AM held on Office of the EIC, Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi
8	Last date /Time for receipt of Bid	22/11/2021 / 5:00 PM
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Note :- As per BOQ Estimated Cost may be decrease or increase Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> (Anuj Kumar Mishra) Executive Engineer D.W. & S. Division No. 02, Dumka PR.NO.255835 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22)-D

SAINIK SCHOOL NAGROTA - JAMMU (J&K)

(AFFILIATED TO CBSE, NEW DELHI. AFFILIATION NO. 780001)
website : www.sainikschoolnagrota.com, email: jmt.chinar@gmail.com
(A Residential School under Sainik Schools Society, MoD, Govt. of India)

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for the following posts. Age for Counselor should be between 21 and 40 yrs, TGT (Hindi) and PEM/PTI-cum-Matron between 21 and 35 yrs, Band Master between 21 and 50 yrs and Ward Boys between 18 and 50 yrs as on 01 Nov 21:-

Post & Vacancy	Scale of Pay	Essential Qualification
TGT (Hindi) x 01 (SC) (Contractual for a period of one year)	Rs.30,000/- per month (Consolidated)	1. Four years' integrated degree course in Hindi from Regional College of Education of NCERT with at least 50% marks in aggregate OR A Bachelor's degree in Hindi with Hindi as a subject in all three years and at least 50% marks in Hindi as well as in aggregate. 2. B.Ed or equivalent from recognized university or NCTE recognized institution. 3. Passed CTET / STET Paper II.
Band Master x 01 (ST) (Contractual for a period of one year)	Rs.25,000/- per month (Consolidated)	Potential Band Master/Band Major/Drum Major course at the AEC Training and Centre, Pachmarhi or eqvt. Naval/Air Force Courses.
Counselor x 01 (SC) (Contractual for a period of one year)	Rs.25,000/- per month (Consolidated)	Graduate/Post Graduate in Psychology or Post Graduate in Child Development or Graduate/Post Graduate with Diploma in Counseling, with at least 50% marks.
PEM/PTI-cum-Matron (Female) 01(SC) (Contractual for a period of one year)	Rs.25,000/- per month (Consolidated)	Bachelor of Physical Education (B.P.Ed) - 4 yrs Degree Course. OR Three years Graduation + One year B.P.Ed Diploma. OR B.Sc Physical Education/Health Education & Sports + One year B.P.Ed Diploma.
Ward Boys x 04 (02 x Gen and 02 x OBC) (Contractual for a period of one year)	Rs.18,000/- per month (Consolidated)	Matriculation

Last date for receipt of application forms is 18 Nov 21. Full details and application form are available on school website www.sainikschoolnagrota.com under "Notices".
Sd/-
Principal

झारखण्ड सरकार उद्योग निदेशालय सूचना

भारतीय अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेला-2021 (14-27 नवम्बर 2021) प्रगति मैदान, नई दिल्ली के झारखण्ड मंडप हेतु 10 Boys/Girls Guide की आवश्यकता है। झारखण्ड राज्य के निवासी इच्छुक छात्र/छात्राएँ जो नई दिल्ली में रहकर पढ़ाई कर रहे एवं अण्डर ग्रेजुएट हों। वे उक्त अवधि में झारखण्ड मण्डप में आने वाले दर्शकों/विशिष्ट अतिथियों को झारखण्ड के विषय में जानकारी दे सकें एवं झारखण्ड के संस्कृति के अनुरूप उनका स्वागत करें। इस हेतु वे अपने अपने कॉलेज का परिचय पत्र, फोटो स्कैन कर निम्नलिखित ईमेल पर अपना बायोडाटा दिनांक 08.11.2021 तक भेज सकते हैं। चयनित Boys/Girls Guide को विभाग द्वारा निर्धारित मानदेय राशि मेला अवधि में कार्य दिवस के आधार पर देय होगा। साक्षात्कार दिनांक 12.11.2021 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे प्रधान स्थानिक आयुक्त, झारखण्ड भवन, कुसुम पहाड़ी, बसंत बिहार, नई दिल्ली स्थित कार्यालय में होगा।
e-mail- jhr-doi@nic.in एवं rajendrap.103@gmail.com
बायोडाटा प्रपत्र:-

- आवेदक/आवेदिका का नाम एवं पूर्ण पता (दिल्ली/एन0सी0 आर0 अवस्थित)।
 - पिता/स्थानीय अभिभावक का नाम एवं पता।
 - दूरभाष संख्या एवं ईमेल पता।
 - झारखण्ड राज्य स्थित पत्राचार का (आवासीय) पता एवं मोबाईल नं०।
 - महाविद्यालय/संस्था का नाम जहाँ अध्ययनरत हो।
 - शिक्षण संबंधित प्रमाण पत्र।
 - अपने विषय में यदि अतिरिक्त जानकारी देना चाहते हैं, तो उल्लेख करें।
- निदेशक उद्योग झारखण्ड, राँची
PR 255787 Industries(21-22)#D

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Kerala Government has objected to the Supreme Court to the Supervisory Committee's view that the Mullaperiyar dam will hold at 142 feet of water level, saying the 126-year-old struc-

ture held together by lime-surfki in a seismically active zone amidst torrential blasts of rains is vulnerable and poses a catastrophic risk to the lives and property of 30 lakh people across the State.

The State, in a note filed in the court, said there was a

prediction of heavy rainfall till October 31. It had asked for a reduction in the dam's maximum level to 139.99 feet rather than the court-approved 142 feet.

The Supervisory Committee and Tamil Nadu's member believe there is no dan-

ger or threat to the dam. They have said the dam is safe both seismically, structurally and hydrologically.

But Kerala argued that a flood routing exercise saw the water level rising above 142 feet for more than 50 hours.

The note stated, "This means that Mullaperiyar dam may not be able to sustain the water pressure for such a duration, jeopardising the safety of the dam and squarely undermining the directions of Supreme Court to limit the level at 142 feet".

राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग

"जमीनी बातें"

बिहार के भूमि अभिलेख एवं विशेष सर्वेक्षण पर जन-जागरूकता कार्यशाला

बिहार निवास, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली, दिनांक: 30-31 अक्टूबर, 2021

मुख्य कार्यक्रम:

भू-अभिलेख जागरूकता प्रथम दिन-11:00 पू0-12:00 अप0	बिहार की भूमि प्रश्नोत्तरी निर्बंधन- प्रथम दिन-09:00 पू0-10:00पू0 प्रारम्भिक लिखित- प्रथम दिन-10:00 पू0-11:00 पू0 फाइनल- प्रथम दिन-01:00 अप0-02:30 अप0	विशेष सर्वेक्षण जागरूकता प्रथम दिन-12:00 अप0-01:00 अप0
भू-क्लीनिक जमीन से जुड़े व्यक्तिगत विषय यथा दाखिल-खारिज, परिमार्जन, भू-लगान, विशेष सर्वेक्षण, भू-विवरण इत्यादि प्रथम दिन-03:30 अप0-05:30 अप0 द्वितीय दिन-10:00 पू0-02:00 अप0 द्वितीय दिन- दिन-03:30 अप0-05:00 अप0	परामर्शी सेवा विशेषज्ञों से भूमि संबंधी समस्याओं पर परामर्श प्रथम दिन-03:30 अप0-05:30 अप0 द्वितीय दिन-10:00 पू0-02:00 अप0 द्वितीय दिन- दिन-03:30 अप0-05:00 अप0	

प्रवेश के लिए पास अनिवार्य:

- पास www.land.bihar.gov.in से प्राप्त करें।
- पहले आये, पहले पाएँ के आधार पर पास का वितरण।

निवेदक:
विवेक कुमार सिंह
अपर मुख्य सचिव
राजस्व एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग

PR No - 008083 (Revenue)D. 2021-22

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male namely **Ram Niwas Age: About 62 years, Height: 5'7", Face : Oval, Build: Normal, Complexion: Shallow, wearing khaki colour pant, has been found illness on 10.10.2021.** He is admitted in Lady Harding Medical College Hospital, New Delhi vide MLC No. 2021055065. Where he is under treatment. In this regard DD No. 57-A dated 10.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO : P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-23364100, 23366730
DP/351/ND/21

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING (offline-Tendering)
Delhi Transco Ltd., a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites tender for Establishing/setting up of EV charging & battery swapping stations at various Locations under Package-A to J across Delhi. (Tender No. T20P111391)
In this regard, it is informed to all the prospective vendors/bidders that the tender document (uploaded vide tender no. T20P111391 on 05.02.2021) has been amended and a revised tender document including the Pre-bid queries and clarification is being issued and published. It is further requested that the vendor/bidders must go through the revised/modified tender document only and participate/quote accordingly.
LAST DATE AND TIME FOR:
(i) Receipt of tender: 17.11.2021 upto 1.00 pm
(ii) Opening of tender: 17.11.2021 at 3.00 pm
For downloading of tender documents and further details please visit website Delhi Govt website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> Tender ID No. 2021_DTL_199434_1 DTL website www.dtl.gov.in Unique No. DTL-8076-040221 PR/21-22/06

All corrigendum/Addendum/Amendments/Date of Extension/Clarifications, if any, to the above e-tender would appear only on the above mentioned websites.
DIP/Shabdhar/038121-22

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one lady (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Kanchan, W/o: Gayan Chand, R/o: H.No. B-77, Camp No.4, Jawala Puri, Delhi, Aged: 27 years, has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi since 09.09.2021 in this regard a case vides DD No. 02-A, Dated 10.09.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.** Her physical description is as under:
Height: 5'5" Feet, Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, ID Mark: Two Black Mole on lip lower side, Clothing: Cream Suit-Salwar and Hawai Chapple in feet.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/kidnapped lady, may inform SHO, Paschim Vihar West, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641
S.H.O.
P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.
Ph. 011-25268394, 252809792
DP/1235/OD/21

Jharkhand Communication Network Limited

(A SPV under DoIT & e-Gov., Govt. of Jharkhand)
Office : 3rd Floor, Room No. : 1, Above Cafeteria, Project Building, HEC Dhurua, Ranchi-834004
CIN : U74999JH2017SGC009474
Contact : 0651-2245621/2446147

NOTICE
(Tender Ref: JCNL-04/2021)
It is to inform that the tender (Tender Ref.: JCNL-04/2021) for "Leasing of Dark Fiber for 11 district of BharatNet Phase-II, Jharkhand", for tender ref. no. JCNL-04/2021 has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances, and the same has also been published on Govt. official site at Jharkhandtenders.gov.in
The advertisement PR No. is. 255107.
Sd/-
CEO
Jharkhand Communication Network Ltd.
Ranchi, Jharkhand
PR 255849 Information Technology(21-22).D

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FSN E-COMMERCE VENTURES LIMITED

FSN E-Commerce Ventures Limited ("our Company") was originally incorporated as 'FSN E-Commerce Ventures Private Limited' under the provisions of Companies Act, 1956, at Mumbai, Maharashtra, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated April 24, 2012, issued by the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra at Mumbai ("RoC"). Subsequently, our Company was converted into a public limited company and the name of our Company was changed to 'FSN E-Commerce Ventures Limited' pursuant to a special resolution passed by the Shareholders of our Company on July 16, 2021 and a revised certificate of incorporation was issued by the RoC on July 28, 2021. For further details in relation to change in name and Registered Office of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 230 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated October 20, 2021 ("RHP").

Registered Office: 104, Vasan Udyog Bhavan, Sun Mill Compound, Tulsi Pipe Road, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013, Maharashtra; **Telephone:** + (91) 22 6614 9616
Corporate Office: A2, 4th Floor, Energy IT Park, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Opposite Tata Motors, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra; **Telephone:** + (91) 22 3095 8700
Contact Person: Rajendra Punde, Head Legal, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; **E-mail:** nykaa.companyscretary@nykaa.com; **Website:** www.nykaa.com; **Corporate Identity Number:** U52600MH2012PLC230136

OUR PROMOTERS: FALGUNI NAYAR, SANJAY NAYAR, FALGUNI NAYAR FAMILY TRUST AND SANJAY NAYAR FAMILY TRUST

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 1 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF FSN E-COMMERCE VENTURES LIMITED (THE "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE) ("OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (THE "OFFER") COMPRISING A FRESH ISSUE OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 6,300 MILLION (THE "FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO 41,972,660 EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION BY THE SELLING SHAREHOLDERS REFERRED TO IN ANNEXURE A OF THE RHP (THE "OFFER FOR SALE"). THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO 250,000 EQUITY SHARES (CONSTITUTING UP TO [●] % OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL) FOR PURCHASE BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES (THE "EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER WOULD CONSTITUTE [●] % AND [●] %, RESPECTIVELY, OF OUR POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL.

QIB Portion: Not Less Than 75% of the Net Offer
Retail Portion: Not More than 10% of the Net Offer
Employee Reservation Portion: Up to 250,000 Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ [●]
Non-Institutional Portion: Not More than 15% of the Net Offer

Price Band: ₹ 1,085 to ₹ 1,125 per Equity Share of face value of ₹1 each.

A discount of ₹ 100 per Equity Share is being offered to Eligible Employees bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion.
The Floor Price is 1,085 times the face value of the Equity Shares and the Cap Price is 1,125 times the face value of the Equity Shares.
Bids can be made for a minimum of 12 Equity Shares and in multiples of 12 Equity Shares thereafter.

ASBA # Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!! # Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account, For further details, check section on ASBA below. | Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors ("RIIs") applying through Registered Brokers, DPs and RTAs. RIIs also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except anchor investors. UPI may be availed by Retail Individual Bidders. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" on page 457 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("AIBI") and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document. ASBA bid-cum-application forms can be downloaded from the websites of BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"), and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges") and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") at www.sebi.gov.in. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. RIIs Bidding using the UPI mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. ICICI Bank Limited has been appointed as Sponsor Bank for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI Circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For offer related queries, please contact the Global Coordinators and Book Running Lead Managers ("GCBRLMs") and the Book Running Lead Managers ("BRLMs") on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and mail id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.

Risks to Investors

- Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for Fiscals 2021, 2020, 2019 is 2.82 %.
- The Price/Earnings ratio based on diluted EPS on a restated consolidated basis for Fiscal 2021 for the Company at the upper end of the Price Band is as high as 839.55 times.
- Average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares held by the Selling Shareholders ranges from Nil per Equity Share to ₹ 117.67 per Equity Share and Offer Price at upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 1,125.
- The 2 Global Co-ordinators and Book Running Lead Managers and 4 Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Offer have handled 52 public issues in the past 3 years, out of which 17 issues closed below the offer price on the listing date.

BID/OFFER PROGRAMME

BID/OFFER OPEN

BID/OFFER CLOSES ON : MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021[#]

[#]UPI Mandate end time and date shall be at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

In case of any revision to the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision in the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company may, in consultation with the Lead Managers, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid / Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid / Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the Lead Managers and at the terminals of the Syndicate Member(s) and by intimation to the Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Bank, as applicable.

This is an Offer in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("SCRR"), read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations. The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in terms of Regulation 6(2) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein at least 75% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs" and such portion, the "QIB Portion"), provided that our Company, in consultation with the Lead Managers, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis, out of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds only, subject to valid bids being received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations. In the event of under-subscription, or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the Net QIB Portion. Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIB Bidders (other than Anchor Investors), including Mutual Funds, subject to valid bids being received at or above the Offer Price. However, if the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the QIB Portion, the balance Equity Shares available for allocation in the Mutual Fund Portion will be added to the remaining Net QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not more than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders and not more than 10% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders ("RIIs") in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, Equity Shares will be allocated on a proportionate basis to Eligible Employees applying under the Employee Reservation Portion, subject to valid bids received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders (except Anchor Investors) are mandatorily required to utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process by providing details of their respective ASBA accounts and UPI ID in case of RIIs using the UPI Mechanism, as applicable, pursuant to which their corresponding Bid Amount will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs") or by the Sponsor Bank under the UPI Mechanism, as the case may be, to the extent of the respective Bid Amounts. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Offer through the ASBA Process. For further details, see "Offer Procedure" on page 457 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID (for RIIs bidding through the UPI mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for RIIs bidding through the UPI mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CDDT notification dated Feb 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021.

Contents of the Memorandum of Association of the Company as regards its objects: For information on the main objects of the Company, please see the section "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 230 of the RHP and Clause III (A) 1 of the Memorandum of Association of the Company. The Memorandum of Association of the Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, please see the section entitled "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 568 of the RHP.

Liability of the members of the Company: Limited by shares
Amount of share capital of the Company and Capital structure: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of the Company is ₹ 3,250,000,000 divided into 2,750,000,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 1 each and 500,000,000 Preference Shares of ₹ 1 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of the Company is ₹ 467,324,550 divided into 467,324,550 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 1 each. For details, please see the section entitled "Capital Structure" beginning on page 112 of the RHP.

Names of signatories to the Memorandum of Association of the Company and the number of Equity Shares subscribed by them: The names of the signatories of the Memorandum of Association of our Company are Falguni Nayar, Om Prakash Nayar and Rashmi Mehta, where Falguni Nayar subscribed to 9,998 equity shares, and Om Prakash Nayar and Rashmi Mehta subscribed to one equity share each, bearing face value of ₹ 10 each. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of our Company, please see the section entitled "Capital Structure" beginning on page 112 of the RHP.

Listing: The Equity Shares, once offered through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received 'in-principle' approvals from the BSE and the NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to letters dated August 30, 2021 and August 16, 2021, respectively. For the purposes of the Offer, the Designated Stock Exchange shall be NSE. A signed copy of the RHP has been filed with the RoC and the Prospectus shall be filed with the RoC in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013. For further details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the RHP until the Bid/Offer Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 568 of the RHP.

Disclaimer Clause of the SEBI: SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 426 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

Disclaimer Clause of NSE (Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 432 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of NSE.

Disclaimer Clause of BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 431 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE.

General Risks: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in the Offer have not been recommended or approved by the SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" on page 44 of the RHP.

GLOBAL CO-ORDINATORS AND BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS		BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS			REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER	
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited 27 BKC, 1 st Floor, Plot No. C - 27, "G" Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051, Maharashtra, India. Telephone: +91 22 4336 0000 Email: nykaa.ipo@kotak.com Website: http://investmentbank.kotak.com Investor Grievance ID: kmccredressal@kotak.com Contact Person: Ganesh Rane SEBI Registration No.: INM000008704	Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited 18 th Floor, Tower 2, One World Centre, Plot - 841, Jupiter Textile Mill Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013 Telephone: +91 22 6118 1000 E-mail: nykaaipo@morganstanley.com Website: www.morganstanley.com Investor Grievance ID: investors_india@morganstanley.com Contact Person: Aditya Dixit SEBI Registration No.: INM000011203	BoFA Securities India Limited Ground Floor, "A" Wing, One BKC, "G" Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 Telephone: +91 22 6632 8000 E-mail: dg.nykaa_ipo@bofa.com Website: www.ml-india.com Investor Grievance ID: dg_india_merchantbanking@bofa.com Contact Person: Samya Mittal SEBI Registration No.: INM000011625	Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited 1202, 12 th Floor, First International Financial Centre, G-Block, C54 & 55, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 098 Telephone: +91 22 6175 9999 E-mail: nykaaipo@citi.com Website: www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobal screen1.htm Investor Grievance E-mail: investors.cgmib@citigroup.com Contact Person: Siddharth Prabhu SEBI Registration No.: INM000010718	ICICI Securities Limited ICICI Venture House, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra Telephone: + 91 22 6807 7100 E-mail: nykaa.ipo@icicisecurities.com Website: www.icicisecurities.com Investor Grievance ID: customercare@icicisecurities.com Contact Person: Sumit Singh / Shekhar Asnani SEBI Registration No.: INM000011179	JM Financial Limited 7 th Floor, Energy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025 Telephone: +91 22 6630 3030 E-mail: nykaa.ipo@jmf.com Website: www.jmf.com Investor Grievance ID: grievance_ibd@jmf.com Contact person: Prachee Dhuri SEBI registration number: INM000010361	Link Intime India Private Limited C-101, 1 st Floor, 247 Park, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Vikhroli (West), Mumbai - 400 083, Maharashtra Telephone: +91 22 4918 6200 E-mail: nykaa.ipo@linkintime.co.in Website: www.linkintime.co.in Investor grievance e-mail: nykaa.ipo@linkintime.co.in Contact person: Shanti GopalKrishnan SEBI Registration No.: INR000004058
HEAD LEGAL, COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER		Rajendra Punde A2, 4 th Floor, Energy IT Park, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Opposite Tata Motors Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra, India. Telephone: + (91) 022-66149696; E-mail: nykaa.companyscretary@nykaa.com			Investors can contact Our Company Secretary and Compliance officer or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related problems such as non-receipt of letters of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode, etc. For all Offer related queries and for redressal of complaints, investors may also write to the GCBRLMs and BRLMs.	

[#] In compliance with the proviso to Regulation 21A of the SEBI Merchant Bankers Regulations, and Regulation 23(3) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, JM Financial will be involved only in marketing of the Offer. JM Financial has signed the due diligence certificate and has been disclosed as a BRLM to the Offer.

AVAILABILITY OF THE RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the "Risk Factors" beginning on page 44 of the RHP, before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP is available on website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in and is available on the websites of the Global Co-ordinators and Book Running Lead Managers ("GCBRLMs"), i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited and Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited at http://investmentbank.kotak.com and www.morganstanley.com, respectively and the websites of Book Running Lead Managers ("BRLMs"), i.e. BoFA Securities India Limited, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, ICICI Securities Limited and JM Financial Limited at www.ml-india.com, www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, www.icicisecurities.com and www.jmf.com, respectively and on the websites of BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORMS: Bid cum Application Forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of FSN E-COMMERCE VENTURES LIMITED, Telephone: + (91) 22 6614 9616; GCBRLMs : Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Telephone: +91 (22) 4336 0000; and Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited, Telephone: +91 22 6118 1000; BRLMs : BoFA Securities India Limited, Telephone: +91 22 6632 8000; Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, Telephone: +91 22 6175 9999; ICICI Securities Limited, Telephone: +91 22 6807 7100 and JM Financial Limited, Telephone: +91 22 6630 3030 and **Designated Members:** Kotak Securities Limited; Telephone: +91 (22) 6218 5470 and JM Financial Services Limited, Telephone: +91 22 6136 3400 at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members (as given below), SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. ASBA Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

Sub-Syndicate Members: Almondz Global Securities Ltd, Amrapali Capital & Finance Services Ltd., Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd., Axis Capital Limited, Centrum Broking Limited, Centrum Wealth Management Ltd, Choice Equity Broking Private Limited, Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Private Limited, DBI (International) Stock Brokers Ltd, Edelweiss Broking Limited, Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Ltd, Finwizard Technology Pvt Limited, Globe Capital Markets Ltd, HDFC Securities Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Limited, IIFL Securities Ltd, JM Financial Services Limited, Jobanputra Fiscal Services Private Limited, Kantilal Chhaganlal Sec Pvt Ltd, KJMC Capital Market Services Ltd, LKP Securities Limited, Inventure Growth & Securities Ltd, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Motilal Oswal Securities Limited, Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt. Ltd., Prabhudas Lalladhar Pvt Ltd, Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Limited, Religare Broking Ltd, RR Equity Brokers Private Limited, SBICap Securities Limited, Sharekhan Ltd, SMC Global Securities Limited, Systematix Shares & Stocks (India) Limited, Trade Bulls Securities (P) Ltd, Viren M Shah, Way2wealth brokers Pvt Ltd and YES Securities (India) Limited

Escrow Bank, Refund Bank, Public Offer Account Bank and Sponsor Bank: ICICI Bank Limited

All capitalized terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

For FSN E-COMMERCE VENTURES LIMITED
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Head Legal, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place: Mumbai
Date: October 28, 2021

FSN E-COMMERCE VENTURES LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with the RoC and thereafter with SEBI and the Stock Exchanges. The RHP is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and on the websites of the GCBRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited and Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited at http://investmentbank.kotak.com and www.morganstanley.com, respectively and the websites of BRLMs, i.e. BoFA Securities India Limited, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, ICICI Securities Limited and JM Financial Limited at www.ml-india.com, www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, www.icicisecurities.com and www.jmf.com, respectively. Investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section entitled "Risk Factors" on page 44 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP dated August 1, 2021 filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. The Equity Shares offered in the Offer have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("U.S. Securities Act"), or any state law of the United States and, unless so registered, may not be offered or sold within the United States and, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold (i) within the United States only to persons reasonably believed to be "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act) under Section 4(a) of the U.S. Securities Act, and (ii) outside the United States in offshore transactions in compliance with Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales are made. There will be no public offering of Equity Shares in the United States.



A clear signal

Even as India and China engage in talks, the current state of tension is likely to continue

China passing a new border law amid a continuing stalemate in negotiations with India sends a clear signal to New Delhi that Beijing is in no mood to quickly end the 18-month-long crisis along the LAC. The law, which will take effect on January 1, designates the responsibilities of various agencies in China, from the military to local authorities, in guarding the frontiers. It “stipulates that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People’s Republic of China are sacred and inviolable”. Calling on the military to “guard against and combat any act that undermines territorial sovereignty and land boundaries”, the law says the Chinese military “shall carry out border duties” to “resolutely prevent, stop and combat invasion, encroachment, provocation and other acts”. India has reacted sharply, telling China that it must not use legislation as a “pretext” to formalise the PLA’s actions since last year to unilaterally alter the LAC. While the law says Beijing will negotiate with its neighbours to settle its borders, India reminded China that the legislation will have little bearing on the India-China boundary as both sides are yet to resolve the boundary question. Responding to India’s concerns, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the law would not affect the implementation of existing agreements. The legislation also has implications for the only other country China has unresolved land borders with – Bhutan – calling for continuing efforts to develop border areas. Among those efforts is the on-going construction of frontier villages, including in disputed areas.

The Chinese side may justify the law as an “internal” matter akin to India’s abrogation of Article 370 and the creation of a Union Territory in Ladakh, which China strongly opposed because it included Aksai Chin, but there is one crucial difference. The new Chinese legislation, first proposed in March, came almost a year into the LAC crisis. It followed the PLA’s amassing of two divisions of troops in forward areas in the summer of 2020, in contravention of the four past border agreements, and essentially gives a stamp of approval to those moves. If both New Delhi and Beijing at least appear to be in agreement that the legislation will not affect past agreements, the fact is those understandings are already in tatters. The last round of LAC talks, held on October 10, ended with both sides trading accusations, Beijing blaming India for making “unrealistic” demands and New Delhi countering that the other side offered no real proposals for a solution. Indeed, the new law underlines that China increasingly sees little space for compromise as far as its frontiers are concerned. Even as India and China continue negotiations, the law is the latest signal that the current state of affairs along the border, marked by continuing deployments by both sides in forward areas and a build-up of infrastructure, is likely to continue over the longer term.

A climate dividend

While a net zero commitment can be avoided, India stands to gain from an energy transition

As it prepares to face pressure at the COP26 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow, India is adopting the stand that a national deadline for net zero carbon dioxide emissions is uncalled for, given its moral claim to a far greater share of the remaining global carbon budget. The budget, which represents the estimated volume of future emissions that will allow global average temperature rise to be kept within safe limits – well below 2°C or 1.5°C under the Paris Agreement – must anyway be shared by all countries. Since China, the U.S. and the EU collective, representing the highest emissions, are expected to occupy a big share of the remaining budget calculated at between 420-580 Gigatonnes of CO₂, India will again rely on its historical energy poverty, underdevelopment and low per capita emissions to convince the world that a net zero target is incongruous with the present reality. Yet, as the Centre must acknowledge, a minimalist approach is not an option, given the global repercussions of emissions for all vulnerable nations, and India’s own alarming losses from periodic extreme weather events. It can seek convergence with the world on identifying green growth pathways, aligning future investments with a smart recovery plan for COVID-19, embracing renewable energy more widely and averting long-term lock-in effects of fossil fuel dependence in energy generation, buildings, mobility and so on.

An immediate leap into net zero may yet be avoided, and a core message at Glasgow would be that rich countries are yet to deliver on the promised \$100 billion a year from 2020 to help poor nations adapt to climate change; but India’s case can be strengthened only with a clear plan for a multi-sectoral energy transition. There is little evidence, for instance, that the indirect carbon tax in the form of very high levies on automotive fuels has been earmarked for a big green push through affordable electric mobility, or even a financial dividend to all citizens to mitigate inflationary price effects on essential consumption. As national scientific advisers have argued in a joint statement on the eve of the UN climate conference – and to which India’s Principal Scientific Adviser is a signatory – it is essential for governments to draw up precise technological, socio-economic, and financial policies and requirements to demonstrate a commitment to the 1.5°C goal. The country must seize the moment and present convincing plans that will be rolled out in the present decade in order to attract climate finance, even while buttressing the argument for a medium-term window to taper down carbon emissions. If severe floods, droughts and more frequent storms erode the assets of citizens, governments of the future will have to pay for lack of foresight today.

The perils of ideological certitude

There seems an order of priorities in place for much of the electorate instead of the bread and butter governance issues



HAMID ANSARI

Trend, fashions or ideas float in all societies. When does a trend become an ideology? What motivates an individual to commit itself to it?

An ideology is understood to mean a system of ideas that aspires to explain the world, and at times change it. Some call it the science of ideas aimed at serving people, ridding them of prejudice, preparing them for the sovereignty of a preferred idea.

Regulating behaviour

This would seem to be obvious ever since humans indulged in deductive and inductive reasoning for sheer survival in daily life. This process matured with time and experience down the ages. When simple explanations were not discernible, the phenomena were attributed to superhuman or divine forces. Each of these sought justice between human beings living together. Hence, the dictum that justice is the first law of human institutions. Evidence of it is available in the ancient codes of China, Mesopotamia, India and elsewhere. Overtime, these became religious codes and were duly sanctified. They all held out visions of an apogee of rectitude that mankind should endeavour to attain.

In all cases the purpose was to

regulate human behaviour in societies. The unstated premise in most was that the average member of a social group living together was too busy or simplistic or both to discern the full meaning or implications and was, for the purposes of these laws almost mindless in the sense of acting without particular reason, ready and willing to observe the dicta and the accompanying suggestion of punishment in case of disobedience. Obedience was sought to become habitual.

Quest for social order

The political atmospherics of the 19th and 20th centuries, particularly in Europe, sought to imbibe ideologies with their focus on change with greater meaning to the public. Hence, the assertion in Marx’s *Theses on Feuerbach*: The philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it.

The 20th century had a surfeit of these, each addressing an intended audience ranging from local and regional to global and premised on an idealised social order. Each also portrayed a demonology premised on social class or ethnic specificity, from whose tyranny salvation was promised. Thus, communism, with its vision of a classless communist society promising to ‘each according to his/her need’, made sense to the disposed. Similarly, and apart from various versions of anarchism in European worker movements, national socialism in Germany and Italy tantalised its votaries with the focus on the nation and the



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

fatherland. All of these found emulators in colonial lands in India, China and in some parts of western Asia. They were all characterised by what Eric Hobsbawm depicted as ‘ruthless, brutal and command’ versions of socialism.

Freedom, communal ideas

In India, the germination of ideas of ‘communal consciousness’ (in cases with political overtones) on a societal scale alongside the urge for freedom from foreign rule surfaced in a segment of society in the closing decades of the 19th century. The effort by Mahatma Gandhi and his like-minded supporters was countered by many among Hindus and Muslims who deluded themselves as belonging to separate ‘nations’. The rest was done by the Mountbatten Plan in 1947 and the death and destruction that accompanied it.

The past three decades have witnessed the ease with which the Bharatiya Janata Party’s political approach and tactics have made headway in the public mind. Electoral data in recent decades indicates the shift in its vote share, diligently and successfully built upon

on exclusive identity in adversarial contrasts to what is dubbed non-Indic, meaning, principally, adherents of Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam but politically focused on the latter two. Why and how has this order of priorities been put in place for a good segment of the electorate instead of the bread and butter governance issues? In State elections from 2014 to 2019, its vote share reached or crossed the 50% mark in Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Delhi, etc. Political commentators attribute this and its subsequent spectacular success essentially to successful advocacy of majoritarianism.

Agenda of artificial lines

This despite the dispersal of the minority population in most parts of India and the fact that in daily life, all sections of people, majority and minorities, live in the same or adjacent neighbourhoods, and in daily life work together. Despite it, artificial lines are sought to be drawn for laying the foundations of a majoritarian agenda by categorisation of faiths on the basis of their places of origin. How far back in history can one go when confronted with M.S. Golwalkar’s observation that “Iran is nothing but the base of Aryabhumi” and part of “grand picture of our motherland”? So were the Aryans, and their faith and philosophy. Was it Indic or non-Indic?

It considered convenient to recall Swami Vivekanand’s letter of June 1898 in which he said, “I am firmly persuaded that without the help of practical Islam theories of

Vedantism, however fine and wonderful they may be, are entirely valueless to the vast mass of mankind”, adding that “for our own motherland a junction of the two great systems, Hinduism and Islam – Vedanta brain and Islam body – is the only hope.”

Also lost in the stated parameters of Hindutva is the constitutional imperative of fraternity.

Core issues

The Hindutva agenda of viewing matters through the prism of faith has perhaps disrupted or weakened the post-Mandal equations and brought electoral gains; so has the intoxicating impact of the success of the Ram Mandir movement. It, however, cannot explain away the policy and its implementation challenges posed by the on-going protests against the farm laws, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, National Population Register, widespread unemployment and a host of other measures resulting in dire distress in most segments of society.

Does this ‘ideological certitude’ explain away the public distress and its widespread publicity within the country and in credible foreign media? Can it be attributed to a mindlessness of its supporters who are deluded by an uncritical ideological conviction? Would it reflect, public indoctrination notwithstanding, in the forthcoming State elections, and beyond it? Would the lord of Hindutva neither slumber nor sleep?

Hamid Ansari was the Vice President of India (2007-2017)

Getting the focus back on Early Childhood Education

The home environment and stimulation children receive within the household can be important contributory factors

NISHA VERNEKAR, POOJA PANDEY & KARAN SINGHAL

Early Childhood Education (ECE) is crucial to the overall development of children, with impacts on their learning and even earning capabilities throughout their lifetimes. Despite the importance of ECE, little has been said about the continuance of ECE delivery during the COVID-19 school closures, reminiscent of its *status quo* even prior to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Those attending preschool are primarily enrolled in the nearly 14 lakh anganwadis spread across the country where ECE continues to suffer from low attendance and instructional time amid prioritisation of other early childhood development services in the anganwadi system (<https://bit.ly/3G2F3W>).

Where ECE has continued during COVID-19 pre-school closures, access has reduced and the priority for ECE is low within households. In a recent study by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy (<https://bit.ly/3DXG88i>), 45% of the 650+ households surveyed in urban Maharashtra reported that they prioritise their older child’s education over ECE.

A crucial factor for households to be able to prioritise ECE is active parental engagement in their child’s education, especially for children in the age group of three to six years who spend a majority of their time within the household and rely greatly on parental assistance in the learning process. The overall development of a child in the early stages edicts a conducive home environment and parental

involvement in addition to equitable access to the schooling system. As such, the home environment and stimulation children receive within the household can contribute to their overall development. For example, studies have found that the act of making conversation with your child in the early years has significant gains on language skills they develop (<https://bit.ly/3BZn1d6>).

Role of parental engagement

Enabling parental engagement in ECE requires an understanding of barriers that usually prevent parents from meaningfully engaging in their child’s education.

The socio-economic background of households determines access to preschools and the ability to invest in ECE. Worryingly, the lack of priority for ECE often means that households choose to forgo investing in ECE altogether. The pandemic has highlighted the glaring digital divide in the country, even in an urban context. Unless the state vows to provide devices and Internet access to all children, it is clear that complete reliance on technology is not an option.

Even for those who are able to overcome the initial barrier of access, the ability to engage in ECE at home remains dependent on time and ability. Households that have limited means have little time to invest in educational activities in the home. In the study mentioned above, with low-income households engaged in ECE in urban Maharashtra during COVID-19, we find that job and income losses led to further de-prioritisation of edu-



RAGHUNATHAN S.R.

cation, and the need to invest in educational and digital resources for its continuance during school closures.

Even among households that are able to create the time for education, many parents lack the self-efficacy to support their child’s learning. Most parents lack knowledge of effective methods to facilitate learning within the home, and appropriate means of using technology for education. Parents in low-income households are additionally less likely to be able to access support to learn such methods. COVID-19 school closures made engagement of parents in their child’s education a further necessity.

Overcoming barriers

Crossing these barriers will become crucial as we move towards achieving universal and equitable ECE, as envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Some of these are harder to address, such as internalising the importance of ECE among parents. This shift of mindset requires prolonged and committed state action, which at present does not reflect any such urgency.

Other barriers, however, are easier to address if we operationalise

support of the state, schools and teachers towards the goal of enabling parental engagement at home. The pandemic has created an opportunity where parents and teachers have increasingly recognised the crucial role of parents as partners in their child’s education. As we slowly move towards the re-opening of schools for younger grades, we should not lose sight of this.

In the same study we conducted in urban Maharashtra, we studied two ECE programmes – the E-paatshala programme in Balwadis run by Rocket Learning, and Akanksha schools in Mumbai and Pune. For those who were able to access the programmes, we found that those participating in these programmes showed higher engagement levels associated with the alleviation of some of the barriers discussed above. What might have worked for E-paatshala was its design to use only materials available at home for educational activities. This minimised the need for parents to purchase any additional resources and ensured that it was relevant to the child’s environment and experiences. We found that programmes that were supporting parents’ financially – through provision of rations and devices for education – resulted in higher parental engagement in ECE.

The study also highlighted that a more decentralised approach of identifying and alleviating these barriers to ECE, through teachers and school systems as the forerunners, goes a long way. Being the first point of contact with both the child and the parents, teachers are

the most equipped to effectively engage with parents, address their challenges, and design adaptable and innovative modes of teaching and learning.

Empower households

We must leverage the present opportunity of heightened parental engagement in children’s education. Efforts must be taken to empower households with time and resources so that they have the ability to prioritise ECE and are not forced to choose between their children’s education. The provision of non-educational support to low-income households to alleviate income and food insecurities might be just as crucial in aiding parents to invest in education.

Second, we must collect information about teachers’ experiences (on suitable modes of engagement with parents and children, delivery logistics, constraints of parents, etc.) and on innovations they have developed to increase parental engagement during school closures. We need to ask what has been done to alleviate constraints, and how can these be operationalised to reach more households?

While teachers should remain at the centre of this effort we must also make sure they are not further overburdened, by providing adequate resources and institutional support.

Nisha Vernekar and Pooja Pandey work on education at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy. Karan Singhal is a researcher at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad. The views expressed are personal

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

Court on Pegasus

The Supreme Court of India has given us a balanced ruling in connection with the Pegasus allegations (Page 1, October 28). Though the Government’s right to surveillance on matters of national security is not questionable, it is unauthorised surveillance for reasons other than national security that is definitely illegal and objectionable. A democratically elected government with its huge mandate must extend its full cooperation to the panel formed by the Bench for the probe. Since the panel is also vested with the responsibility to conduct the probe, it is imperative that the media exercise restraint, avoiding meaningless debates and being judgmental before completion of the probe.

S. SESHADRI,
Chennai

■ The Court’s ruling heralds the return of a fair, free and fearless judiciary in India. In curbing the high-handedness of the nation’s executive of the day, there is a clear message to the “powers that be” in the popular Shakespearean phrase – Caesar’s wife must be above suspicion. The Court’s stand will also puncture the balloon of unilateralism and authoritarianism and whimsical tendencies of my way or the highway.

P.K. SHARMA,
Barnala, Punjab

■ The Centre has found its fig-leaf of ‘national security’ torn asunder by the Supreme Court in its order of epochal dimensions. The proposed probe has all the potential to effect a churn in the nation’s polity for the better. What the Centre could do best is to cooperate with the inquiry.

AYYASERI RAVEENDRANATH,
Aranmula, Kerala

■ The probe order itself has made a dent in the image of the Government for its hiding the facts. Alleged spying on citizens is a grave threat to privacy and an attack on core democratic principles. Though the setting up of the committee has been done with the good intention of bringing out the truth, its success will depend on the Government’s cooperation.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

■ It appears that the last hope of Indian democracy lies only in the judiciary. The observations and actions of the Supreme Court in the Pegasus issue provide a comforting feeling that all is not lost in our system.

GEORGE MATHAI,
Kochi

■ The Indian judicial system seems to have proved its autonomy once again. The

Government should now keep aside its “skipping tactics” and cooperate with the committee. It has to ensure that the probe is conducted in a transparent manner.

BARLA SATHISHKUMAR,
Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Telangana

■ While carefully setting out the terms of reference, the Court has done a balancing act of protecting one’s right to privacy, by now a settled fundamental right, without, at the same time, disregarding genuine national security concerns. There are still doubts on whether the very government that remained stubborn in not cooperating with the Supreme Court despite its nudging, will stonewall the process on the pretext of national security, even inviting contempt. Given the manner in which the Centre has dealt with certain judgments of the top

court in the past, such apprehensions, of likely non-cooperation, are not entirely unfounded.

S.K. CHOUDHURY,
Bengaluru

World of ads

There is no doubt that some commercial advertisements are distasteful, often create aversion and invite derision. If advertisements are appealing and attractive, they may invoke esteem and regard for the manufacturers and producers concerned even if one does not want or need the products. For example, the advertisements brought out by Amul are not only witty and timely but also create a child-like liking for its products. It is no surprise that the mascot, the ‘Amul girl’ often steals the show. Needless to say, timing is the one of most important factors in almost everything, and advertising and

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marketing are no exceptions (Editorial, “A world minus ads”, October 28). But there needs to be sensitivity.

C.G. KURIKOSSE,
Malappara, Kothamangalam, Kerala

Governor’s actions

It is just over a month since the new Tamil Nadu Governor, R.N. Ravi, took charge. His seeking details on the functioning of government departments is unwarranted and an absolute interference in the State’s administrative affairs (Tamil Nadu, October 27). The Governor being a retired Indian Police Service officer is sure to be aware of governmental systems. Tamil Nadu is also a full-fledged State and not a Union Territory. Acting as an extra-constitutional authority is undemocratic.

MANOHARAN MUTHUSWAMY,
Chennai

Should the NDPS Act be amended?

PARLEY

Certain provisions could be changed to ensure a reformatory approach towards addicts

The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has proposed certain changes to some provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985. The recommendations have assumed importance in the backdrop of some high-profile drug cases including the recent arrest of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan following a raid on a cruise ship by the Narcotics Control Bureau a few weeks ago. One of the recommendations of the Ministry is to decriminalise the possession of narcotic drugs in smaller quantities for personal purposes. Another suggestion is that persons using drugs in smaller quantities be treated as victims. In a conversation moderated by Marri Ramu, Mahesh Bhagwat and Mazhar Hussain look at the implications of the changes suggested to tackle the problem of drug abuse and the abuse of the law. Edited excerpts:

First arrest and then investigate seems to be the principle for investigations under the NDPS Act. Is this justified?

Mahesh Bhagwat: That is not correct. The procedure of seizing narcotic drugs is important first. Section 50 of the Act (conditions under which search of persons shall be conducted) needs to be followed scrupulously. When officials stumble upon a person carrying drugs during raids or a routine check, the drugs must be seized in front of a Gazetted Officer or a Magistrate.

In cases of sudden development, the suspect is taken to the nearby Magistrate or the latter is brought to the spot and then only drugs are seized. If this is not adhered to, the court acquits the accused persons. Only then the next stage of investigation commences.

Is there not a possibility of people in power misusing the NDPS Act since the onus is on the accused to prove their innocence?

MB: I don't think so. You cannot manage all the people all the time. While tracking drugs cases, investigators go from consumers to drug

suppliers. Since the seizure procedure is to be followed, there could be one Magistrate at the time of seizing drugs, another during further investigation and a different Magistrate at the time of trial. Moreover, governments can change.

What are the challenges that the police face in enforcing the NDPS Act to take drugs cases to their logical end?

MB: The Act was brought in 1985. This is a stringent law where the death penalty can be prescribed for repeat offenders. Since drug peddling is an organised crime, it is challenging for the police to catch the persons involved from the point of source to the point of destination. Identifying drugs that are being transported is a challenge since we cannot stop each and every vehicle that plies on Indian roads. Most drug bust cases are made possible with specific information leads. In one instance, it was found that a ganja peddler had a secret chamber fabricated inside a lorry. We caught it only because we had specific inputs from a network of informants. Unless we check every vehicle with specially trained sniffer dogs, it is difficult to check narcotic drugs transportation. The main challenge is to catch those producing these substances.

Going beyond State jurisdiction, finding the source of narcotic substances and destroying them is another big challenge. Catching the accused cultivating ganja in areas bordering the States too is turning out to be a herculean task. It gets tougher when ganja is cultivated in areas that are Maoist hideouts.

Securing conviction for the accused in drugs cases is yet another arduous task. There are frequent delays in court procedures. Sometimes, cases do not come up for trial even after two years of having registered them. By then, the accused are out on bail and do not turn up for trial. Bringing them back from their States to trial is quite difficult let alone getting them convicted.

Mazher Hussain: No doubt the NDPS Act is stringent, but we need to make a distinction between the



drug peddler and the end user. The person using it in smaller quantities for personal use cannot be bracketed with the person producing narcotic drugs. We need to make a clear distinction between a drug supplier and an end user. A drug user needs to be seen as a patient. The Act as now prescribes jail for everyone – the end user and the drug supplier.

How do you see the Ministry's proposal to refer persons possessing drugs in smaller quantities to government-run rehabilitation centres instead of awarding them jail terms and imposing fines?

MB: The proposal to send persons to rehabilitation centres is good on paper but do we have the infrastructure to ensure that it is properly implemented? The answer is 'no'. We don't have adequate de-addiction centre counsellors. We face an acute shortage of psychiatrists and counsellors. How many rehabilitation centres are there vis-à-vis the volume of persons involved in drug cases? I suggest that the States be consulted. Policing is a State subject. It is not in the Concurrent list. So, instead of suggesting proposals to change sections of the law for the entire country, I think it would be advisable to introduce this on a pilot basis in one State that faces an acute drugs-related problem.

The government could also study some of the best practices in the world. In Iceland, for example, a community-led approach has worked wonders. Iceland witnessed

A drug user needs to be seen as a patient. The Act as of now prescribes jail for everyone – the end user and the drug supplier.

Mazher Hussain

acute drug abuse among its children and the youth. The government decided to tackle the issue right from the school level. From introducing aptitude tests which revealed the inclinations of students to persuading parents to keep liquor and cigarettes out of reach of the youth, the country took various measures to tackle the problem and weaned away 70-80% of its young population from drugs. It also helped drastically reduce the usage of drugs.

MH: We need to thoroughly examine why and how people are getting addicted to narcotic drugs. There is a growing hopelessness in society due to various factors. The COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, has aggravated anxieties among the youth. We need to redefine and redesign the law so as to tackle what acts as a trigger. An aspect of the Act which is least discussed is a national fund for rehabilitation. We need to allocate more money for the fund, help transform drug addicts and make the job of policing easier.

In the U.S., some States have started permitting the usage of narcotic drugs like marijuana in smaller quantities. Do you think the legalisation of drugs usage is the right step?

MB: We cannot think of legalisation of drugs usage in isolation. We need to think of the harmful effects first. There are connected issues like absenteeism in schools, loss of jobs, income, depression and suicide. The crime rate could go up, throwing up yet another new challenge for the police.

MH: Legalisation of drugs usage will only compound the problem. It could lead to proliferation of drugs. It is dangerous. More and more people may start using them. At the same time, the solution is to decriminalise usage of drugs. If a person is caught for the first time in a drugs case, be it for possession or usage, they should be sent to a rehabilitation centre. There should be scope for reformation of such persons. Not anybody and everybody connected to drugs cases should be sent to prison. Only repeat offenders should be sent to prison.

There are many street children who use whiteners, glue, painting chemicals, etc. There is no focus on such children becoming victims of substance use.

MB: There are three types of drugs – party drugs, prescription drugs and others, namely inhalants (also known as synthetic drugs). Some people even apply Zandu Balm on bread slices and eat them. We found people using cough syrups to get a high. Street children and labourers cannot afford to buy costly narcotic drugs like cocaine and so, they go after cheaper options like glue.

With computers replacing typewriters almost completely, it is anybody's guess how many are using whiteners. While the police have to focus on this, persons selling chemicals or whiteners are equally responsible. During my visit to the U.S., I went to a shop to buy a bullet-proof jacket; the vendor refused to sell it to me. As I was leaving, the shop owner noted details of the vehicle in which I was travelling. The question is do we have such responsible traders here.

MH: After noticing that many street children are getting addicted to whiteners, COVA filed a PIL petition in a High Court more than a decade ago. The High Court passed a direction instructing the government to en-

sure that whiteners are not sold to children below 18 years of age. It is for the police and others concerned to implement the court order and keep a tab on persons selling such chemicals.

Decriminalisation apart, what other steps can be taken to check the drug menace in the country?

MB: There are three crucial factors we need to adopt to end the drug menace. While bringing up their wards, parents must be able to talk to their children and assure them of all support should they face a problem. Parents have to act as confidants first. Mutual trust should be so strong that wards come to them at the first sign of trouble. Sometimes, it could be a friend inducing them to take drugs once – once caught, they get trapped in a vicious cycle. So, our approach to tackling the problem should begin from home. Our experience shows that cigarette is an entry point for the young. To graduate from cigarette to drugs is not difficult if there is access to the drug. Watching a parent smoke, the child thinks it's a cool act to emulate. From here, children go to the next level of taking out tobacco from a cigarette and filling it with weed to get a high.

Second, teachers should keep an eye on school surroundings to ascertain whether anyone is selling hookah pipes or ganja papers. Checking drugs usage is not the job of only the police. The police cannot enter every house and physically check if youngsters are using drugs. Everyone should have a proactive role.

Civil society support is equally important. If everyone joins hands, wiping out drugs usage is not an issue at all.

MH: We should examine the root cause of the problem. Why are people taking drugs? One has to ascertain why different sections of the society, be it street children or youngsters from rich families, are getting addicted to drugs.

Relying only on law-enforcing agencies, however hard they are at work to address the problem, is not going to solve it. Civil society and governments will have to work together to create an enabling environment to address the issue.



Mahesh Bhagwat is Police Commissioner Rachakonda, Telangana



Mazher Hussain is Executive Director of Confederation of Voluntary Associations, a national network of voluntary organisations

The Glasgow climate test

G20 leaders in particular need to deliver

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

The climate crisis is a code red for humanity. World leaders will soon be put to the test at the UN Climate Conference, known as COP26, in Glasgow. Their actions – or inactions – will show their seriousness about addressing this planetary emergency.

The warning signs are hard to miss: temperatures everywhere are reaching new highs; biodiversity is reaching new lows; and oceans are warming, acidifying and choking with plastic waste. Increasing temperatures will make vast stretches of our planet dead zones for humanity by this century's end. *The Lancet* just described climate change as the "defining narrative of human health" in the years to come – a crisis defined by widespread hunger, respiratory illness, deadly disasters and infectious disease outbreaks.

An achievable target

Despite these alarm bells ringing at fever pitch, we see new evidence in the latest UN reports that governments' actions so far simply do not add up to what is needed. Recent new announcements for climate action are welcome and critical – but even so, our world is on track for calamitous global temperature rises well above 2°C. This is a far cry from the 1.5°C target to which the world agreed under the Paris Agreement – a target that science tells us is the only sustainable pathway for our world. This target is achievable if we can reduce global emissions by 45% compared to 2010 levels this decade, if we can achieve global net zero by 2050, and if world leaders arrive in Glasgow with ambitious and verifiable 2030 targets, and new, concrete policies to reverse this disaster.

G20 leaders in particular need to deliver. The time has passed for diplomatic niceties. If governments, especially G20 governments, do not lead this effort, we are headed for terrible human suffering. But all countries need to realise that the old, carbon-burning model of development is a death sentence for our planet. We need decarbonisation now, across every sector in every country. We need to shift subsidies from fossil fuels to renewable energy, and tax pollution, not people. We need to put a price on

carbon, and channel that towards resilient infrastructures and jobs. And we need to phase-out coal – by 2030 in OECD countries and 2040 in all others. Increasing numbers of governments have pledged to stop financing coal; private finance needs to do the same, urgently.

Everyone has a role to play

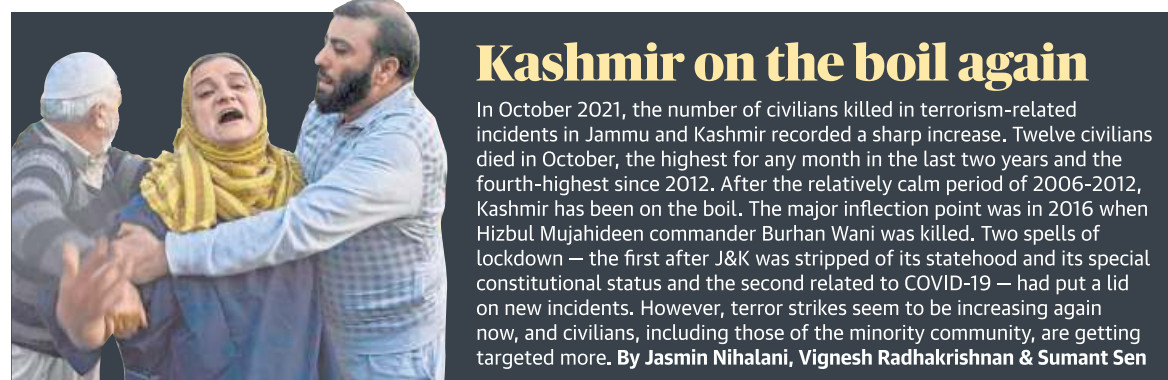
People rightly expect their governments to lead. But we all have a responsibility to safeguard our collective future. Businesses need to reduce their climate impact, and fully and credibly align their operations and financial flows to a net zero future. No more excuses; no more greenwashing. Investors must do the same. They should join front runners like the net zero asset owners' alliance, and the UN's own pension fund, which met its 2021 carbon reduction investment objectives ahead of time and above its target, with a 32% reduction this year. Individuals in every society need to make better, more responsible choices in what they eat, how they travel, and what they buy. And young people need to keep doing what they're doing: demanding action from their leaders and keeping them accountable.

Throughout, we need global solidarity to help all countries make this shift. Developing countries are grappling with debt and liquidity crises. They need support. Public and multilateral development banks must significantly increase their climate portfolios and intensify their efforts to help countries transition to net zero, resilient economies. The developed world must urgently meet its commitment of at least \$100 billion in annual climate finance for developing countries. Donors and multilateral development banks need to allocate at least half their climate finance towards adaptation and resilience.

The UN was founded to build consensus for action against the greatest threats facing humanity. But rarely have we faced a crisis like this one – a truly existential crisis that, if not addressed, threatens not only us, but future generations. There is one path forward. A 1.5°C future is the only viable future for humanity.

António Guterres is Secretary-General of the United Nations

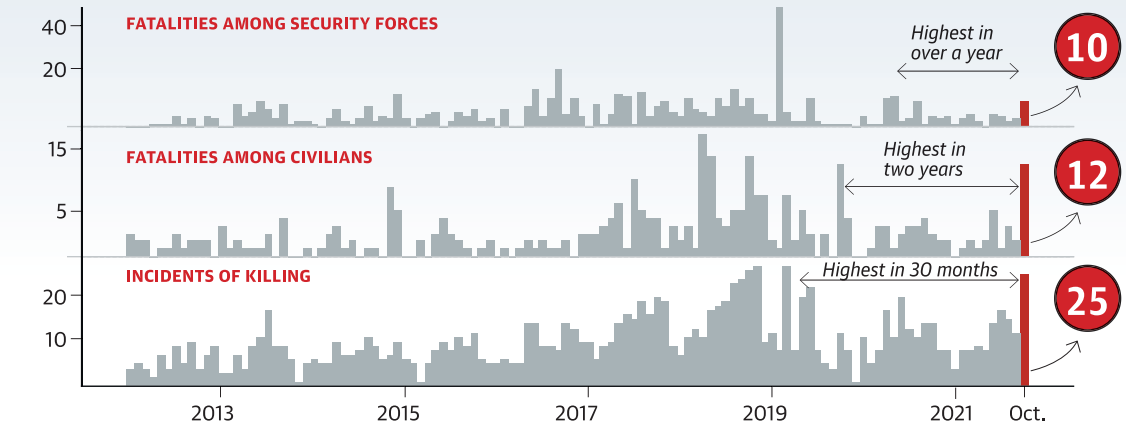
DATA POINT



Kashmir on the boil again

In October 2021, the number of civilians killed in terrorism-related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir recorded a sharp increase. Twelve civilians died in October, the highest for any month in the last two years and the fourth-highest since 2012. After the relatively calm period of 2006-2012, Kashmir has been on the boil. The major inflection point was in 2016 when Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani was killed. Two spells of lockdown – the first after J&K was stripped of its statehood and its special constitutional status and the second related to COVID-19 – had put a lid on new incidents. However, terror strikes seem to be increasing again now, and civilians, including those of the minority community, are getting targeted more. By Jasmin Nihalani, Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Sumant Sen

TERRORISM-RELATED DEATHS | The charts depict the month-wise incidents of terrorism-related killings, fatalities among civilians, security forces and terrorists between 2012 and 2021. The number of civilians who died in October 2021 (12 till Oct. 26) was the fourth-highest for any month since 2012. Also, there were 25 incidents of killings in October 2021, again the fourth-highest for any month since 2012. An incident of killing is a terrorism-related event which results in at least one death



SHIFT TO SOUTH | The chart depicts each district's share in terrorism-related fatalities in the 2000-2021 period. For instance, in 2021, 16% of all fatalities in J&K occurred in Pulwama. In 2019, Pulwama's share had peaked at 39%. Between 2000 and 2005, fatalities were concentrated in Baramulla and Kupwara of northern Kashmir, and in the Poonch, Rajouri and Doda districts of Jammu. Between 2006 and 2016, fatalities were largely restricted to Baramulla and Kupwara

	YEARS	'00	'02	'04	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14	'16	'18	2021										
JAMMU REGION	POONCH	15	22	18	14	10	9	4	8	10	6	6	3	5	6	3	1	0	1	3	6	
	RAJOURI	12	9	12	9	8	3	6	3	4	11	1	0	4	0	1	0	1	2	1	3	7
	DODA	9	10	11	12	10	15	10	11	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	JAMMU	3	3	4	3	1	0	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	7	3	4	1	3	1	2	1
	KATHUA	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	KISHOTWAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	4	7	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	RAMBAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	REASI	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	SAMBA	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	5	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UDHAMPUR	7	3	7	7	5	6	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTH KASHMIR	BANDIPORA	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	7	5	7	9	1	1	0	5	3	9	7	2	1	4
	BARAMULLA	14	12	11	9	13	16	20	20	10	11	23	16	26	10	16	20	23	10	11	8	10
KUPWARA	15	15	14	13	11	12	11	20	25	28	16	27	28	37	32	27	32	19	13	4	9	0
CENTRAL KASHMIR	BUDGAM	3	5	4	2	5	3	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	4	3	3	2	1
	GANDERBAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	3	7	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
	SRINAGAR	7	6	5	4	6	8	10	4	6	2	6	6	7	14	3	1	8	5	8	2	12
SOUTH KASHMIR	ANANTNAG	10	8	9	7	13	12	10	3	1	0	0	4	1	2	3	5	9	8	11	9	11
	KULGAM	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	1	4	0	5	0	3	3	10	8	7	10	9
	PULWAMA	3	5	5	11	9	11	11	14	7	6	7	11	5	12	21	14	13	21	16	39	19
	SHOPIAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	3	3	0	4	3	8	3	8	19	17	18	16

■ However, in the past five years, there has been an abrupt shift in deaths to the districts in south Kashmir – Pulwama, Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian

■ There has also been an uptick in fatalities in the Poonch and Rajouri districts of the Jammu division, which had remained relatively calm for a long period

SOURCE: SOUTH ASIA TERRORISM PORTAL

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 29, 1971

Lady fasts for 111 days

Bangalore, Oct. 28: A 59-year-old mother of six children, Mrs. Dhaphubhai Golecha, ended a fast that lasted 111 days here on Tuesday. There was a stream of visitors at Mrs. Golecha's house in Rangaswami Temple Street to have her "darshan". This was Mrs. Golecha's fourth fast lasting more than 50 days. She fasted for 51 days in 1963, for 61 days in 1968 and for 91 days in 1969. Mrs. Golecha was overcome by fatigue when she ended her fast and became unconscious. Her weight had come down from 155 pounds to 105. She is now recovering in a private nursing home here. She undertook the fast, it is said, as her 'agony' became acute after hearing the plight of Bangla Dosh refugees. Seventy-five days after she began her fast, Mrs. Golecha went on a pilgrimage to Jaipur and other places for 20 days. During the fast she drank water only three or four times a day. On October 22, Mrs. Golecha was taken in a procession in a coach drawn by two horses to the Lal Bagh, where a reception was held by the Sri Vardhaman Sthanakvasi Jain Sravak Sangh. Over 10,000 people attended the reception.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FROM THE OCTOBER 30, 1921 EDITION AS THERE WAS NO EDITION ON OCTOBER 29

Government and the Indian States

Lahore, October 30: A Punjab Government Gazette Extraordinary notifies: - In pursuance of the recommendation made in paragraph 310 of the report on Indian Constitutional Reforms that important States should be placed in direct political relations with the Government of India, it is announced that the Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the proposals of the Government of India for placing the States of Patiala, Bahawalpur, Jind, Nabha, Kapurthala, Sirmur Mandi, Bilaspur Maler Kotla, Faridkot, Chamua Suket and Loharu in direct political relations with the Government of India acting through an officer of Political Department. The connection between the Punjab Government and the States now to be transferred began three-quarters of a century ago when the province was first constituted and in relinquishing his connection with the states named above the Governor gave an account of the assistance rendered by those states since the establishment of British authority in the province of their traditional loyalty and of the cordial manner in which they have conducted business with his Government.

FROM PAGE ONE

Modi to meet Pope on his way to COP26

The October 29-31 meetings in Italy will be followed by the Prime Minister's participation at the COP26 summit in Glasgow, where he will hold several bilateral meetings apart from working towards a "balanced outcome" in the climate talks.

Saturday's meeting with the Pope will last for half an hour.

"It is obvious that this is a very important meeting," said Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, briefing the media in a special interaction on Thursday afternoon. The Prime Minister will hold several bilateral meetings in Rome and Glasgow, Mr. Shringla said, including those with the Crown Prince Bin Salman of Saudi Arabia and Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who will host the G20 in Bali in 2022. At the G20 summit, India will highlight the need for better international financial management.

"As the co-chair of the G20 anti-corruption working group, India has worked very closely with all G20 members to come out with some strong and tangible outcomes, including G20 high-level principles on preventing and combating corruption," said Mr. Shringla, stating that G20 members have partnered India's drive against money laundering.

India has used the G20 platform for dealing with tax evasion and corruption, said Mr. Shringla. Sustainable development, international financial management, and the situation in Afghanistan and fuel transition, are some of the issues that are expected to domi-

nate Mr. Modi's interactions in Rome and Glasgow.

Mr. Shringla mentioned that the G20 is deliberating on creating a mechanism to counter pandemics in the future, and highlighted the issue of the origin of the COVID-19 virus. "The issue of the origin of the COVID virus has been a subject of a fair amount of discussion in the international fora, and as you know, this is being dealt with by the WHO, and this will continue to be addressed in the appropriate forums," said Mr. Shringla.

The Foreign Secretary also said that India is "alive" to the intensifying humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and emphasised a solution will have to be found within the framework of the UNSC Resolution 2593. "On the issue of humanitarian assistance, we have been forthcoming," said Mr. Shringla, seeking unhindered and unimpeded access to the Afghan people who need humanitarian assistance urgently.

Mr. Shringla highlighted India's commitment to solar power and limiting the rise in global temperature, and in clean technology. Mr. Modi will deliver the "national statement" at the World Leaders Summit on November 1 at COP26. The summit in Glasgow will also witness the launch of the global Green Grids Initiative.

Mr. Modi, alongside the U.K. and Australian Prime Ministers, will also launch the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) initiative aimed at island nations and developing countries.

Aryan Khan, 2 others get bail 25 days after arrest

"All three applications are allowed. I will pass detailed orders by tomorrow evening," Justice Sambre said even as Aryan Khan's counsel Mukul Rohatgi was putting forth his arguments. Aryan Khan's advocates then sought permission to submit cash bail to which the court refused and said surety is to be given.

"I could have given the order tomorrow also. But I gave it today," Justice Sambre said.

The legal team of the 23-year-old Aryan Khan will now try to complete the formalities for his release by Friday or Saturday. Justice Sambre said he would pass a detailed order assigning reasons later.

'Independent witness' arrested for cheating

"We have taken him into custody from the outskirts of Pune. Our case is regarding a cheating case in which Gosavi was absconding," said Pune Commissioner of Police Amitabh Gupta, adding that the accused would be produced later in court.

"He had promised jobs to some people and a charge sheet was filed in this regard in 2019. As per the record, he was 'missing' in this case for two years. We are completing the pre-arrest procedures and medical tests of the accused," Mr. Gupta added.

Neither the Mumbai police nor the NCB had yet sought Gosavi's custody from the Pune police, Mr. Gupta said.

"We will first finish pending investigations, if any... In case some other agency wishes Gosavi's remand, then we will certainly discuss the matter with the Director General of Police and coordinate at the State level," he said.

Mr. Gupta said that Gosavi, prior to his detention, had been to several places including Lucknow, Fatehpur, Telangana, Jabalpur, Lonavala, Mumbai and Panchgani in Maharashtra.

"In Lucknow, Gosavi was apparently using the alias of 'Sachin Patil'. He also claims to have been working for an NGO 'Stop Crime'. We are verifying these details... Gosavi has claimed that he is in the business of export-import and job placements," said the Pune Police

Commissioner. Mr. Gupta said after Gosavi's recent pictures (in the Mumbai cruise drug case) went viral, the Pune police began searching for him in earnest and formed several teams to nab him.

The Commissioner said it was likely that there were more victims who fell prey to the swindling schemes of the accused, and that if they approached the Pune police, more cases would be lodged against Gosavi.

Earlier, Gosavi had said he wanted to surrender to the Uttar Pradesh police as he apparently felt "threatened" in Maharashtra.

However, on Wednesday, he travelled to Pune and told a news channel that he would be appearing before NCB authorities who are conducting an internal inquiry against Sameer Wankhede (the NCB's Mumbai zonal director) in Mumbai.

Gosavi claimed that following his Mumbai appearance before the NCB, he planned to surrender to the Pune Police.

Sources in the city police's Crime Branch said that they detained him before he could go travel to Mumbai.

The city police had kept Gosavi under intense surveillance and were reportedly tracking a dozen possible locations as to where the absconder might be.

A look out circular (LOC) against him had been issued by the Pune police on October 13 in order to prevent Gosavi fleeing the country.

Centre releases final tranche of GST recompense loans

₹1.59 lakh crore transferred as 'back-to-back' loans to the States for the year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Government released ₹44,000 crore to the States and the Union Territories on Thursday as back-to-back loans in lieu of their GST compensation dues, thus completing the transfer of an estimated compensation shortfall of ₹1.59 lakh crore through this mechanism this financial year.

The early disbursement of GST compensation dues this year, with five months still remaining in the financial year, will help the States manage their finances better than in 2020-21 when ₹1.1 lakh crore was transferred to them in smaller instalments till the latter half of the year. This year's estimated GST compensation shortfall has been released in three tranches - ₹75,000 crore on July 15, ₹40,000 crore on October 7 and the latest payout of ₹44,000 crore.

The Finance Ministry said

Back to the States

Karnataka received the highest amount of ₹5,011 crore in lieu of GST compensation among all eligible States/UTs. A look at the top five States with the highest compensation:

Karnataka	5,011
Maharashtra	3,814
Gujarat	3,609
Punjab	3,357
Kerala	2,418

* in ₹ crore

the ₹1.59 lakh crore would be over and above the compensation in excess of ₹1 lakh crore, estimated to be released to the States and the Union Territories during this financial year, based on actual cess collections. Those funds accruing as "normal GST compensation" are released every two months.

"The sum total of ₹2.59 lakh crore is expected to exceed the amount of GST compensation accruing in FY 2021-22," it added, indi-

cating this may make up for some of the compensation shortfall still pending for 2020-21.

Expenditure planning
"It is expected that this release will help the States and Union Territories in planning their public expenditure among other things, for improving health infrastructure and taking up infrastructure projects," the Ministry said, emphasising that the release of funds was

"frontloaded" as States have a very important role to play in effectively managing the COVID-19 pandemic and stepping up capital expenditure.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said the early release of the GST compensation loans will help States avoid a bunching up of spending plans towards the end of the year and should help to compress the size of the State Development loan auctions in the immediate term leading to a modest cooling of bond yields.

"One-third of the loan amount has been provided to just four States, namely Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Punjab. This highlights the looming structural shock faced by those states with a high dependence on GST compensation, after the original transition and compensation period of five years ends," Ms. Nayar said.

Militant killed, arms recovered in Baramulla

He was going to kill trader, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday said it killed a "hybrid" militant in a gunfight when he was on his way to kill a shopkeeper in Baramulla of north Kashmir.

The term "hybrid militant" is used by the police here for those youth who are not listed as militants and mix with the local population after carrying out an attack.

"During the intervening night of October 27 and 28, terrorists fired upon an area domination patrol party (ADP) of the police and the Army's 46 Rashtriya Rifles in the Cherdari area of Baramulla. The alert joint party retaliated effectively and in the brief shoot-out, one terrorist got killed," a police spokesman said.

The police identified the slain militant as Javed Ahmad Wani, a resident of Kulgam.

"As per the police records, the killed terrorist was part of a group involved in killing of two non-local people in the Wanpoh area of Kulgam along with the terrorist Gulzar, who was neutralised on October 20," the police said.

Incriminating materials and arms and ammunition, including a pistol, a loaded magazine and a Pakistan-branded grenade, were recovered from the slain terrorist, the police added.

On the basis of a preliminary investigation, the slain terrorist was a "hybrid type" and was on a mission to target one shopkeeper in Baramulla, Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

J&K students roughed up at Agra court

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Three Kashmiri students who were arrested for allegedly hailing the Pakistan cricket team's victory over India in the T20 World Cup 2021 match, were on Thursday roughed up and heckled by a group of men outside a court in Agra when they were being produced before a magistrate.

A woman Government employee was terminated from service for "disloyalty towards nation" at Rajouri in the Pir Panjal valley of Jammu on Thursday after her WhatsApp status allegedly celebrated the Pakistan team's victory.

An FIR had been lodged against Arsheed Yousuf, Inayat Altaf Sheikh and Showkat Ahmed Ganai for allegedly posting a WhatsApp status message praising Pakistan after India's defeat.

Apollo wants Jaya panel proceedings quashed

They reek of bias, Supreme Court told

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Apollo Hospitals urged the Supreme Court on Thursday to quash the inquiry proceedings before the Justice (retired) A. Arumughaswamy Commission into the death of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa.

Submitting before a Bench of Justices Abdul S. Nazeer and Krishna Murari, senior advocate Aryama Sundaram, assisted by advocate Rohini Musa, said the proceedings reeked of bias and violation of the principles of natural justice. "When there is a reasonable apprehension of bias, there is no question of Your Lordships saying 'we will tell him to behave in the future'... I am seeking quashing of the proceedings," Mr. Sundaram submitted on behalf of the Chennai hospital.

The senior lawyer said the right to protect one's reputation against bias allows one to challenge an inquiry even before the Commission submits its report. Lack of bias is part of the principles of natural justice. "Fair hearing is by a person who has no interest in the lis (suit)," he submitted.

"We have seen the Commission file an application before itself, file a reply and hear the application... Is that not being a judge of his own cause?" Mr. Sundaram asked.

At an earlier hearing, the court had wondered whether the Commission had "virtually become a judge of his own cause" or an "umpire playing the game himself". Mr. Sundaram had said the reputation of the premier Chennai hospital was "blighted overnight" by the Commission who took a tangent which was "unbelievable".

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Key U.S. lawmakers bat for CAATSA sanctions waiver

India likely to take delivery of S-400 from Russia soon

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Key lawmakers continue to voice their support for a sanctions waiver for India for its purchase of the S-400 missile defence system from Russia. India is likely to begin taking delivery of the S-400 in November, potentially activating U.S. sanctions under a 2017 law, Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

Senate India Caucus Co-Chair John Cornyn and Mike Waltz, a member on the House Armed Services Committee and vice-chair of the Congressional India Caucus, were among the lawmakers who have addressed the issue this week. Their comments were made on Wednesday evening at a virtually held event, organised by the U.S. India Business Council and the U.S. India Friendship Council.

Congressman Brad Sherman, a California Democrat and Co-Chair of the Congressional India Caucus, also spoke of the strength of India-U.S. ties.

History of procurement

Mr. Waltz said he cognized New Delhi's history of procurement (from Russia) and India's desire to have diversity in its weapons systems, noting that the situation is difficult.

He said the U.S. Congress was working through "what the next steps are" - in terms of dealing with CAAT-



Balancing act: Taking delivery of the S-400 can potentially activate U.S. sanctions under the 2017 law. ■ AFP

SA in the Indian context and that he did not want a Turkey-type situation.

"So I don't want to get ahead of that. But I'll tell you what I want to avoid is the situation where we are with Turkey right now," he said suggesting that India and the U.S. keep the dialogue open - either at the Congressional level or at the 2+2 level (the next meeting between the Foreign and Defence Ministers will be held in early December in Washington).

Turkey, a NATO ally, was expelled from the American F-35 programme (a consortium to build the aircraft) after it began accepting S-400 shipments in 2019. President Joe Biden said in July Turkey will face further sanctions if it bought major equipment from Moscow.

"I don't think we're anywhere close to that yet. But I do think we need to find some off-ramps and find some ways to move in a more positive direction," Mr. Waltz said. The congressman co-authored, with U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nik-

ki Haley, an op-ed in *Foreign Policy* earlier this week suggesting that the U.S. enter into a formal alliance with India. Ms. Haley, an Indian American, is considered a possible 2024 GOP candidate for the White House.

The op-ed argued that India could help keep "a watchful eye on Afghanistan" and "keep track of China's southern flank". The authors also suggested that a formal alliance with India would enable the U.S. to access Afghanistan via India's Farkhor Air Base in Tajikistan.

India has not publicly expressed interest in a formal security alliance with the U.S. or any other country.

Also on Wednesday, Mr. Cornyn, a Texas Republican, said the possibility of sanctions remained "one of the biggest threats" to the bilateral relationship. He pointed out that India had taken "significant steps" to reduce its reliance on Russian military equipment and had shown an interest in purchasing more arms from the U.S.

Vinod Rai apologises to Sanjay Nirupam

Allegation in spectrum allocation case

STAFF REPORTER
PUNE

Seven years after he alleged that Congress leader and former MP Sanjay Nirupam had pressured him in connection with the 2G spectrum allocation case, former Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) Vinod Rai has tendered an "unconditional apology" to Mr. Nirupam.

In 2014, Mr. Rai, in the course of interviews to the media, named Mr. Nirupam as one of the MPs who reportedly pressured him to keep former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's name out of his report on the 2G spectrum allocation case. The interviews were broadcast and published at the time of the release of Mr. Rai's 2014 book, *Not Just an Accountant: The Diary of the Nation's Conscience Keeper*.

In a video statement, Mr. Nirupam, commenting on Mr. Rai's unconditional apology, remarked that it was a "golden day".

In the affidavit (notarised on October 23), Mr. Rai said he had made certain statements against Mr. Nirupam in September 2014 in media interviews aired on the *Times Now* news channel, and published in media publications, including news papers such as *The Times of India* and *The Indian Express*, subsequent to the launch of his book.

"I have realised that in answers to questions posed to me by the interviewers, I had inadvertently and wrongly mentioned the name of Shri Sanjay Nirupam as one of the MPs, who pressurised me to keep the then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's name out of the CAG report on the 2G spectrum allocation during the meetings in the PAC (Public Accounts Committee) or the sidelines of the JPC (Joint Parliamentary Committee) etc.," Mr. Rai stated in the affidavit, adding that the statements televised and published were "factually incorrect".

IN BRIEF



BJP takes on Congress over Internet shutdowns

NEW DELHI
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday hit out against the Congress government in Rajasthan over Internet shutdowns in the State, saying four shutdowns in the past month caused a loss of ₹800 crore. At a press conference here, BJP spokesperson Rajyavardhan Rathore cited a tweet by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in 2019 that said the Centre had no right to shutdown the Internet, in the context of J&K.

Moin Qureshi's voice sample to be collected

NEW DELHI
The CBI has been given permission by a city court to collect the voice sample of meat exporter Moin Qureshi as part of the probe into corruption allegations against him and others. In February 2017, the CBI had registered the case against Mr. Qureshi, along with his childhood friend and the agency's former chief, A.P. Singh, for allegedly accepting money to get favours from public servants holding key posts in government agencies. The case was made on the basis of information provided by the Enforcement Directorate.

11 killed as mini-bus falls into deep gorge in Doda

JAMMU
Eleven people travelling on a mini-bus were killed and 14 injured when the vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down into a deep gorge on the Batote-Kishtwar highway in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, officials said. The mini-bus, which was on its way from Thathri to Doda, fell into the gorge near Soti-Gwari, they added. The driver, who was also among the dead, reportedly lost control of the vehicle and it fell downhill on the banks of the Chenab river early in the morning, the officials said.

Law Ministry elevates 7 advocates as HC judges

NEW DELHI
The Law Ministry on Thursday notified the appointment of five new judges to the Punjab and Haryana High Court and two new judges to the Rajasthan High Court. The seven new appointees were advocates before being elevated as judges, according to a release by the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry. Those appointed as Additional Judges to Punjab and Haryana High Court include advocates Vikas Suri, Sandeep Moudgil, Vinod Sharma (Bhardwaj), Pankaj Jain and Jasjit Singh Bedi. Advocates Kumari Rekha Borana and Sameer Jain have been elevated to the Rajasthan HC.

Arunachal CM visits troops along border

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and top State officials visited the troops along India's border with Tibet, including Yangtse, where Chinese troops reportedly infiltrated a few days ago.

A Government spokesperson said the Chief Minister trekked to the remote outposts in Tawang district primarily to boost the morale of the soldiers and thank them for forcing the People's Liberation Army personnel to withdraw from Indian territory. A face-off between Indian and Chinese soldiers was reported at the Yangtse border post recently.

Yangtse was the first post the Chief Minister visited after starting his three-day trip on October 24. He touched Tse Chu, Mago and Thingbu villages along the border.

China rejects concerns over border law

India fears that the new law will be used as a pretext to formalise the recent military moves

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

A day after India expressed strong concerns over a new land border law to be passed by China, Beijing on Thursday said it hoped "relevant countries" would not make "wanton speculation over normal legislation".

India said on Wednesday the new Chinese land boundary law, to come into effect on January 1, should not be used to justify Beijing's actions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and expressed "concern" over the law.

The law, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, should not be used as a "pretext" to formalise any of the Chinese military's recent moves, from amassing thousands of troops in forward areas to carrying out multiple transgressions in violation of past border agreements.

The MEA said China's "unilateral decision to bring



WANG WENBIN
CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

The main purpose for formulating and promulgating this law is to further coordinate and strengthen boundary management and advance international cooperation in relevant fields

about a legislation which can have implications on our existing bilateral arrangements... is of concern to us."

Development projects

The border law designates various responsibilities for the Chinese military and local authorities in frontier areas, calling on the military to carry out drills and for local governments to step up border development projects. Among those projects are construction of civilian settlements called frontier villages in disputed areas along the India and Bhutan

borders.

Responding to India's concerns, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Thursday it "hopes relevant countries will abide by norms of international relations and refrain from wanton speculations on China's normal domestic legislation."

Its spokesperson Wang Wenbin stated, "The National Land Boundary Law was adopted at the 31st Session of the Standing Committee of the Thirteenth National People's Congress of China on October 23. On the same day, President Xi Jinping signed

Order No. 99 of the President of the People's Republic of China and issued the document, which is proclaimed to be enforced from January 1, 2022."

Boundary management

"This law consists of seven chapters and 62 articles. It stipulates clearly the leadership system and division of duties among different departments as well as between military and civilian authorities. It also offers clear provisions regarding delineation and demarcation of national land boundaries, defense and management of national land boundaries and borders, and international cooperation in national land boundary affairs," he added.

He stressed that the "main purpose for formulating and promulgating this law is to further coordinate, regulate and strengthen boundary management and advance

international cooperation in relevant fields."

Mr. Wang added, "It will not affect China's compliance with existing treaties related to national land boundary affairs China has already signed or change China's current mode of boundary management and cooperation with countries sharing a land boundary with it. Nor will it alter China's position and proposition on relevant boundary issues."

MEA response

The MEA on Wednesday noted that "unilateral moves" would have "no bearing" on agreements reached previously by the two sides. Many of those agreements are, however, under strain in the wake of the Chinese military's moves along the LAC last year, with the crisis in eastern Ladakh as yet unresolved after multiple rounds of talks.

India-EU trade talks to resume by December

It is likely to rival China's BRI strategy

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

After an eight-year hiatus, India and the European Union (EU) are set to resume negotiations for a Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) by December, according to a Government official.

Another official termed the India-EU connectivity partnership, announced in May, as a "counterfoil" to other such initiatives in an indirect reference to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"India-EU trade talks are set to start anytime by end of the year... We have prioritised and discussions will now go forward. It will be comprehensive talks," the official said on the sidelines of a report launch on Thursday.

He was speaking at the launch of the report 'India-EU Connectivity: Partner-

ship for Development, Demand and Democracy' organised by the think tank Research and Information System (RIS) for Developing Countries.

"Emphasis on our values, inclusiveness and transparency, local environment, avoiding debt trap... These may not find mention in the partnership but they were part of our discussions and we have been careful to infuse elements of it..." said Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (EW), Ministry of External Affairs, in an indirect reference to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which has come under criticism for creating debt traps on smaller countries.

Negotiations for a similar pact with U.K. are expected to kick off from November 1, with both sides looking forward to firming up offers for an early harvest pact by the end of this month.

BJP to contest all 117 Punjab seats

Announcement comes a day after Amarinder Singh hinted at seat adjustment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday sounded the poll bugle by announcing that it would contest all 117 seats in Punjab in the 2022 Assembly election, a day after former Chief Minister and Congress leader Amarinder Singh declared he would float a political party, and hinted at a "seat arrangement" with the BJP, if the farmers' protest was resolved.

In the run-up to the polls, the BJP, at an event here, announced its plan to reach the people in the State with the slogan 'Nawan Punjab - BJP de naal' (New Punjab with BJP).

Even as the BJP kicked off its campaign and its leaders asserted that the Government at the Centre was open for talks with farmers on the farm laws, the focus of the party seems to be on issues revolving around the Sikh



Mobilising support: The BJP strategy seems to be garnering the support of the Sikh community. ■ FILE PHOTO

community and national security.

Sikh interests

As it has been facing a backlash on the controversial farm laws, the BJP's apparent strategy for now looks to garner the support of the Sikh community by presenting itself as the party, which during the past seven years at the Centre, has worked towards their interests - be it the initiative to start the Kar-

tarpur corridor, which connects the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan with the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district, waiving of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from 'langar' (community kitchen) or granting Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration to Gurdwara Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple), enabling it to receive foreign donations.

The "national security" is-

all set to get prominence during the party's campaign amid recent incidents of drug smuggling and drones carrying weapons from across the International Border. The party has made it clear that the Centre's decision of extending the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) from 15 km to 50 km along the border was taken as "national security" can't be compromised.

Launching the campaign, Union Minister and election in-charge of Punjab Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the party would create history by forming the next government in the State.

Mr. Shekhawat said the BJP will give due political recognition to every segment of society and hit out at the Congress, the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Aam Aadmi Party accusing them of ignoring the State and its people's interests over the years.

Cong. braces up for bypolls in northeast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Congress's bid to bounce back after reverses would be put to test across the nine Assembly seats in three northeastern States where byelections will be held on October 30.

The campaign for the constituencies ended on Wednesday evening.

The Congress is the only political party contesting all nine seats - five in Assam, three in Meghalaya and one in Nagaland.

The party received a setback in Assam after its Mariani MLA and his Thowra counterpart quit to join the BJP. They are now the BJP candidates for these constituencies.

In Meghalaya, the Congress hopes to retain its two seats and add the third to its tally of 17 in the 60-member House.

UT OF LAKSHADWEEP LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Ph: 0484 2323448/458
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LDCL is inviting E-Tenders from leading P&I Insurance Clubs or in the list of Non-IG Insurance companies approved by DG Shipping being valid though out the period of the insurance cover in two bid systems for P&I Insurance cover for 25 vessels listed in this tender document for the period from 19.11.2021 to 19.11.2022. Tender document can be downloaded from <https://tendersutl.gov.in/nicepp/app>. For any help in e-tendering, please contact e-tender help Desk: 01204001005, 01206277787, and 01204001002, 8136929319. For tender clarification, please contact help Desk: 9446073122 / 9447047653.

NOTICE

Notice inviting applications for appointment to the post of Vice-Chancellor, Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar, Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir-263145

It is proposed to appoint a Vice-Chancellor for the G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar, Udhamsingh Nagar, Uttarakhand. A Search Committee has been set-up to draw a panel of names for appointment to the post of Vice-Chancellor of the University.

As the Vice-Chancellor is the Principal executive and academic officer of the University, he/she is required to have sound administrative acumen besides being an eminent professional and a distinguished academician. He/She must be a person of integrity, vision and foresight to lead the University to heights of academic excellence. He should have at least ten years of experience as Professor in a University system or 10 years of experience in an equivalent position in a reputed research or academic organization in the field of Teaching, Research or Extension in Agriculture or allied areas.

Experience in Senior Management positions in the areas mentioned above will be considered as a desirable qualification.

The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which he enters office subject to the age of his superannuation. The age of the applicant should not be more than 67 years as on the closing date (30th November 2021) for receipt of application. Applications from the interested candidates are invited in the prescribed format available on website www.gbpuat.ac.in.

The Last date for receiving the application is set as 30th November 2021 either by speed-post/in person (as per address given below) or online to the following email id: pssecretary76@gmail.com. The applications received after due date will not be considered and representations on it will be summarily rejected.

(Dr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram)
Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers welfare
Vishwakarma Bhawan, Room No. 201, Secretariat,
4-Subhash Road, Dehradun-248001
E-mail- pssecretary76@gmail.com

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"Stop Corona: Wash Your Hand, Wear Mask, Maintain Social Distancing"

PRESS NIT No. 01 (2021-22) EE(C) DR-VIII Re-invite

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV) Amount put to tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)	Tender processing Fee Non Refundable (Rs.)	Date of release of Tender/Tender Id.	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1	Construction of 3.85 (MGD) WWPS including Rising Main at Harsh Vihar	(Lump Sum) DBO Basis	NIT (Declaration form to be filled)	1500/-	2021_DJB_210227_1 Dated 28.10.2021	25.11.2021 upto 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 530 (2021-22)

Executive Engineer (C) DR-VIII

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROJECT) W-X, ASHOK VIHAR, OVERHEAD TANK: DELHI-110052
Tel: 011-27303265 Email id: projectwater@gmail.com

"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

N.I.T. No. 02(2021-22)

SN	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Tender Fees (Rs.) (non-refundable)	Date of Release of Tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of submission of tender through e-procurement solution	Tender ID
1	Laying and jointing 1500 mm diameter MS pipe line in the left out portion at Bhagya Vihar in the raw water main of Dwarka WTP under EE(Project)W-X	12,47,06,723/-	Exempted	1500/-	27.10.2021	19.11.2021 upto 03:00 PM	2021_DJB_210297_1

Note: Any further amendment/corrigendum made in this NIT will be uploaded and can only be seen on website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 531 (2021-22)

(Naresh Kumar Dargan)
Executive Engineer (Project) Water-X

KERALA LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRIES PARK PRIVATE LIMITED (KLIP) KERALA STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
(A GOVERNMENT OF KERALA UNDERTAKING)
Keston Road | Kowdiar | Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003
Ph: 0471 - 2318922 | Fax: 0471 - 2315893 | E-mail: enquiry@ksidclm.org

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) on behalf of Kerala Life Sciences Industries Park Private Limited invites Request For Proposal (RFP) from competent consultants for the following assignment:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Type of Tender	EMD (Rs.)	Item Rate	Time of Completion
1.	Carry out feasibility study, prepare detailed project report and undertake project management consultancy for establishing a common STP cum ETP at Life Sciences Park, Thonakkal, Thiruvananthapuram	Item	25,000/-	Quote	14 months

The last date for submission of application is 3:00 p.m. on 25.11.2021. For more details kindly visit www.ksidc.org.
Thiruvananthapuram
29.10.2021
MANAGING DIRECTOR

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Adv.No.39/D3/CE/TTD/2021-22 27/10/2021

e-tenders invited on e-procurement for One (01) work of TTD Engineering Dept.

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Name of the work	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs & Time for Completion	Schedule Start Date	Download End Date & Last Date for bid Submission
1	36/SE-III/TTD/2021-22	Supply erection and commissioning of compound cattle feed milling plant including annual maintenance for 4 years with one year warranty period in S.V. Gosam-rakshana sala, Tirupati.	650.00 9 Months	28-10-2021 5.00 p.m.	15-11-2021 1.00 p.m. & 3.00 p.m.

NOTICE

For full details log on to the website <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in/> or <http://www.approcurement.gov.in>.

Roc.No.PR4/13935/Adv.No.212/PR/2021/Dated:28-10-2021 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE TECHNOLOGIES
(Established through Act No. 18 of 2008)
ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

Ref.No: RGUKT-AP/Proc/SAL/Laptops/ET13/2021, Date 29.10.2021
RGUKT-AP/Temporary/Contract Faculty Recruitment/2021

E-PROCUREMENT - TENDER NOTICE

1. Online tenders are hereby invited from OEM/ authorized representatives of the OEM for supply and installation of 10,000 Laptops to the RGUKT four campuses. Interested bidders can download and submit bids online from 29.10.2021, 11:00 AM through <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> (AP Portal).

NOTIFICATION

2. RGUKT invites applications for contract faculty positions from eligible candidates in various disciplines on temporary basis for its constituent institutions for the academic year 2021-22. Interested candidates can apply through online link available at university website on or before 05:00 PM on 19.11.2021. For further details please visit the university website: www.rgukt.in

Sd/-
Registrar (I/c)

ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)
Head Office : Sri Venkateswara Arcade, 6/1 Annapurna Nagar East, Amaravathi Road, Gorantla, GUNTUR-522034, A.P.
Phone: 0863-2223600, 2223700, 2223800. Website: www.apfdcl.com
Email: vcmd_apfdcl@yahoo.co.in, vcmd.apfdcl@gmail.com

EUCALYPTUS DEBARKED PULPWOOD SALE NOTICE

Ref.No.OP.001/EPW/2021-22/804 Date : 27-10-2021

Sale of about 3.94 lakh MTs of Eucalyptus debarked pulpwood anticipated from (63) Units of Eucalyptus Plantations of A.P. Forest Development Corporation Limited, proposed to be held through e-Tender cum e Auction on "Konugolu" a Govt. of Andhra Pradesh e-Portal i.e., "<https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in>" from 11.00 hrs to 13.00 hrs (1st spell) and from 14.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs (2nd spell) on 09th of November, 2021. Units remaining unsold / unconfirmed will be exposed again on 18th of November, 2021, 25th of November, 2021 & 02nd of December 2021. For More details please visit the websites : <https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in> & <https://www.apfdcl.com>.

DIPR 450PP/CL, Dt.28.10.2021 Sd/- Vice Chairman and Managing Director

Action against MPs on RS ruckus pending

Two months since incident happened

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

More than two months after eight Ministers, at a joint press conference, accused the Opposition of assaulting security officials on the last day of the monsoon session of Parliament, there has been no disciplinary action against anyone. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat reached a stalemate after the Congress and a few other parties refused to be part of a probe committee.

Sources indicated that there was unlikely to be any action against the "errant" MPs ahead of the winter session from November 29. The issue will be taken up during the customary all-party meeting ahead of the session.

On August 11, during the passage of the contentious Insurance Bill, which 22 Opposition parties had demanded to be sent to a select committee for further scrutiny, there was a physical tussle between the Opposition members and the security staff. The very next day, the eight Ministers accused the Opposition of "bringing anarchy from the streets to Parliament". Cabinet Ministers Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan, Pralhad Joshi, Bhupendra Yadav, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Anurag Thakur and Ministers of State for Parlia-



M. Venkaiah Naidu's decision to form a committee was rejected by the Opposition.

mentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal and V. Muraleedharan sought the "strongest possible action against those who broke the rules".

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat has already completed its internal examination and studied the precedents of action taken in similar cases. House Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu wanted to constitute a special committee with members from all parties to investigate the August 11 events. But Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, on behalf of the Congress, declined to join such a committee. In a letter addressed to Mr. Naidu on September 9, he said such a committee seemed to be designed to intimidate the MPs into silence. Since then, the probe has come to a grinding halt and Mr. Naidu's office is left exploring the next course of action.

Centre proposes stricter regulations for CWC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Individuals who receive foreign aid in their personal capacity or as members of an organisation will not be eligible for the membership of Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), the Centre has proposed.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development on Thursday invited comments from stakeholders on the draft amendments to Juvenile Justice Model Rules,

2016. This follows the passage of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) (JJ) Amendment Bill, 2021, in Parliament earlier this year to empower District Magistrates (DMs) to issue adoption orders which would ensure speedy disposal of cases.

The draft rules also empower the central adoption agency CARA to issue No Objection Certificates (NOC) for adoptions by NRIs and OCIs.

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान मोहाली
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित)
सेक्टर-81, नॉर्दर्न सिटी, प.ओ. मानौली, एच.ए.ए.ए. नगर, मोहाली, फंडा-140306
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MOHALI
Sector-81, Knowledge City, P.O. Manauli, S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali, Punjab-140306
Website: www.iiser Mohali.ac.in

PhD Admissions (January 2022 session)

Applications are invited from prospective candidates for admission to the PhD Program at IISER Mohali in the areas of Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences and Humanities & Social Sciences, for the session beginning in January 2022. Candidates interested in pursuing research in interdisciplinary areas are also encouraged to apply.

Eligibility Criteria, Other details and Application procedure: The details of eligibility criteria, online application form and application procedure are available at <https://www.iiser Mohali.ac.in/admissions/phd-program-jan-2022>
Last date: The online application facility will be open till 12.00 noon, November 10, 2021 (Wednesday).

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LTD
VIDYUTH SODHA: VIJAYAWADA

NIT No. 610000876/AGNCO/2021

APGENCO invites tender for the work of "Manufacture & Supply of 960Nos. mill liners in Hi-Chrome composition for the Ball Tube mills of type BBD 4760 of Dr.NITPS" through APGENCO e-Procurement platform. Estimated Value of Contract: Rs. 1,09,87,810/- Bid Schedule available date & time: From 27.10.2021 onwards. Bid submission closing date & time: 15:00 Hrs on 18.11.2021. For further details visit website www.apgenco.gov.in or <https://etender.apgenco.gov.in>

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA GROUND WATER DEPARTMENT
NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT

E-TENDER NOTICE IFS No: TSGW/NHP/2021-22/DWL/RS/2284

The following online tender is invited by Ground Water Department, Hyderabad from eligible bidders under National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Details: Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of 695 Nos. Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs) (hydrostatic pressure type) with Telemetry System in existing piezometers of Ground Water Department, Telangana. Important Dates: Start Date of Download: 30/10/2021 (10.30hrs). Last Date of Submission: 10/11/2021 (15.00hrs) Date of Pre-bid Meeting: 10/11/2021 (11.30hrs). The detailed IFS is available on the e-procurement website <https://procure.gov.in> / eprocure.ap.gov.in (Tender ID: 2021_GWDT5_654715_1), <https://gwtd.telangana.gov.in> and NHP website <http://nhp.mowr.gov.in>

SD/- Director & Nodal Officer, NHP Ground Water Department

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)

e-Mail: bmrcld@dataone.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in
No: BMRCL/WHTD/HBGD&KTND/M&P-L22 Date: 28.10.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites sealed Tenders from eligible Manufacturers or Indian subsidiary of the manufacturer or authorized Indian manufacturer of the OEM as a sole Tenderer or as a Joint Venture/Consortium (group) through Local Competitive Bidding (LCB) for "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Road cum Rail Vehicle with Re-Railing Equipment for Whitefield, Heggabadi and Kothanur Depots of BMRCL Phase-II Project" under Single Stage, Two Cover system. Cost of Tender documents (non-refundable): INR 29,500/- [25,000+4,500 (GST@18%)]. Online sale of Documents: From 30.10.2021 until midnight of 20.11.2021. Last date of seeking clarification: 23.11.2021. Pre-bid meeting: 26.11.2021. Submission of Tenders: 18.12.2021 from 11.00 Hrs. (IST) to 15.00 Hrs. (IST). Opening of Tenders: 18.12.2021 at 15.30 Hrs. (IST). For further details visit our website: www.bmrc.co.in

Sd/- Managing Director

IN BRIEF



MHA extends COVID-19 guidelines till Nov. 30

NEW DELHI
The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the COVID-19 guidelines issued under the Disaster Management Act till November 30. The MHA asked the States to take relevant action under various provisions of the Act for strict implementation of containment measures.

J&K govt. transfers 65.5 acres to CRPF

SRINAGAR
The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday transferred over 524 kanals (65.5 acres) of land for CRPF personnel and their families stationed in the Valley. A government spokesman said the Administrative Council (AC), headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has approved the proposal of transfer of 524 kanal and 11 marla of land in favour of the CRPF "for establishing battalion camping sites". "The land will be transferred against the payment as per the Stamp Duty Rates notified for the year, 2021. It will provide for safe and proper accommodation to CRPF personnel and their families," a spokesman said.

Islamabad protests killing of Pak. prisoner

SRINAGAR
Pakistan on Thursday registered a protest with the Indian Foreign Office in Islamabad over the killing of Zia Mustafa, a Pakistani civilian prisoner, in the Pir Panjal valley's Poonch Sector. "The Indian Charge d'Affaires was summoned to the (Pakistan) Foreign Office today and a strong protest was lodged on the reported killing of a Pakistani civilian prisoner Mustafa, who was in Indian custody since 2003," a Pakistan government spokesman said. He said Islamabad urged the Indian government to undertake a transparent investigation and hold the perpetrators to account.

Manish Gupta case: SC to urgently list plea

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to urgently list for hearing a plea made by the wife of Kanpur businessman Manish Gupta, who died from injuries sustained after being allegedly thrashed by the police in his Gorakhpur hotel room. In an urgent mentioning made before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, Meenakshi Gupta's lawyer said the Uttar Pradesh Government had recommended the case for investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). However, the agency was yet to take over the probe. "The lady is running from pillar-to-post," the lawyer submitted.

INTERVIEW | BHUPENDER YADAV

'We will discuss access to technology and finance at COP26'

Union Environment Minister says India will demand a transparent framework during talks at the UN Climate Change Conference

JACOB KOSHY
DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Ahead of his departure to Glasgow, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav outlined India's key concerns at the COP negotiations, and said his Ministry's policy was to balance the challenges posed by infrastructure development in forests. Edited excerpts:

You have been Union Environment Minister for three months. What do you think are two or three of the most important environmental challenges you will like to solve, or at least address, on priority?

■ We are all working to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. In the past seven years, forest cover has increased by 13,000 sq.km, 14 tiger reserves have got world accreditation, our lakes have been included in the Ramsar convention, 10 beaches have got a Blue Flag accreditation. Challenges such as stubble burning in Delhi, or addressing the challenges in the Western Ghats, we have done well. We are working in a way to ensure development as well as giving importance to the rights of tribals as well as protecting the forest.

In your experiences as a lawyer and public figure – and you have authored a book on Forest conservation – do you feel that environmental laws may impede people from getting access to basic services, basic education and jobs? Could you relate a few instances?

■ As a lawyer, I have been involved in environmental litigation and written on forest laws. Following the advent of

PM Modi, our thrust has been to increase transparency and accountability. The biggest example of this is the Parivesh portal (which allows files on the progress of an industrial project requiring environmental clearance to be tracked) that increases transparency. The Environment Ministry is the trustee of the environment and that brings in both responsibilities and obligations. To bring consonance between both in a balanced way.

The Environment Ministry is working on modifying legislation, such as the Forest Conservation Act, that seems to make it more convenient for industries and industrial projects to use forest land for non-forestry purposes. On the other hand, we continue to see agitation in Chhattisgarh, especially around coal mining blocks in Hasdeo Arand forests because people don't want to give up their land for mining. On whose side is the Environment Ministry? The Environment Ministry no longer uses the word "penalty or fine" but "environmental compensation"

■ When we come out with a draft, it is to solicit the opinion of the people. That's not a bad thing, right? So we have not yet actually made

any legislation. But consider this: Say a tribal with some land wants to make a provision for drinking water, do you want him to come all the way to Delhi for permission?

But it's the tribals themselves who are agitating for their land?

■ As far as private mining is concerned; we have not made any concessions. The existing laws apply.

But for providing basic amenities to tribals, or helping infrastructure projects of organisations such as the Railways the policy is restricted to such purposes. There is no change in the Act. This follows from the demands of several States, tribal communities.

We will first have several rounds of consultations with States, follow parliamentary process and we have even given notices in vernacular languages and have given a month.

This is your first experience as a Minister who will be leading some crucial negotiations in Glasgow....

■ I am grateful to PM Modi for entrusting me with this responsibility. He has authored a book as well as developed a climate division in his days as Chief Minister. The Paris Agreement of 2015 has important aspects of climate justice that follow from his vision. Globally, climate shouldn't be just about negotiations but also action. That is why we have the International Solar Alliance, International Disaster Resilience Forum that the PM led. India is progressing well



The Environment Ministry is trustee of the environment; that brings both responsibilities and obligations

on achieving its Nationally Determined Contributions. We have an ambitious target of installing 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030. In the coming COP 26, to implement the adaption and mitigation measures from increased global temperatures, we will be discussing access to technology and finance with the developed countries.

We demand a transparent framework and all this will be part of our discussions.

India's challenge in COP discussions has always been that while we are not responsible for the climate crisis, we are the victims of it and we are already seeing intense heatwaves and unseasonal torrential rain. Is there a case, that at least for our own sake, we should be doing much more, and much faster in transitioning to non-fossil fuel sources?

■ Having a 450 GW renewable energy target, an electric vehicle policy, increasing the forest cover, having an International Solar Alliance, a na-

tional mission for hydrogen are all part of our steps and these are the points that we are consistently raising and discussing.

You are also one of the BJP's key election strategists. What will be your party's approach to the upcoming Uttar Pradesh polls? Also why is your party against a caste census?

■ We have done good work in Uttar Pradesh particularly in vaccination. We have delivered consistent development and we shall ask for votes in the name of consistency and continuity and U.P. is at this point with the BJP.

One of our most avowed aims is working towards an egalitarian society. All sections of society must benefit. The amount of work that this Government has done for the OBC (Other Backward Classes) no one else has.

Whether it was admissions for students in Kendriya Vidyalayas, an Act for University Professors, Reservations for OBC students in NEET examinations. We desire development for all under Constitutional provisions.

The e-Shram portal for unorganised workers that was launched in August has about 5 crore registrations so far. Are you satisfied with the pace and how long do you think it will take to cover all the unorganised sector workers in the country?

■ We have received good support from people in two months already. We are

about to increase the number of trades recorded in the portal from about 160 to 400. I believe what we had thought initially that we will create the largest-ever database of unorganised workers, we will achieve it.

Earlier, our registrations were 10 lakh per day. We have increased the capacity to 25 lakh per day. We are working on taking this forward.

Is there a timeline?

■ No, it is a continuous and evolving process. Slowly, it will be updated and upgraded. The number of migrant workers is very large. Updates will continue in order to increase the capacity in the future and to connect the data with planning. It is an ongoing process.

From the data seen so far, we can see that women workers make up about 50%. Caste data has also come out. What can be learnt from the data so far?

■ We haven't asked for castes; we have asked for trade and occupation. Along with this, there are two other employment surveys of the government that are underway – the institution-based survey in the non-agricultural sector and the area-based. There is also a survey of unorganised sector. These tell us that compared to data from Economic Census 2013-2014, in all sectors, apart from trade and manufacturing, there has been an increase. These surveys will also be done quarterly now. In the four new labour codes, we have focused on social se-

curity. We are working on giving benefits of this to the unorganised sector. Since we are talking of extending social security to a large section of workers, we are working on capacity-building of ESIC and EPFO.

What is the reason for the labour codes, which were passed in 2019 and 2020, not being implemented so far?

■ Different States are in the process of making the rules. The work is complete in about 90% of the States and the consensus is being built. Such major codes need infrastructure also. I have already said that a very large section of unorganised sector is being given the benefits of social security.

But, what about a timeline for the implementation?

■ The government will complete it in the appropriate time.

It was announced last year that ₹1,000 crore would be given for migrant welfare from the PM CARES fund. How has it been used?

■ A lot of work has been done. The Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana is under Amanibhar Yojana. Work has been done to increase the employment opportunities for workers. The most important is that ESIC has come up with two schemes – to give life-long pension to the families of those ESIC beneficiaries who died of COVID-19 and aid to those who lost their jobs for 90 days.

NEET-UG results can be declared, says SC

It stays HC decision to conduct fresh exams for 2 aspirants

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday cleared the way for the National Testing Agency (NTA) to declare the results of the NEET-UG 2021 by staying a Bombay High Court decision to conduct fresh exams for two aspirants.

The High Court passed the order on a plea by the two students that they were handed question papers and answer sheets with different serial numbers in the examination.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao froze the High Court order, allowing the NEET results to be declared. The Bench said it would consider the two stu-



dents' case, including what could be done for them, in detail later.

The NTA had approached the top court in appeal against the High Court order.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the NTA, stated that the confusion had happened in the case of total six students, of which only two

had come to court. "The remaining four wrote the exam and got good marks," he submitted.

The court reiterated that there was no reason to withhold the results because of a complaint made by two students. The future of lakhs of students was at stake.

Justice Rao observed, "There are 16 lakhs students who are eagerly waiting for the results. We will see what we can do for these two students... The NTA is ready to rectify... Please announce the results".

The court scheduled the case again on November 12 to examine in detail on what relief could possibly be granted for the two students.

Plea seeks internal polls in parties

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Election Commission to respond to a petition seeking to formulate and notify a model procedure for internal elections of all political parties.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh asked the poll panel to submit its response before the next date of hearing on December 23.

The High Court order came on a petition filed by C. Rajashekar, a lawyer himself.

The petition has urged the Election Commission to make internal polls mandatory for all parties who wish to register themselves under Section 29-A of the Representation of the People Act.

Tushar Gandhi challenges Sabarmati Ashram revamp

He has moved the Gujarat HC against Govt. proposal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson Tushar Gandhi has moved the Gujarat High Court against the State Government's ₹1,200-crore plan to revamp Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad.

In a PIL plea, Mr. Gandhi has challenged the proposal, under which the Government has started the redevelopment process that involves extending its area from five to 55 acres by relocating residents to nearby areas. He claimed that the project proposed was 'diametrically opposed' to the personal wishes of Mahatma Gandhi, who set up the ashram and lived there from 1917 to 1930.

Mr. Gandhi has contend-



Gandhiji's statue in the Sabarmati Ashram.

ed that going ahead with the project would lead to the reduction of the shrine and memorial of the Freedom movement and turn the ashram into a commercial tourist attraction spot. It would be managed by the Government and private firms instead of the trust that managed it now.

He sought the cancellation of the resolution of March 5 issued by the Indus-

tries and Mines Department forming a governing council and an executive council, comprising entirely Government functionaries, for the development of the memorial and its premises.

He contended that if the court did not stay or stop the Government's indulgence, "the entire complex would be ruined and would be turned into a commercial entertainment complex".

The Government, however, has maintained that it would not change or alter any building on the ashram. All heritage buildings would be restored as per Gandhian ethos, it stated and asserted that the proposal was not aimed at a takeover but to redevelop it by expanding the areas.

TH CROSSWORD + 13389 Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids: @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjptn> SCAN TO PLAY

ACROSS

- 1 Small fly circling a painting (8)
- 5 Limitless dosa and chutney as supplements (4,2)
- 9 One living underwater in canoe running mostly self-propelled? (8)
- 10 Exit with a second person at the end of act (3,3)
- 12 Nobles revolting, say, meet Lenin regularly in disguise (9)
- 13 Subsequently, both sides drink fresh tea (5)
- 14 Racecourse cancels a tax (4)

DOWN

- 1 Cast off depression (6)
- 2 A horse carrying a German over the hill (6)
- 3 John left holding a Panama, say (5)
- 4 Drop best saw (7)
- 6 Difficult situations resulting in hair loss? (9)
- 7 Fair Carol consumes wine (8)
- 8 Clerks sign below brief memo (8)
- 11 Opposing anarchy, nation tries incompetent leaders (4)
- 15 They are wicked to keep ducks as pets (9)
- 17 American is terrified packing a cylinder of gunpowder (8)
- 18 Doctor said "All OK. No sugar, for starters, and caffeine, maybe" (8)
- 20 A man held up for a long time (4)
- 21 Evangelist cycling east with the French guitar (7)
- 22 Sailor about to attack? On the contrary – he is a man of discrimination (6)
- 23 Escort protecting short maiden gets tipped (6)
- 26 Kid happily eats last bit of chocolate (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13388

A	S	S	E	S	S	T	A	R	I	F	F		
D	U	U	G	N	I								
J	O	B	B	E	R	S	V	E	N	T	U	R	E
R	S	C	L	N	E	S							
A	N	T	I	C	H	R	I	S	T	N	O	T	
F	I	N	D	I									
P	A	V	E	S	C								
P	A	Y	E	R	E	N	T	R	E	P	O	T	
R	I	G	E	R	A	S							
D	E	L	I	V	E	R	A	A	U	D	I	T	
F	E	N	M	O	D	I							
N	E	T	S	H	A	R	E	I	N	D	E	X	
R	E	I	N	S	E	N							
P	R	O	R	A	T	A	I	M	P	O	R	T	S
E	I	I	A	A	U	R							
D	E	M	A	N	D	K	N	O	T	T	Y		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Eye on Afghanistan, China to build military base in Tajikistan

The base will be owned by the Tajikistan special forces and financed by China

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

China will take full control of a military base in Tajikistan near the Afghan border that it has been quietly operating and will also build a new base for the Tajik Government, according to a report on Thursday.

Tajikistan on Wednesday granted approval for the construction of a new base, following an agreement reached between Tajikistan's Interior Ministry and China's Public Security Ministry or police force, the U.S.-funded Radio Free Europe (RFE) reported. That the agreement was being signed by the Public Security Ministry, and not the Chinese military, suggests a focus on counterterrorism amid rising concerns over instability in neighbouring Afghanistan. The new base, RFE quoted Tajik officials as



Watchful eyes: Tajik service members taking part in a military parade near the border with Afghanistan. • REUTERS/FILE

saying, would be owned by Tajikistan's Rapid Reaction Group or special forces, and financed by China for a cost of \$10 million. It will be located in the eastern Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous province near the Pamir mountains, and Chinese troops will not be stationed there.

While this base will be under Tajik control, the Tajikistan Government has also

agreed to transfer full control of an existing facility that both sides have been using jointly, a former Soviet base not far from the China-Tajikistan-Afghanistan tri-junction and the Wakhan Corridor, where China shares a less than 100 km border with Afghanistan.

Russia and India are among countries that already have a military presence in bases in Tajikistan. China

and Tajikistan have, however, continued to officially deny the presence of Chinese security forces there.

However, a communique from China's Embassy in Dushanbe to Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry, seen by RFE, said the Tajik Government offered to transfer full control in exchange for military aid from China. That base too is thought to be staffed not by the Chinese military but by China's People's Armed Police Force, which is responsible for internal security in Xinjiang. China's interest in the base is tied to its security concerns in its western Xinjiang region, which shares a border with Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The base, once full control has been transferred, will become only the second known overseas Chinese security facility, after Djibouti near the Horn of Africa.

Tsai confirms U.S. troop presence in Taiwan

China accuses U.S. of trying to 'stir up trouble'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TAIPEI

President Tsai Ing-wen has confirmed a small number of U.S. troops are present in Taiwan to help with training, adding she had "faith" that the American military would defend the island in the event of a Chinese attack.

The remarks sparked a strident, albeit familiar, rebuke on Thursday from China which accused the U.S. of trying to "stir up trouble" and that it "firmly opposes" any official or military con-

tacts between Taipei and Washington.

In an interview with CNN, Ms. Tsai described Taiwan as a regional "beacon" of democracy that is facing down a giant authoritarian neighbour as the threat from Beijing grew "every day".

The presence of U.S. troops was first confirmed by a Pentagon official earlier this month. Ms. Tsai's comments are the first time a Taiwanese leader has publicly made such an admission since the last U.S. garrison left in 1979 when Washington switched diplomatic recognition to Beijing.

Asked how many U.S. troops were in Taiwan, she



Tsai Ing-wen

replied "not as many as people thought". "We have a wide range of cooperation with the U.S. aiming at increasing our defence capability," she added.

When asked if she was confident that the United

States would help defend Taiwan if necessary against China, Ms. Tsai replied: "I do have faith."

Speaking to lawmakers on Thursday, Taiwan's Defence Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng said U.S. and Taiwanese troops have long had contacts with each other. "We have personnel exchanges and they [U.S. soldiers] would be here for military cooperation, but this is different, according to my definition, from having 'troops stationed' here," Mr. Chiu said.

Authoritarian China regards self-ruled Taiwan as its own territory and has vowed to one day seize the island, by force if needed.

New clashes rock Sudan's capital as UN slams coup

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KHARTOUM

Security forces clashed with protesters on Thursday furious over a military coup that has derailed Sudan's fragile transition to democracy and sparked an international outcry.

At least one protester was killed, according to medics, on the fourth consecutive day of street violence in Khartoum, as the UN Security Council and U.S. President Joe Biden called for a restoration of the civilian-led government toppled by the Army on Monday.

The council in a unanimously passed statement expressed "serious concern" about the Army power grab in the poverty-stricken Northeast African nation and urged all sides "to engage in dialogue without pre-conditions".

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan – Sudan's de facto leader since the 2019 ouster of veteran autocrat Omar al-Bashir after huge youth-led protests – on Monday dissolved the country's fragile government.

Major demonstration While the civilian leader, Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, has been under effective house arrest, the capital has been rocked by days of unrest and is bracing for major demonstrations on Saturday.

Roads have been blocked by barricades of rocks, debris and burning car tyres that have sent black smoke billowing into the sky, while most shops have been shuttered in a campaign of civil disobedience. "We do not want military power, we want a free democratic life in this country," said one protester, who asked not to be named.

Facebook changes parent company name to 'Meta'

Time to build next chapter: Zuckerberg

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAN FRANCISCO

Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg on Thursday announced that the parent company's name is being changed to "Meta" to represent a future beyond just its troubled social network.

The new handle comes as the social media giant tries to fend off one of its worst crises yet and pivot to its ambitions for the "metaverse" virtual reality version of the Internet that the tech giant sees as the future.

Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp will keep their names under the rebranding.

"We've learned a lot from struggling with social issues and living under closed platforms, and now it is time to take everything that we've learned and help build the

next chapter," Mr. Zuckerberg said during an annual developers conference.

"I am proud to announce that starting today, our company is now Meta. Our mission remains the same, still about bringing people together, our apps and their brands, they're not changing," he added.

Facebook critics pounced last week on a report that leaked the rebranding plans, arguing that the company was aiming to distract from recent scandals and controversy. An activist group calling itself The Real Facebook Oversight Board has warned that major industries like oil and tobacco had rebranded to "deflect attention" from their problems. The "real issue" was the need for oversight and regulation, the group said.

U.S. returns 250 antiquities to India

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

U.S. authorities returned about 250 antiquities to India on Thursday in a long-running investigation of a stolen art scheme.

The items, worth an estimated \$15 million, were handed over during a ceremony at the Indian Consulate in New York City. The centrepiece is a bronze Shiva Nataraja valued at \$4 million, authorities said.

The ceremony stems from a sprawling probe by the Manhattan district attorney's office and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The investigation has focused on tens of thousands of antiquities allegedly smuggled into the United States by dealer Subhash Kapoor, who has denied the allegations.

'U.S. will stand in defence of religious freedom'

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden said America would continue to stand for religious freedom globally, both as a reflection of the country's values and also as a matter of national security, in a written statement released on Wednesday to commemorate International Religious Freedom Day.

"We stand in defence of religious freedom not only as an expression of our deepest values but also because it is a vital national security priority. The United States will continue to rally the globe to protect and promote the right of freedom of religion or belief," Mr. Biden said.

The comments are consistent with the Biden administration's position that it has made human rights central to its foreign policy.

Mr. Biden said promoting and protecting religious freedom was of utmost importance today as individuals continued to get persecuted by state and non-state actors for their religious identity.

"Tragically, repressive governments, violent extremists, and other societal actors continue to persecute and abuse individuals and groups simply because of their religious identity, practices, or beliefs," he said.

"Every faith is in the minority somewhere in the world, and we can only fully realise the freedom we wish for ourselves by helping to ensure that liberty for everyone. On International Religious Freedom Day 2021, my Administration pledges to make that aspiration a reality around the world," the U.S. President said.

Biden proposes \$1.85 tn social security and climate plan

U.S. President seeks support for 'Build Back Better' proposal

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

In a bid to unite Democrats on Capitol Hill around an agenda-defining social security and climate action Bill, U.S. President Joe Biden visited Capitol Hill on Thursday morning, proposing a \$1.85 trillion legislative package.

The President delayed his departure to Rome for the G20 meetings, as the White House scrambled to bring conservative (centrist) and progressive Democrats together, so Mr. Biden had something to show the international community in Rome and then in Scotland, where nations will meet for the UN climate conference (COP26).

"We have a framework that will get 50 votes in the United States Senate," Mr. Biden told House Democrats, according to reporting in the American press.

"I don't think it's hyperbole to say that the House and Senate majorities and my presidency will be determined by what happens in the next week," he reportedly said.

Key elements left out

The new 'Build Back Better' proposal, which has been linked to a \$1 trillion infrastructure Bill that passed the Senate and is awaiting passage by the House of Representatives, leaves out key elements of Mr. Biden's initial request of Congress, including paid family leave, free community college tuition and provisions for the government to negotiate lower drug prices.

It will nevertheless include significant social spending measures – such as expanded access to preschool for 3 and 4 year olds, making them universal, and



Joe Biden

the largest federal investment in clean energy and tech – of the order of \$555 billion.

"No one got everything they wanted, including me... but that's what compromise is," Mr. Biden said as he announced the proposal at the White House following his meeting on the Hill.

'Very significant'

Bernie Sanders, the Senator from Vermont and progressive who heads the Senate Budget Committee, said the legislation was "very significant" but that he wanted to make it "better".

Progressives are concerned that the 'Build Back Better' package will not go through if the House passes just the infrastructure vote, for which there is bipartisan support. Mr. Sanders made it clear that he was not in support of the infrastructure legislation passing independently.

"So you don't want to see as the infrastructure Bill passed and then not have the kind of build back better Bills that we need," he said.

"And that's why you need 50 members [of the Senate] on board before there should be a vote in the House."

The success of the social security package has hinged

on the support of two Democratic Senators – Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona – and neither has thus far offered their clear support for the updated Biden plan. The Senate is split 50:50 (with Vice-President Kamala Harris holding a tie-breaking vote), and the Democrats need every single one of their members on board for the legislation to pass.

The Bill, as per data released by the administration, will be fully funded and not add to the deficit.

There will be a tax surcharge for the wealthiest Americans that the White House says will bring in \$230 billion.

There will also be penalties on companies that are based in countries not adhering to the global minimum tax recently agreed by more than 130 countries and a surcharge of 1% on corporate stock buybacks.

'A capitalist'

"I don't want to punish anyone's success. I'm a capitalist," Mr. Biden said. "I want everyone to be able to... if they want to be a millionaire, billionaire, to be able to seek their goal. But all I'm asking is: pay your fair share," he said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the chamber's top Democrat, told her colleagues not to "embarrass" the President before his overseas trip by not voting for the infrastructure Bill, CNN reported.

Mr. Biden will arrive in Rome and meet other world leaders en masse for the first time since America's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, and he is keen to show them that his domestic agenda – particularly around climate change – is in order.

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MARKET WATCH

	28-10-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,985	-1.89
US Dollar	74.92	0.14
Gold	47,050	0.64
Brent oil	83.72	-0.68

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	688.10	-57.75
Asian Paints	3116.30	21.65
Axis Bank	758.35	-29.15
Bajaj Auto	3700.70	-75.80
Bajaj Finserv	17987.70	-24.30
Bajaj Finance	7484.25	2.10
Bharti Airtel	689.75	-12.60
BPCL	420.80	-6.90
Britannia Ind	3681.90	-15.95
Cipla	891.75	-30.75
Coal India	166.55	-7.05
Divis Lab	5121.15	-28.20
Dr Reddys Lab	4569.95	-92.75
Eicher Motors	2527.50	-56.40
Graham Ind	1792.40	-26.00
HCL Tech	1152.00	-25.15
HDFC	2900.80	-14.20
HDFC Bank	1593.60	-49.20
HDFC Life	683.10	-10.75
Hero MotoCorp	2667.75	-22.40
Hindalco	468.80	-11.05
Hind Unilever	2389.65	-6.95
ICICI Bank	798.70	-36.30
IndusInd Bank	1176.00	33.45
Infosys	1703.90	-25.05
Indian Oil Corp	128.65	-2.15
ITC	225.10	-13.35
JSW Steel	667.45	-17.45
Kotak Bank	2098.50	-89.75
L&T	1814.25	29.70
M&M	883.85	-2.95
Maruti Suzuki	7369.70	13.45
Nestle India Ltd.	18991.40	-13.20
NTPC	137.35	-3.95
ONGC	150.20	-7.70
PowerGrid Corp	185.90	-4.35
Reliance Ind	2598.60	-28.80
SBI Life	1167.10	-18.90
State Bank	501.35	-17.80
Shree Cement	28193.05	85.30
Sun Pharma	807.60	-17.50
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	809.70	-9.05
Tata Motors	481.05	-16.85
Tata Steel	1299.60	-26.55
TCS	3421.65	-68.10
Tech Mahindra	1533.30	-34.55
Titan	2375.15	-84.95
UltraTech Cement	7446.65	92.45
UPL	729.90	-11.60
Wipro	656.90	-14.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 28

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.72	75.04
Euro	86.72	87.12
British Pound	102.78	103.23
Japanese Yen (100)	65.76	66.06
Chinese Yuan	11.68	11.73
Swiss Franc	81.33	81.73
Singapore Dollar	55.47	55.71
Canadian Dollar	60.47	60.73
Malaysian Ringgit	17.99	18.09

Source: Indian Bank

Cognizant Q3 profit rises 56% to \$544 million

NEW DELHI Cognizant reported a 56.3% rise in September quarter net income to \$544 million. It aims to make offers in India to 45,000 freshers in Q4. PTI

Sensex slumps 1.9% led by bank stocks as sentiment sours

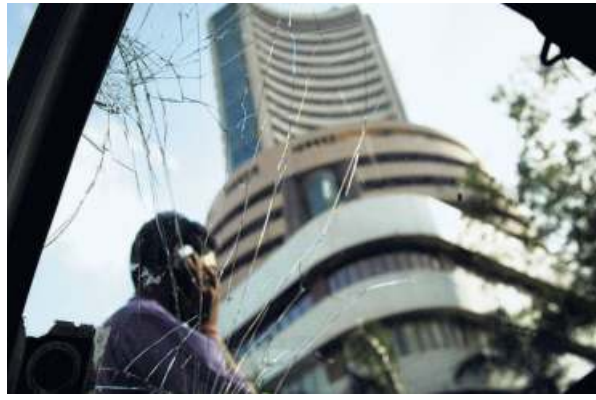
Analysts flag possibility of a further slide in the coming days, urge caution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI Benchmark stock indices plunged almost 2% on Thursday amid concerns about the impact of inflation on economies worldwide, prompting analysts to flag the possibility of a further slide in the coming days.

The S&P BSE Sensex nosedived 1,158.63 points, or 1.89%, to 59,984.70. Selling pressure was witnessed across the board and the fall was led by banking stocks.

The top Sensex losers included ITC, down 5.5%, ICI-ICI Bank, which fell 4.4%, Kotak Bank (4.1%), Axis Bank (3.8%) and Titan (3.7%).

The NSE Nifty 50 index



Caution returns: We suggest restricting leveraged positions, says Religare Broking's Mishra. • PAUL NORONHA

plunged 353.70 points, or 1.94%, to 17,857.25 amid all-round profit booking. Monthly expiry of deriva-

Coal imports by power units slide to 7 year-low

Price drives trend, exacerbates deficit

REUTERS CHENNAI Indian utilities' coal imports fell more than 73% in September to their lowest in more than seven years due to high prices, government data showed, despite a call by the Centre to boost shipments to arrest a crippling coal shortage.

Imports by utilities fell to 1.08 million tonnes in September, compared with 4.03 million tonnes a year earlier and 5.23 million tonnes in September 2019.

India had urged utilities to import coal in late August as coal-fired electricity generation surged after coronavirus-related curbs were eased, with several power plants being pushed to the verge of running out of fuel.



However, data from the Central Electricity Authority showed State government-run coastal power plants dependent on imported coal had cut supplies as global prices surged, increasing pressure on Coal India to produce more.

“Weak signals from the global counterparts were weighing on sentiment, which further deteriorated with a decline in index majors”.

Earlier, Japan's Nikkei led losses in Asia with a fall of 0.9%, Reuters reported. “Most sectoral indices ended lower... banking, metal and realty were among the top losers,” Religare Broking's Mr. Mishra said. “This fall in the index has derailed the recent recovery and we may see a further slide in the following sessions. We reiterate our cautious view on markets and suggest restricting leveraged positions,” he added.

₹18,300-crore Paytm IPO to open on Nov. 8

Price drives trend, exacerbates deficit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI The ₹18,300-crore initial public offering (IPO) by One97 Communications, the parent firm of Paytm, will open on November 8, valuing the company at close to \$20 billion.

The price band has been fixed at ₹2,080 to ₹2,150 for the offer, which will close on November 10, the company said. The IPO, the largest since 2010 when state-owned Coal India raised ₹15,475 crore, comprises issuance of fresh equity shares worth ₹8,300 crore and offer for sale by existing shareholders of ₹10,000 crore. Paytm increased the issue size from the earlier ₹16,600 crore following increased investor demand.

IndiGo loss narrows from June quarter

Festivals, inflation fears to add sparkle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI Budget airline IndiGo on Thursday reported second-quarter net loss narrowed to ₹1,435 crore, from ₹3,174 crore in the April-June three-month period.

Revenue from operations grew 86.5% from the preceding quarter to ₹5,608 crore. CEO Ronojoy Dutta said a fall in COVID-19 cases, increased pace of vaccination and relaxation of testing norms by various States for passengers arriving at airports had helped stimulate demand resulting in improved revenue.

“We carried about 6.3 million passengers in the June quarter, which expanded to 11.2 million – an increase of 79%,” he said.

Rupee, bonds gain on global oil price decline

Fuel trends temper inflation concerns

REUTERS MUMBAI The rupee and bonds strengthened on Thursday as a drop in global crude oil prices helped calm investor worries over sustained imported inflationary pressures in the economy.

India imports about 80% of its oil requirements and high global prices percolate through the economy and hurt consumers, while also widening the country's current account deficit.

Oil prices dropped to their lowest in two weeks after data showed a jump in U.S. inventories, and rising cases of COVID-19 in Europe, Russia and outbreaks in China dented hopes for an economic recovery.

74.84/85 per dollar at 0748 GMT compared to its close of 75.025 on Wednesday.

Yields dip

Traders said bond yields too dropped, tracking the fall in U.S. Treasury yields and oil prices with the 10-year expected to be rangebound between 6.25% and 6.40% in the absence of major triggers.

The 10-year bond yield was trading at 6.33%, down 1 basis point on the day after having touched 6.31% earlier in the session. The central bank on Wednesday announced a 28-day variable rate reverse repo auction for ₹50,000 crore on November 2, a move some said is another step towards liquidity normalisation.

Gold demand rises 47% in July-September: WGC

Festivals, inflation fears to add sparkle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI Demand for gold in India, which was 47% higher in the July-September quarter compared with a year earlier, is expected to rise further in the current quarter due to festival and wedding season demand, said Somasundaram P.R., regional CEO, India, World Gold Council. Expectations of higher inflation in the country would also likely further spur demand for the yellow metal, he added.

“India's Q3 2021 gold demand at 139.1 tonnes is a 47% jump over 2020, reflecting a combination of low base effect and return of positive trade and consumer sentiments,” he said. “This is primarily driven



by what appears to be a firm grip on the pandemic with higher vaccination rates and falling infection rates, leading to a strong rebound in economic activity.”

Softer gold prices had also generated significant consumer interest, he said.

The upcoming festival and wedding season could be the busiest gold-buying season since the start of the pandemic, he pointed out.

Sugar estimate pared to 305 lakh tonnes

Festivals, inflation fears to add sparkle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT COIMBATORE The Indian Sugar Mills' Association (ISMA) has estimated net sugar production for the current season (2021-22) at 305 lakh tonnes, a small reduction from the 310 lakh tonnes it had projected in July.

With higher ethanol production capacity and surplus cane production, about 34 lakh tonnes of sugar is expected to be diverted for ethanol this season, ISMA said on Thursday.

After accounting for the reduction due to diversion of cane juice and B-molasses to ethanol, ISMA estimated production at 305 lakh tonnes.

Area under sugarcane is pegged at 54.37 lakh hectares this season, it added.

SPORT

Ridhima bests Maana again

Kushagra sets 1,500m National record

AQUATICS

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

Karnataka's Ridhima Veerendra Kumar provided another glimpse of her growing status as one of the country's best by sprinting to her second backstroke gold at the 74th senior National aquatic championships at the Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre on Thursday.

The 14-year-old relegated Maana Patel to second spot for the second successive race (after 100m backstroke on day one) by clocking 29.94s over 50m, and missed rewriting Maana's National record by an agonising five-hundredth of a second.

The day's lone National record was set by Kushagra Rawat, who added the 1,500m gold to the 400m and 800m titles he had won earlier, also in record times. The Delhi swimmer's timing of 15:38.13 was over three seconds faster than his own previous best mark set in 2019.

Dominant Prachi

Fellow Delhi swimmer Prachi Tokas proved equally dominant in long-distance swimming, securing the 800m freestyle title to add to her 1,500m gold from Wednesday. Prachi and second-placed Aanya Wala were neck-and-neck until the last 200m, before the former surged ahead to touch the pad in 9:20.16.

Elsewhere, Sajan Prakash won his second individual gold, coasting to victory in 200m butterfly. The Tokyo Olympian's timing of 1:58.74 was nearly six seconds faster than second-placed Aryan Panchal.

Srihari Nataraj added yet another gold to his kitty, in



Asserting her stature: Ridhima underlined her credentials as the best backstroke swimmer in the country. • K. MURALI KUMAR

50m backstroke, winning in 25.77.

“I was expecting to go faster, but this is more or less where I am in backstroke at the moment,” said the 20-year-old, who holds the 50m record (25.58). “I had been training backstroke since last November. So just to change it up I've been training freestyle a lot more. The speed will come back once I start training backstroke again,” Srihari added.

Sambhav excels

In the last event of the day, home swimmer R. Sambhav clinched his first-ever senior Nationals individual medal with a gold-winning performance in 50m freestyle. The 17-year-old, one of the standout swimmers at the junior Nationals last week where he swept the Group I 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle titles, came home in 23.65.

“I was a bit nervous, but I was expecting the gold,” Sambhav said later. “I expected the biggest challenge from Srihari but he didn't

swim. I trained a lot of short course and that helped me with my turns and underwater.”

The results: Men: 50m freestyle: R. Sambhav (Kar), 23.65; **1,500m freestyle:** Kushagra Rawat (Del), 15:38.13 (NMR); OR: 15:41.45, Kushagra, 2019); **50m backstroke:** Srihari Nataraj (Kar), 29.94; **200m butterfly:** Sajan Prakash (Police), 1:58.74; **4x100m medley:** RSPB (K. Abbasuddin, M. Lohit, Sanu Debnath, Pavan M.S. Gupta), 3:53.29.

Women: 50m freestyle: Avantika Chawan (RSPB), 27.18; **800m freestyle:** Prachi Tokas (Del), 9:20.16; **50m backstroke:** Ridhima Veerendra Kumar (Kar), 29.94; **200m butterfly:** Astha Choudhury (Asm), 2:20.47; **4x100m medley:** Maharashtra (Jyotsna Pansare, Apeksha Fernandes, Jyoti Patil, Palak Joshi), 4:31.50.

Water polo: Men, final round: RSPB 26 bt Kerala 6; SSCB 15 bt Kerala 0; **Women, semifinals:** Kerala 15 bt Maharashtra 7; Police 18 bt Karnataka 8.

Diving: Platform, men: Siddharth Padeshhi (SSCB), 363.70; **Women:** Ipsita Mahajan (Police), 173.00.

Digvijay stops Siddharth; Paras gets past Rishi

Zeel ends Shrivalli's reign, while Vaidehi rallies to overcome Akanksha

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Digvijay Pratap Singh stopped the dream run of former champion and qualifier Siddharth Vishwakarma with a 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-3 win in the quarterfinals of the Fiestas National tennis championship on Thursday.

The 21-year-old Digvijay could have served out the match in the 12th game of the second set but Siddharth made a determined comeback to force a decider. Digvijay will play Nitin Kumar Sinha in the semifinals.

The other semifinal will feature top seed Niki Poonacha against Paras Dahiya. Paras lost control after leading 4-1, 4-0, but saved two set

points at 4-6 in the tie-break to prevail 7-6(6), 6-3 against the energetic Rishi Reddy.

In the women's section, Akanksha Nitture lost the plot after leading 5-0 against Vaidehi Chaudhari.

Though the former won the first set 6-4, Vaidehi had understood the way to play the National junior champion and capitalised on her fluent strokes on both the flanks to prevail.

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty's reign was cut short after she missed set points against the top seed Zeel Desai.

Zeel will play Sai Samhitha in the semifinals, while Vaidehi will be up against qualifier Sharmada Balu, who was ruthless against Reshma Maruri.

The results: Men: Quarter-

finals: Niki Poonacha bt Prithvi Sekhar 6-4, 6-2; Paras Dahiya bt Rishi Reddy 7-6(6), 6-3; Nitin Kumar Sinha bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-4, 6-4; Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Siddharth Vishwakarma 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-3.

Doubles: Semifinals: S.D. Prajwal Dev & Niki Poonacha bt Paras Dahiya & Ishaque Eqbal 6-4, 7-5; Chandril Sood & Lakshit Sood bt Ajay Malik & Karan Singh 7-5, 6-4.

Women: Quarterfinals: Zeel Desai bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 7-6(4), 6-1; Sai Samhitha bt Vanishita Pathania 6-4, 6-0; Sharmada Balu bt Reshma Maruri 6-0, 6-3; Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Akanksha Nitture 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Doubles: Semifinals: Sharmada Balu & Sravya Shivani bt Nidhi Chilumula & Snehal Mane 6-1, 3-6, [10-7]; Vaidehi Chaudhari & Mihika Yadav bt Yubrani Banerjee & Rishika Sunkara 6-3, 7-5.



Moving ahead: Vaidehi Chaudhari capitalised on some fluent strokes to prevail over Akanksha Nitture. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Barca sacks Koeman after Vallecabo debacle

Chases Xavi for the job; B team coach Barjuan put it temporary charge

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES VALLECAS (SPAIN)

Real Madrid returned to the top of La Liga on Wednesday, despite being held to a goalless draw by Osasuna, but Barcelona dropped to ninth after losing 1-0 to Rayo Vallecano, with Radamel Falcao scoring the winner.

But the result was enough for Barcelona to sack coach Ronald Koeman.

The club is close to finalising Xavi Hernandez's long-anticipated return as coach, according to various reports in the Catalan press on Thursday, with B team coach Sergi Barjuan put in temporary charge.

Barca president Joan Laporta was reportedly in talks with Xavi – currently coach



Rolling back the years: Radamel Falcao relives his glory days after scoring the winner against Barcelona. • REUTERS

of Qatari club Al Sadd – about the vacant position on Thursday morning.

Madrid jumps above Sevilla, Real Betis and Real Socie-

Big guns fire blanks

AGENCIES LONDON

Manchester City's four-year reign as English League Cup titleholder is over. It lost 5-3 to West Ham in a penalty shootout in the last 16 on Wednesday after the game finished 0-0 after 90 minutes at the London Stadium.

Shell-shocked Bayern Munich suffered its heaviest defeat in the German Cup when its star-studded team was thrashed 5-0 at Borussia Monchengladbach. Full-strength Bayern conceded the first goal after just 71 seconds and was 3-0 down with 21 minutes played as Gladbach made a lightning start.

It was the first time for 27 years Bayern has conceded so many goals so early in any competition.

Warner powers Australia to facile win

His 42-ball 65 helps the team reach the target in 17 overs after Zampa, Starc restrict Lanka to 154

ICC T20 WC

AYAN ACHARYA
DUBAI

David Warner oozed class and confidence in his 42-ball 65 as Australia beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets with three overs to spare in a Group 1 Super 12 contest at the ICC T20 World Cup on Thursday.

Needing 155 to win, Warner and Aaron Finch shrugged off their poor form in style. Mystery spinner Maheesh Theekshana came into the attack in the second over and was immediately reverse swept for four by Warner. That set the tone for the chase.

The openers took 20 off pacer Lahiru Kumara's first over as Australia racked up 63 in the PowerPlay. An elegant straight drive by Finch stood out. Warner got a reprieve on 18 when Kusal Perera missed a simple caught behind chance off Dushmantha Chameera. Just when Australia was threatening to run away with the contest, Finch chopped on off Wanindu Hasaranga for 37. Glenn Maxwell fell to the same bowler soon after.

Steve Smith joined Warner, who brought up his fifty off 31 balls. With the equation down to 43 from 42 balls, Warner kept finding the ropes before holing out to Dasun Shanaka. Smith saw Australia home in the company of Marcus Stoinis.

Earlier, Australia chose to field. Finch began with the pace trio of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins. The move paid dividends immediately when Pathum Nissanka was caught off Cummins in the third over. Maxwell went for 16 in his first over with Charith Asalanka hitting a six and a four.



Blazing away: Warner regained his touch to tear apart the Sri Lanka attack. • GETTY IMAGES

Perera and Asalanka brought up their 50-run partnership off just 36 balls before Adam Zampa removed Asalanka. Starc, after bowling the first over, returned to

the attack in the 11th over. Perera, who hit Starc into the second deck, was bowled next ball by a searing 90mph leg-stump yorker. In the next over, Zampa dismissed Avish-

ka Fernando as Sri Lanka slipped from 78 for one to 94 for five. Though Bhanuka Rajapaksa came up with a cameo to take the team to 154, it wasn't enough.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA
Pathum Nissanka c Warner b Cummins 7 (9b, 1x4), Kusal Perera b Starc 35 (25b, 4x4, 1x6), Charith Asalanka c Smith b Zampa 35 (27b, 4x4, 1x6), Avishka Fernando c Smith b Zampa 4 (7b), Bhanuka Rajapaksa (not out) 33 (26b, 4x4, 1x6), Wanindu Hasaranga c Wade b Starc 4 (2b, 1x4), Dasun Shanaka c Wade b Cummins 12 (19b, 1x4), Chamika Karunaratne (not out) 9 (6b, 1x4); Extras (lb-4, w-10, nb-1): 15; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 154.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-15 (Nissanka, 2.3 overs), 2-78 (Asalanka, 9.4), 3-86 (Kusal, 10.3), 4-90 (Avishka, 11.5), 5-94 (Hasaranga, 12.2), 6-134 (Shanaka, 17.4).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Starc 4-0-27-2, Hazlewood 4-0-26-0, Cummins 4-0-34-2, Maxwell 1-0-16-0, Stoinis 3-0-35-0, Zampa 4-0-12-2.

AUSTRALIA
David Warner c Bhanuka b Shanaka 65 (42b, 10x4), Aaron Finch b Hasaranga 37 (23b, 5x4, 2x6), Glenn Maxwell c Avishka b Hasaranga 5 (6b, 1x4), Steve Smith (not out) 28 (26b, 1x4), Marcus Stoinis (not out) 16 (7b, 2x4, 1x6); Extras (nb-2, w-2): 4; Total (for three wkts. in 17 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-70 (Finch, 6.5), 2-80 (Maxwell, 8.3), 3-130 (Warner, 14.6).

SRI LANKA BOWLING
Karunaratne 2-0-19-0, Theekshana 4-0-27-0, Chameera 3-0-33-0, Kumara 3-0-48-0, Hasaranga 4-0-22-2, Shanaka 1-0-6-1.

Toss: Australia.
Man-of-the-Match: Zampa.
Australia won by seven wickets with three overs to spare.

Next assignment

Sri Lanka: Oct. 30 vs South Africa, Sharjah, 3.30 p.m. IST
Australia: Oct. 30 vs England, Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

Pakistan faces the Afghanistan test

Babar's men look for third win, Nabi's side is full of confidence

AYAN ACHARYA
DUBAI

Pakistan will look to move closer to a semifinal spot at the ICC T20 World Cup when it takes on Afghanistan in a Group 2 Super 12 game on Friday.

Pakistan has played 13 T20Is in the UAE since 2016, winning all of them. Babar Azam's men will start favourites against Mohammed Nabi's Afghanistan, which began its campaign with a 130-run win over Scotland.

Mujeeb Ur Rahman, with his variety of off-breaks, googlies and carrom balls, finished with five for 20. Such was its dominance that by the time Rashid Khan, the No. 3-ranked T20I bowler in the world, came on to bowl, Afghanistan was already on course for a big win.

On the attack

Its batters were equally impressive, racking up a total of 190 – its highest in a T20 World Cup. The innings comprised a whopping 13 fours and 11 sixes. Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Najibullah Zadran added a quickfire 87 for the third wicket. Mohammad Shahzad's return as Hazratullah Zazai's opening partner has given the side a fillip.

However, against Pakistan, Afghanistan's batters have to contend with a bowling attack of outstanding pedigree and variety.

Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf offer swing and pace while Hasan Ali and Imad Wasim bring control. Then there's the wily leggie Shadab Khan.

Pakistan's batting is headlined by the in-form opening pair of Babar and Mohammad Rizwan. Shoaib Malik's experience came to the fore in the chase against New Zealand, and in Asif Ali,



Excitement in store: It should be a fascinating battle between Mujeeb and the Pakistan openers, Rizwan and Babar.



TODAY'S MATCHES

West Indies vs Bangladesh
SHARJAH, 3.30 P.M. IST
Played: 12

West Indies | Bangladesh
6 | NR | 5

Afghanistan vs Pakistan
DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST
Played: 1

Afghanistan | Pakistan
0 | 1

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Pakistan has a reliable finisher.

Despite facing a strong opponent, Rashid is confident of a good show. "We want to give the kind of performances where fans back home can have joy and celebrate," said Rashid. Afghanistan will hope to bring more smiles to people come Friday.

Holder replaces McCoy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

Defending champion West Indies called up former skipper Jason Holder to its T20 World Cup squad on Wednesday after fast bowler Obed McCoy suffered a right leg injury.

Holder, who has 199 West Indies caps including 27 T20I appearances to his name, was one of the permitted travelling reserves in the UAE.

He will be available for West Indies' game against Bangladesh on Friday.

Both teams have lost both matches.

Old teams can retain four, three early picks for new IPL franchises

AMOL KARHADKAR
DUBAI

The two new IPL franchises are set to be offered pre-auction selection through a player draft ahead of IPL 2022. The objective is to make it a level-playing field with the existing eight franchises, who are likely to be allowed to retain up to four players before the mega auction scheduled for January 2022.

The *Hindu* understands that after the RPSG Group (Lucknow) and CVC Capital (Ahmedabad) joined the IPL bandwagon on Monday, the representatives of the teams were told that they can pick three players each between the deadline for the player retention and the auction.

It has been learnt that both the new franchises have asked the BCCI that they be allowed to pick the same number of players (4) as the other franchises are allowed to retain. It will be interesting to see if the IPL authorities accept the demand of the new team owners to pick four players ahead of the auction.

The players for the draft for the two teams will obviously be done once the existing eight teams finalise their retention. Like in 2017,

After the retained players' list is finalised, the new franchises will get first choice from the rest of the pool ahead of the auction

the BCCI is set to offer each of the eight teams a maximum of four players, including two overseas cricketers, from the 2021 roster.

The IPL is set to increase the purse for each squad from ₹85 crore to ₹95 crore for IPL 2022. The retained players as well as the draft picks' fees will be deducted from the available auction purse.

The formal communication detailing the deadline for retentions, player fee for each retention and the auction purse, along with the tentative auction date, is likely to be sent to the franchises the coming week.

The retention and pre-auction selection will be interesting since a majority of franchises will be on the look-out for new captains. At the moment, only Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals are not looking for a new skipper while Chennai Super Kings will be hoping that M.S. Dhoni will make himself available as a player for yet another edition.



Curious: Fans will be eager to know about the retention and selection of players before the mega auction. • SPORTSPICS/IPL

India would look to give Shastri a fitting farewell

Winning an ICC tournament will definitely be a wonderful moment, says Kohli

AMOL KARHADKAR
DUBAI

M.S. Dhoni returning to the Indian dressing room – as a mentor – for the T20 World Cup must have put a big smile on head coach Ravi Shastri's face. After all, for much of the seven-year duration – divided into two stints and with different designations – Shastri has preferred to remain in the shadow of someone, be it Dhoni or Virat Kohli.

As Shastri is set to sign off his glorious career, he would be eager to see India make a comeback after the big loss against Pakistan in the opening ICC World Test Championship (WTC) league phase, they went on to lose to New Zealand in the final.

In the three ICC limited-overs tournaments where Shastri had been at the helm, India failed to progress beyond the semifinal.

Teaching the 3Ts

The cricketers who have been on the road with Shastri say that he has been helping them with the 3Ts – technique, tactics and temperament. For the past couple of years, the coach has tried his



Eye on the prize: An ICC Trophy is missing in Shastri and Kohli's collection. • AP

best to downplay the ICC Trophy missing in the list while speaking about the achievements of his group. But knowing Shastri, he would keen to sign off in style: a World Cup triumph.

While explaining India's evolution in the last five years, captain Kohli revealed that winning the T20 World Cup was the ultimate goal for Shastri and him.

"Winning an ICC tournament will definitely be a wonderful moment for all of us, for him as coach and for me as skipper. It'll be an amazing achievement and something that we are obviously motiv-

ated for... we will give everything we have," Kohli had said in the run-up to the tournament.

No training

Meanwhile, the Indians opted to skip training on Thursday. With less than 72 hours remaining for the clash against New Zealand on Sunday, Shastri would be focused on ensuring that his relatively young bunch – in terms of experience – does not think too far ahead.

But there's no doubt that the players will be desperate to give their coach a fitting farewell.

Nihal and Gukesh win

CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nihal Sarin and D. Gukesh scored over lower-ranked rivals while Arjun Erigaisi held sixth seeded Russian Andrey Esipenko in the opening round of the \$425,000 FIDE Grand Swiss chess tournament in Riga, Latvia, on Wednesday.

In the women's section, R. Vaishali was the lone Indian to begin her campaign with a win.

First-round results (involving Indians): Open: Arjun Erigaisi drew with Andrey Esipenko (Rus); P. Harikrishna drew with Vladislav Kovalev (FIDE); B. Adhiban drew with S.P. Sethuraman; Gabriel Sargissian (Arm) drew with R. Praggnanandhaa; Surya Shekhar Ganguly drew with Sanan Sjugirov (Rus); Rau-



D. Gukesh. • FILE PHOTO

nak Sadhwani drew with Ivan Cheparinov (Bul); Nihal Sarin bt Kiril Georgiev (Mkd); D. Gukesh bt Antenaia Rakotomaharo (Mad); Miezis Normunds (Lat) drew with K. Sasikiran.
Women: D. Harika drew with Nataliya Buksa (Ukr); Padmini Rout lost to Zhu Jiner (Chn); Vantika Agarwal drew with Batkhuyag Munguntuul (Mgl); Jolanta Zawadzka (Pol) drew with Divya Deshmukh; Jesse Nikki February (RSA) lost to R. Vaishali.

Lakshya and Sindhu sail into third round

Ashwini, Satwiksairaj duo bows out

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PARIS

India's Lakshya Sen sailed into the third round of the French Open badminton men's singles event with a comfortable 21-17, 21-13 win over Singapore's Loh Kean Yew here on Thursday.

P.V. Sindhu defeated Danish player Line Christophersen 21-19, 21-9 to move into the third round in women's singles.

But it was curtains for the mixed doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy as it lost its round-of-16 match to In-

nesia's Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti 21-15, 17-21, 19-21.

Other result: Men

Shesar Hirren (Ina) bt Sameer Verma 21-16, 12-21 (retd).



Lakshya Sen. • FILE PHOTO

de Kock apologises, will take a knee in future

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

South Africa's Quinton de Kock has apologised for refusing to take the knee in his team's Twenty20 World Cup match and said he would be "happy" to do it.

"I would like to start by saying sorry to my teammates, and the fans back home," de Kock said in a statement on Thursday.

"I never ever wanted to make this a Quinton issue. I understand the importance of standing against racism, and I also understand the responsibility of us as players to set an example.

"If me taking a knee helps to educate others, and makes the lives of others better, I am more than happy to do so."

Mixed race family

de Kock explained he comes from a mixed race family with his half-sisters being coloured and his stepmother is black.

"For me, Black lives have mattered since I was born. Not just because there was an international move-



Quinton de Kock. • AFP

ment," said the 28-year-old.

de Kock pulled out of Tuesday's match against holders West Indies for "personal reasons", defying orders from Cricket South Africa (CSA) to their players on following the anti-racism gesture.

Cricket South Africa welcomed the move and said, "The Proteas men's team agreed to align and unify in taking the knee for the remaining fixtures of the World Cup campaign."

The board added their stance against racism "is a moral issue, not a political issue".

Sathiyani in last eight

WTT TUNIS

SPORTS BUREAU
TUNIS

G. Sathiyani stormed into the men's singles quarterfinals of the World Table Tennis Contender Tunis with an 11-6, 11-9, 11-9 win over Ibrahima Diaw (Sen) 11-6, 11-9, 11-9.

Double (quarterfinals): Men's doubles: Sathiyani & Harmeet Desai bt Patrik Juhasz & Bence Majoros (Hun) 12-10, 11-7, 10-12, 11-6; Nandor Ecseki & Adam Szudi (Hun) bt Sharath Kamal & Manav Thakkar 11-6, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8.

Mixed doubles: Sathiyani & Manika Batra bt Alexandra Cassin & Prithika Pavade (Fra) 11-8, 7-11, 8-11, 11-4, 11-8.

down to Nandor Ecseki and Adam Szudi of Hungary.

Results: Singles (pre-quarterfinal): G. Sathiyani bt Ibrahima Diaw (Sen) 11-6, 11-9, 11-9.

Double (quarterfinals): Men's doubles: Sathiyani & Harmeet Desai bt Patrik Juhasz & Bence Majoros (Hun) 12-10, 11-7, 10-12, 11-6; Nandor Ecseki & Adam Szudi (Hun) bt Sharath Kamal & Manav Thakkar 11-6, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8.

Mixed doubles: Sathiyani & Manika Batra bt Alexandra Cassin & Prithika Pavade (Fra) 11-8, 7-11, 8-11, 11-4, 11-8.

However, Sharath Kamal and Manav Thakkar went

G. Sathiyani. • FILE PHOTO

TV PICKS

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
Badminton: Paris Open: Star Sports 3, 5.30 p.m.
Men's World Boxing Championships: Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF



Thunder shock Lakers with 26-point comeback

OKLAHOMA CITY
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 27 points to help host Oklahoma City Thunder rally from 26 down to beat Los Angeles Lakers 123-115 in the NBA on Wednesday.
The results: Charlotte 120 bt Orlando 111, Washington 116 bt Boston 107, Miami 106 bt Brooklyn 93, Atlanta 102 bt New Orleans 99, Toronto 118 bt Indiana 100, Minnesota 113 bt Milwaukee 108, Oklahoma City 123 bt LA Lakers 115, Sacramento 110 bt Phoenix 107, Portland 116 bt Memphis 96, Cleveland 92 bt LA Clippers 79.

India Open badminton from January 11

NEW DELHI
The BWF will commence its 2022 calendar with a three-stop India leg starting with the India Open here from January 11 to 16. As per the revised tournament calendar released on Thursday, India Open will be followed by Syed Modi India International (Jan. 18-23) at Lucknow and Odisha Open (Jan. 25-30) at Cuttack.

Five subs in football to be made permanent

ZURICH
The temporary move to give teams the option of five substitutions per game instead of three should take effect on a permanent basis, football's lawmakers recommended. The measure was introduced in May 2020 when football resumed following a COVID-19 suspension. AP



Was embarrassed after Liverpool loss: Rashford

MANCHESTER
Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford on Wednesday admitted that he was embarrassed after his side faced a 0-5 drubbing at the hands of Liverpool in the Premier League last week. Taking to Twitter, Rashford wrote: "I was embarrassed. I am embarrassed. Our fans are everything and you didn't deserve that. We're working hard to try and fix this. We have to redeem ourselves." ANI

India capitulates to UAE

Concedes late penalty in AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers

FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

India slumped to a 1-0 defeat after conceding a late penalty in its second AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers match against host UAE at the Fujairah Stadium here.

Abdulla Idrees converted the 82-minute penalty for the hosts after Suresh brought Ali Saleh down inside the box.

Both the Group E encounters ended in similar fashion on Wednesday night after Oman got the better of Kyrgyz Republic thanks to a late penalty.

Igor Stimac made only one change to the team that got a 2-1 win against Oman in its previous game, having brought in Lalengmawia at the expense of Aniket Jadhav to make the mid-field more compact against UAE.

Safety first

Both the teams started with a safety-first approach before Rahim Ali squeezed in to make room for himself in the six-yard-box, but before he could connect to the long throw-in by Asish, UAE goalkeeper Suhail Abdulla Almu-



Battleground: Indian defender Asish Rai vies for possession with a UAE player.

• TWITTER/INDIANFOOTBALL

tawa collected the ball calmly.

Before the clock struck the half-hour mark, India launched back-to-back attacks but the opponents dealt with them to cut the scorer out of the equation.

Rahul K.P. got himself on to the end of a cross from the right by Asish, and tapped it in past the keeper, but his celebrations were cut short after referee Fu Ming adjudged Rahim Ali, who had alleged-

ly touched the ball on the way, to be off-side.

The hosts re-joined with more vigour and took only four minutes to launch their first attack in the second half.

Rescue act

Marwan Fahad leapt above others to convert a long throw-in but Dheeraj came to the rescue act in the 49th minute.

UAE kept on pushing the

Indian defenders vigorously in search of the opening goal.

All four teams are locked on three points each, with identical goal differences. The group-topper will qualify for the finals in Uzbekistan next year, whereas the four best runners-up will also join them. India will next take on the Kyrgyz Republic on Saturday.

The result: UAE 1 (Abdulla Idrees 82-pen) bt India 0.

Solskjaer limps into defining week

Team selection could decide his future at Old Trafford

PREMIER LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANCHESTER

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer limps on at Manchester United, seemingly now operating on a game-by-game basis while the club's hierarchy weighs up whether he is still the right manager for England's biggest team.

Could a loss to Tottenham in the Premier League on Saturday be the decisive blow? Does a hectic schedule of three games in a week mean he'll survive at least until the international break that follows?

Solskjaer is fighting to keep his job heading to Tottenham Hotspur Stadium this weekend and something needs to drastically change if he is to engineer another turnaround in his turbulent three years at United.

However, it is with a nod to his most recent past at United that Solskjaer might yet get through this crisis.

Much of the analysis surrounding United's pitiful display against Liverpool focused on the team's inability to press effectively as a team high up the field. With no unity or cohesion in United's pressing game, Liverpool



Crunch time: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer would be banking on Ronaldo to lift a beleaguered United to save his job. • AP

has demonstrated this season, had an easy time breaking through the midfield and unpicking a defence that was woefully unprotected.

After all, adopting that approach is how United has managed to stay undefeated against City in the league in their last four meetings, winning three of them, and how United kept five clean sheets in six games combined against City, Chelsea and Liverpool last season.

It might appear to be a step back for Solskjaer, an acceptance that he hasn't advanced United's play despite some major attacking additions to the squad in the last two years in the form of

Bruno Fernandes and more recently Cristiano Ronaldo and Jadon Sancho.

But the current situation might demand it, especially over the next week with Tottenham so effective on the break through Son Heung-min and Harry Kane, Atalanta prone to going all out in attack and leaving gaps in its defense, and City having had problems dealing with United's counter-attacks.

It makes Solskjaer's team selection against Tottenham fascinating, arguably his most important as United manager. Get it wrong and it could spell the end for the club great who is running out of time.

Berwal enters pre-quarters

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BELGRADE

Indian boxer Narender Berwal (+92kg) stormed into the pre-quarters of the AIBA men's World Championships after outclassing Sierra Leone's Mohamed Kende in a second-round contest here on Thursday.

Berwal thoroughly dominated his imposing rival, who just could not connect for most part of the bout and struggled with his movement as well.

The Indian, making his debut at the big event, was the sharper of the two and did well not to come in the line of the heavy punches Kende could have thrown had he been more agile.

Kende's sluggish footwork, inability to either defend himself or launch any attack of note eventually forced the referee to hand him a standing eight count a minute and a half into the third round.

However, late last night, another debutant Varinder Singh (60kg) was forced to give a walkover to Karen Tonakanyan of Armenia as he was down with high fever.

Host India in a tough group

Clubbed with China, Chinese Taipei and Iran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KUALA LUMPUR

Host India was on Thursday handed a tough draw for the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup as it was clubbed with eight-time champion China, Chinese Taipei and Iran.

India, ranked 57th in the FIFA charts, is the third-highest ranked side in the group behind China (17th) and Chinese Taipei (40th) and ahead of Iran (72nd).

The draw was held here at the Asian Football Confederations (AFC) headquarters in the Malaysian capital. India is scheduled to host the tournament from January 20 to Feb. 6 in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Pune.

"It is an exciting group. We respect all our opponents as all of them are strong teams who have qualified for the AFC Asian Cup India 2022. But we are ready to play any team," India's head coach Thomas Dennerby said.



Rapt attention: The Indian women's football team watches the live webcast of the draw. • TWITTER/INDIANFOOTBALL

"I don't consider any particular match as a key one. All three matches are key matches for us in the group stage."

The excitement around Asia's marquee women's national team the competition is starting to build following the completion of qualifiers where Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Korea Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam secured

their spots to the Finals.

They will join the top three from the 2018 showpiece Japan, Australia and China alongside host India.

"The AFC Women's Asian Cup is the premier flagship tournament for women's football in our continent, and I'm proud and happy that India is going to be the host for the 2022 edition," said All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel.

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Prarthana in doubles semifinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
POITIERS (FRANCE)

India's Prarthana Thombare and Lara Saïlden of Belgium defeated Flavie Brugnone and Lucie Wargnier of France 6-4, 3-6, [10-7] to reach the doubles semifinals of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament here.

In the same tournament, qualifier Karman Kaur Thandi lost 7-5, 7-5 to Estelle Cascino.

In the ITF women's event in Tunisia, qualifier Jennifer Luikham downed fifth seed Chiara Catini of Italy 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 in the first round, but was outplayed in the pre-quarterfinals by Lucija Ciric Bagaric of Croatia.

The results: \$15,000 ITF Monastir: Men: Pre-quarterfinals: Simon Beaupain (Bel) bt Sidharth Rawat 1-6, 7-6(5), 6-3.
Women: Pre-quarterfinals: Lucija Ciric Bagaric (Cro) bt Jennifer Luikham 6-0, 6-3;
First round: Jennifer Luikham bt Chiara Catini (Ita) 5-7, 6-3, 6-1; Natalia Orlava (Rus) bt Bhuvana Kalva 6-3, 6-4;
Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Jennifer Ruggeri



Prarthana Thombare.
• FILE PHOTO

& Arianna Zucchini (Ita) bt Selya Rakki (Fra) & Jennifer Luikham 6-4, 6-3.

\$25,000 ITF women, Poitiers: First round: Estelle Cascino (Fra) bt Karman Kaur Thandi 7-5, 7-5;
Doubles (quarterfinals): Lara Saïlden (Bel) & Prarthana Thombare bt Flavie Brugnone & Lucie Wargnier (Fra) 6-4, 3-6, [10-7];
Pre-quarterfinals: Lara & Prarthana bt Julia Grabher (Aut) & Simona Waltert (Sui) 6-2, 7-6(10).

\$15,000 ITF women, Antalya, Turkey: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ziben El Ouazzani (Mar) & Rosa Vincens Mas (Esp) bt Sonia Cassani (Ita) & Annika Kannan 6-3, 2-6, [10-4].



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