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AWARDS 2021





CES 2021 Innovation Awards LG OLED 48C1



CES 2021 Innovation Awards LG OLED 83C1





"LG C1 offers the best blend of price and performance." LG OLED 65C1, 2021-04-16

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021





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OLED evo | G1

195cm (77) / 164cm (65) / 139cm (55)



Gallery Design | Self-Lit OLED | α9 Gen4 AI Processor 4K | Dolby Vision IQ | Dolby Atmos | webOS 6.0 | ThinQ AI | Game Optimizer | Eye Comfort Display | Hands-free Voice Control | Built-in Google Assistant & Amazon Alexa

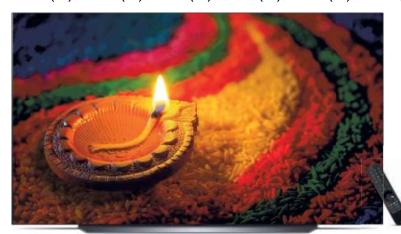
Range starts: ₹239990

EMI starts: ₹2999

*TONEFree FN7 free with OLED 55G1PTZ Model

OLED | z1* | C1 / C1X* | B1*

222cm (88) / 210cm (83) / 195cm (77) / 164cm (65) / 139cm (55) / 121cm (48)



Self-Lit OLED | $\alpha 9$ Gen4 AI Processor 4K | Dolby Vision IQ | Dolby Atmos | webOS 6.0 | ThinQ AI | Game Optimizer | Eye Comfort Display | Built-in Google Assistant & Amazon Alexa | New Magic Remote

Range starts: ₹179990

EMI starts: ₹2999

*Available models for C1X - 164cm (65), 139cm (55) and 121cm (48) *Available models for Z1 - 222cm (88) with $\alpha 9$ Gen4 Al Processor 8K

*B1 Model with a7 Gen4 AI Processor

NanoCell | NANO99 | 95 | 83 | 80 | 79 | 75

217cm (86) / 189cm (75) / 164cm (65) / 139cm (55) / 126cm (50) / 108cm (43)



NanoCell™ Display | Al Brightness Control | Al Sound | Game Optimizer | webOS 6.0 | ThinQ AI | New Magic Remote | Built-in Google Assistant & Amazon Alexa

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EMI starts: ₹1999

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UHD TV | UP80 | 77 | 75

189cm (75) / 177cm (70) / 164cm (65) / 153cm (60) / 139cm (55) / 126cm (50) / 108cm (43)



Real 4K Display | Quad Core Processor 4K | Al Brightness Control | Al Sound | Game Optimizer | webOS 6.0 | ThinQ AI | New Magic Remote | Built-in Google Assistant & Amazon Alexa

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*T&C Apply. All the offers unless mentioned are from 1st Oct to 15th Nov '21. Win an OLED every day is a Lucky Draw contest applicable at Selected stores in All India except Tamil Nadu and Kerala or wherever expressly barred by law. ₹11Cr. Is the total perceived value of all gifts in program as per MRP. This Offer is from 16th Oct to 15th Nov'21. 5 Year Assurance Applicable from 15th Sep to 30th Nov '21 on all UHD, NanoCell & OLED models. This includes 1 Year standard warranty of the new product, 2 Year free of Cost promotional warranty (2nd & 3rd Year) & additional 2 Year (4th & 5th) to be bought by customer at up to 70% Discount. Up to 20% Instant Cashback is applicable with select Credit & Debit cards on 195cm(77) & above OLED TV models (Maximum Cashback is up to ₹20000). Maximum of three transactions per card are allowed during offer period (Oct~Dec), Cash back should appear on charge slip for applicability. 2% customer buy down in Debit Card EMI & 1% Customer buy down on credit card EMI for 9 months & above tenors, ₹199 + GST applicable on HDFC bank cards for EMI transaction, Offer Valid on 6 months & above tenor for HDFC/ICICI/SCB. HDFC has additional 8/10 month EMI available. Cash back offer is not from LG Side and bank/finance Company is solely liable and LGEIL expressly disclaims any liability/responsibility in any manner whatsoever. 1 EMI Free is applicable on finance through Bajaj Finserv in specific schemes on 108cm(43) & above TVs. Finance is at the sole discretion of financer, Finance offers are by third party banks / finance company in accordance with their terms, LGEIL shall not be liable for any finance related claims / disputes/ queries in any manner what so ever. Customer will receive 1 EMI Off after successful clearance of 3 EMI's, within 45 days of clearing 3rd EMI. Customers' needs to pay all his 3 EMI's successfully to avail this offer. Free Audio Products worth up to ₹64990 on OLED G Series only. TONEFree FN7 free with OLED 55G1PTZ, 55 Nano83TPZ and 55 Nano75TPZ models. This offer is applicable from 10th Oct 21 to 15th Nov 21. Offers may not be available on purchase from any other e-commerce websites. World's Number 1 OLED TV Brand - Source is Omdia (Research by independent third party). Unit Shipments, 2013 - 2020. Results are not endorsement of LG Electronics. Any reliance on these results is at the third-party's own risk. Logos shown in the Creative belong to respective trademark owners only. Prices Mentioned are Per Unit and Inclusive of Taxes. Features may vary as per TV Model. LG reserves the right to modify, alter, withdraw or extend the offer at any point of time without any prior notice or justification or correspondence. LG decision regarding all matters under offers shall be final and binding. By participating in offers, the customer agrees to all the above terms & Conditions and shall be treated as deemed consent under Privacy Laws. Gifts cannot be redeemed for cash at any point of time. Products are available for Purchase without offers also. The images shown here are for representation only and may differ from actual product. All disputes are to be settled / adjudicated in Delhi Courts only. Please ask the retailer/store manager for detailed offers, gifts etc. before purchase. For more information, please visit www.lg.com/in

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021





Puneet Rajkumar, actor and son of Rajkumar, passes away at 46



Congress steps up attack on former CAG Vinod Rai



Asif and Babar star for Pakistan; WI pips Bangladesh



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page 8

Modi holds talks with **European Union** leaders in Italy



Crucial byelections in 11 States today

Saturday will see bypolls across 11 States for three Lok Sabha and 29 Assembly seats that will have implications for the politics of each of these States. Haryana, the State closest to Delhi, will see an

Assembly bypoll in Ellenabad. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 8

Aryan Khan to spend another night in jail

Aryan Khan, son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, will spend one more night in the Arthur Road Jail as his bail papers did not

reach the authorities in time.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

No money left in MGNREGA coffers; 21 States in the red

States are asking field authorities to artificially create demand, says Centre

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ NEW DELHI

The Centre's flagship rural employment scheme has run out of funds halfway through the financial year, and supplementary budgetary allocations will not come to the rescue for at least another month when the next Parliamentary session begins. According to its own financial statement, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme shows a negative net balance of ₹8,686 crore.

This means that payments for MGNREGA workers as well as material costs will be delayed, unless the States

Out of funds As many as 21 out of 35 States/UTs have utilised

over 100% of their allocated funds under MGNREGA for FY22 till October 29 % OF MGNREGA FUNDS USED

>100 90-100 80-90 70-80

SOURCE: MGNREGA PORTAL

dip into their own funds. Activists say the Centre is condemning workers to "forced labour" by delaying wage payments at a time of economic distress. However, the Centre is now accusing many

TAMIL NADU States of "artificially creating demand" for work on the

ANDHRA PRADESH

The MGNREGA is a demand-driven scheme, guaranteeing 100 days of unskilled work to any rural

ground.

household that wants it. During last year's COVID-19 lockdown, the scheme was ultimately given its highest budget of ₹1.11 lakh crore.

% of allocated funds

under MGNREGA for

The total expenditure

including payments

palance of Andhra

Pradesh and Tamil

FY22 utilised by States

The negative net

Nadu stood at 2,323

until October 29

₹79,810 crore

respectively

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Suicides among farm workers rose 18% in 2020

Deaths among landowning farmers dropped slightly: NCRB

Job hazard

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The number of agricultural labourers who died by suicide in 2020 was 18% higher than the previous year, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report released on Thursday. However, suicides among landowning farmers dropped slightly during the pandemic year.

The farm sector was one of the few bright spots in the Indian economy last year, recording growth on the back of a healthy monsoon and the continuation of agricultural activities during a lockdown that crippled other sectors. However, landless agricultural labourers, As many as 37,666 (24.6%) of the 1.53 lakh people who died by suicide in 2020 were daily-wage earners



who did not benefit from income support schemes such as PM Kisan, may have faced higher levels of distress during the pandemic. The NCRB report does not include any indication of the specific

farm community. Overall, 10,677 people engaged in the farm sector died by suicide in 2020.

causes of suicide among the

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Barriers go from farmers' protest sites

Our stand in SC vindicated, say protesters

HEMANI BHANDARI ANUJ KUMAR NEW DELHI/ GHAZIABAD

Months after barbed wires and layers of barricades were put up at Delhi's borders, the police have begun removing them from the Ghazipur and Tikri borders. Farmers protesting at the sites said the move vindicated their stand in the Supreme Court and paved the way for their entry into the Capital.

Bharatiya Kisan Union general secretary Yudhvir Singh said the farmers never wanted to create problems for the public and only wanted to enter Delhi to raise voice against the three laws.

No barricades have so far

been removed from the Singhu border, the police said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8



Free passage: Barricades put up by the police on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway being removed on Friday. • R.V. MOORTHY

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Friday said Chief Secretaries and top administrative and police officials will be held personally liable if banned varieties of firecrackers are found to be used in any of

"Celebration cannot be at the cost of others' health... Nobody can be permitted to play with the life of others, more particularly that of senior citizens and children," a Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and A.S. Bopanna underscored. The order, just days ahead of Deepavali, is significant. "Any lapse on the part of the State Governments/ State Agencies and Union Territories shall be viewed very seriously," the SC said.

Top officials liable for sale of toxic crackers: SC

"If it is found that any banned firecrackers are manufactured, sold and used in particular area, the Chief Secretary of the State (s), the Secretary (Home) of the State(s) and the Commis-

Invest in LIC's Jeevan Akshay VIII

sioner of Police of the area, District Superintendent of Police of the area and the SHO/police officer in-charge of the police station shall be held personally liable," the top court ordered.

'Can't flout directions'

The court said nobody, however high, should be permitted to flout the directions of the Supreme Court.

"Any wilful and deliberate disobedience shall have to be viewed very seriously,"

Invest in lifelong Happiness

the Supreme Court emphasised in the 19-page order.

The order came on a plea, represented by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, that manufacturers were blatantly flouting the court's ban on using toxic chemicals, such as barium salts, in firecrackers.

The court had allowed the use of 'green' or environment-friendly crackers made without toxic ingredients.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

UIDAI seeks indemnity from Data Bill

SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELHI

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has asked for exemption from the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Law.

In an interaction with the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Data Protection Bill 2019 on Thursday at its office in Bengaluru, UIDAI functionaries said the authority is already being governed by the Aadhaar Act and there cannot be duplicity of

Ironically, it was making Aadhaar compulsory for many key services including the banks that first triggered the data privacy debate. The genesis of this Bill lies in the report prepared by a Committee of Experts headed by Justice B.N. Srikrishna.

DETAILS ▶ PAGE 8

They will be a

'public space',

Govt. tells SC

NEW DELHI

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Central Government

has informed the Supreme

Court that the North and

South Blocks, which house

core Ministries and the

Prime Minister's Office, will

be turned into "national mu-

seums" based on a theme

called "India in making: pre-

historic to present date", as

part of the Central Vista re-

development plans.

Remove objectionable posts on Hindu deity: Delhi HC to Twitter

respect public sentiments

The Delhi High Court on Fri-

D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh said: "You should respect sentiments of general public as you are doing business for public at large. Their sentiments shall be given due importance... Why you should do things like this. You should remove

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing Twitter, said the platform would remove the posts once the court mentions it in its or-

The petitioner, Aditya Singh Deshwal, said he saw obnoxious posts on Goddess Kali put up by an account tRepublic and the deity was represented in a disgraceful

"The said objectionable posts shook the collective conscience of the followers and practitioners of Hin-

would not be out of place to mention here that the said Twitter user @AtheistRepulic has put filthy and degrading content about every religion, let alone Hinduism. The said posts have the potential to disturb the tranquillity of society," it added.

'Violation of IT Rules'

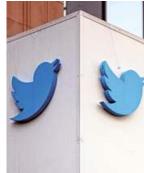
The petitioner said he informed Twitter's grievance officer that the posts were in grave contravention of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, and non-compliance of rules would make Twitter lose legal immunity provided under the Informa-

tion Technology Act. He said Twitter stated the posts cannot be removed as the content was not of a category for which it takes action. The plea sought direction to Twitter to remove the posts and permanently sus-

'Platform should

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

day asked Twitter to remove objectionable posts on a Hindu deity from its platform, observing that the social media giant should respect the sentiments of the general public as it was doing business for them. A Bench of Chief Justice



der. The court has posted the matter for further hearing on November 30.

with the username @Atheisand outrageous manner.

duism," the plea said. "It

pend the user's account. North, South Blocks to turn museums

> Besides, the proposed residence would have the best of technology and security. The current Vice-President's residence would become the

All the Central Ministries would be relocated in the Common Central Secretariat buildings developed on the two sides of the Rajpath.

not take into account the public's need for space. "Central Vista Master Plan has increased, qualitatively and quantitatively, public

Sample Illustration: Age - 50, Annuity payable - Yearly, Mode - Offline

• Flexible Annuity Payments: Monthly, Quarterly, Half-yearly or Yearly

• Plan: Single Premium Immediate Annuity Plan

Multiple Options: 10 Annuity options to choose from

Age Eligibility: Min. Age at Entry: 30 years (Completed)

Max. Age at Entry: 100 years (Completed) for option F,

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Option A	1,70,000	3,40,750	6,82,500	34,12,500
Option F	1,34,250	2,69,250	5,39,500	26,97,500
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Individual Immediate Annuity Plan

Option A

Annuity for Life

Option F

Annuity for Life with Return of Purchase Price

Option J •

Joint Life Annuity with a provision for 100%

of the annuity payable as long as one of the

Annuitant survives and Return of Purchase Price

on death of last survivor

Plan No. 857

UIN-512N337V01

The future museums would be a "public space". Presently, the nation's most important decisions are made in these buildings, where access is limited.

"Museums will be open to the public at large and serve important public purposes,"



change of land use in a plot in the Central Vista. • FILE РНОТО

an affidavit submitted by the Central Public Works Department, which is part of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, disclosed to the top court.

The affidavit was in response to a petition questioning the proposed change of land use in a plot in the Central Vista area. Initially, the plot was allotted for a recrea-

tional park and bus terminal. The Government replied that 'plot number one' had housed Government offices

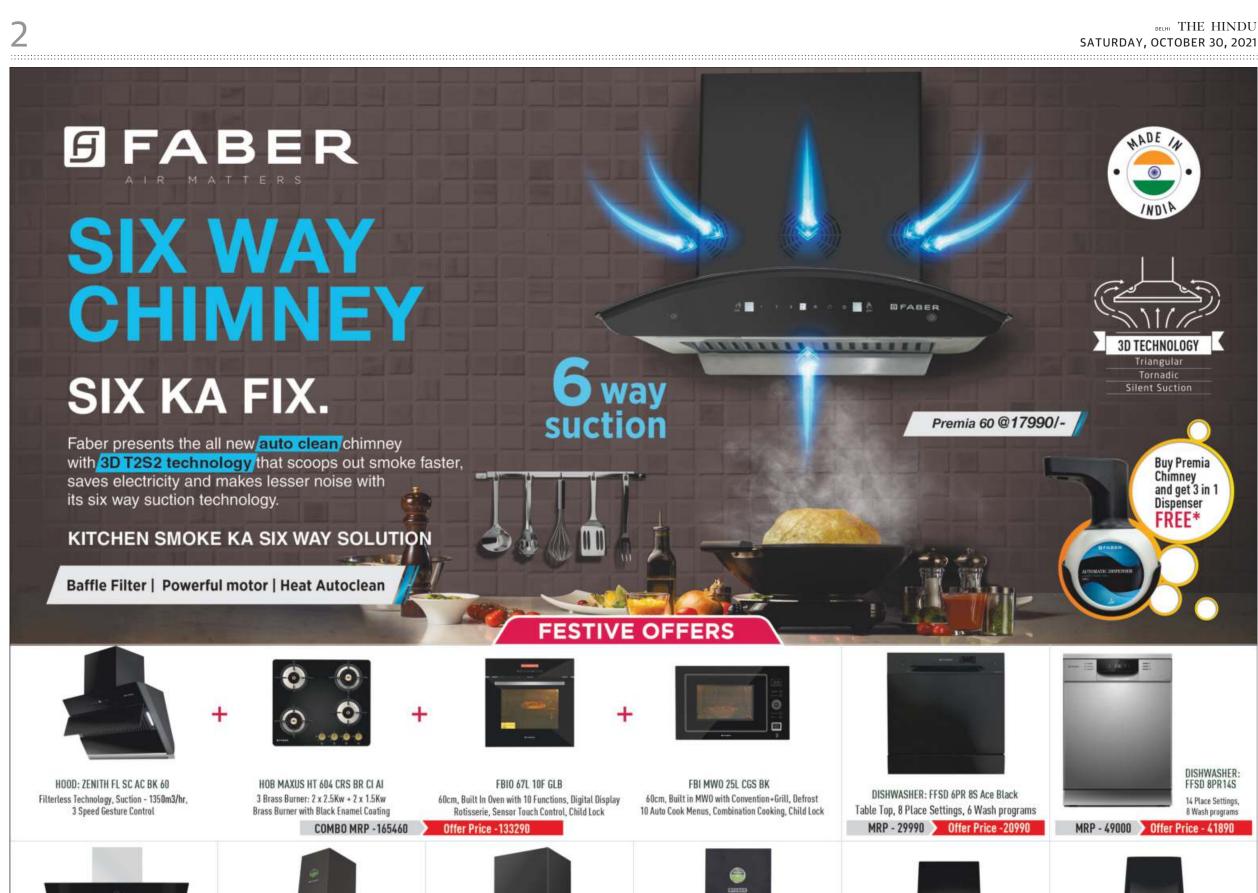
for 90 years. It had never been opened for the public or sported recreational space. On the other hand, shifting the residence of the Vice-President to the plot was a wise move. It would be close to Parliament. "This Government reasoned. 'Defence Enclave'

tion in Central Vista," the

"Defence Enclave"

The Government assuaged apprehensions that the Central Vista plans do

areas and added numerous recreational facilities for the larger benefit of the public," the affidavit stated.





HOOD: BOLT FL SW SC BK 90 Steam Clean Technology, Suction - 1500m3/hr, Gesture & Touch 2 Speed +1 Turbo Control

MRP - 51990 Offer Price -29990



FRIO 801 8F 60cm, Built In Oven with 8 Functions, Digital Display, Multifunction Oven, Sensor Touch Control, Child Lock

MRP - 52990 Offer Price -46890



HOB MAXUS HT 904 CRS BR CI AI 4 Brass Burner: 2 x 2.5Kw + 2 x 1.5Kw Brass Burner with Black Enamel Coating MRP - 21990 Offer Price - 20090



4 way suction, Touch control,

1350 m3/hr with 12 year warranty

MICROWAVE: FBIMWO 25 LCGS/FG 60cm, Built in MWO with Combination Cooking 10 Auto Cook Menus, Digital Timer, Child Lock

MRP - 46790 Offer Price -37390



COOKTOP: JUMBO 4BB SS - 4 Brass Burner, Size L*W*H: 635*500*50mm Double Round Drip Tray, SS Finish Frame MRP - 9990 Offer Price - 6190



HOOD: JUPITER PLUS HC SC BK 60 Filterless, Heat Autoclean with 1500 m3/hr suction

MRP - 34990 Offer Price - 18290



Cooking Range FCR 52L 4B BEG 55cm Width, 52 liters Oven Capacity 4 Burners, Gas Grill, Digital Time Auto Ignition for Burners and Oven



COOKTOP: ONYX 3BB BK CI - 3 Brass Burner, Size L*W*H: 635*380*50mm Diamond Coated Drip Tray, Black Powder Coacted Frame MRP - 9990 > Offer Price -6990



HOOD:3N1 AEROST. STAR PRO 3D AB TC 60

Touch with Backlit Control, Suction - 1095m3/hr.

3 Way Suction, Air Purification and Cooling Fan

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4 Brass Burner- 1 x 4Kw Triple Ring Dual Flame + 1 x 3Kw +2 x 1.7Kw Double Ring, Flame Failure Device MRP- 37990 Offer Price -32390



34L OTG with Convection and Rotisserie, 1600 Watts, 60 min timer ,100 - 250° C Adjustable Temp. MRP - 9990 Offer Price -7990

FOTG BK 34L RC



HOOD: CREST 3D PLUS IND HC SC BK 60 Filterless with gesture control, 6 way suction, 1275 m3/hr suction



MRP -28990 Offer Price -16790



HOB: Nexus IND Ht783 CRS BR CI AI 3 Brass Burner : 1 x 3Kw Triple Ring + 2 x 1.7Kw Burner with Black Enamel Coating

FABER WP: ALTROZ

10L Tank,9 Stage of Filtration

Works on TDS upto 3000 ppm

(RO+UV+UF+MAT)

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cold and hazy. **Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 28°C The weather will be dry Day will be slight warm with mainly clear sky. Night

remains slight cold and hazy

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DDMA bans Chhath Puja on Yamuna banks

Cinema halls, theatres can now operate with full capacity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The celebration of Chhath Puja will be allowed at public places except on the banks of the Yamuna and cinema halls can run with 100% capacity, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) said on Friday.

The ceiling on the number of attendees at weddings and funerals has also been increased, the DDMA said, adding that due caution is needed to be taken even though the number of CO-VID-19 cases and the positivity rate have declined considerably.

The Chhath celebrations will be permitted only at designated sites located outside the containment zones. Chhath Pooia samitis or organisers will have to submit an undertaking to the respective District Magistrate.

Such designated sites will



Devotees at India Gate pond in Delhi. • FILE РНОТО

be identified by the Revenue Department in coordination with Delhi Police and civic bodies, along with other land-owning agencies. Devotees can offer such pooja material which can then be collected by municipal workers and other agencies for proper disposal under the supervision of the District Magistrate. However, no sites will be notified on the banks of the Yamuna, the DDMA order said.

According to the order,

while all educational institutions will be permitted to open up to 50% of their capacity, cinema halls, theatres and multiplexes are allowed to operate with 100% of their seating capacity, subject to strict adherence of the standard operprocedures ating and COVID-19 appropriate

behaviour.

Weddings as well as lastrite ceremonies, the order said, will have maximum 200 people in attendance.

Assembly Committee summons Facebook

It is probing violence during Delhi riots

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi Legislative Assembly's Committee on Peace and Harmony has summoned Facebook in connection with its examination into the "unprecedented communal disharmony and violence in Delhi" during the riots in February 2020.

The Committee has called representatives of Facebook India to depose on "the important role of social media in curbing the spread of false, provocative and malicious messages which can violence disharmony".

The proceedings, scheduled for November 2, will be live-streamed to maintain "the utmost transparency" in the functioning of the Committee, the Assembly

So far, the Committee has examined crucial witnesses, including senior journalists, fact checkers, digital rights activists, and Facebook

employees.

The Committee issued a notice for appearance to Facebook India Online Services Private Limited on October 27 to depose before it at 12.30 p.m. on November 2.

"The Committee is examining the unprecedented communal disharmony and violence in Delhi in February 2020, with a view to recommend suitable measures to defuse the situation and restore harmony among religious communities, linguistic communities, or social groups," the Assembly

According to the Assembly, the summons was issued in furtherance of the judgment of the Supreme Court in the 'Ajit Mohan & Others Vs. Legislative Assembly, NCT of Delhi' case, dated July 8, 2021, where the court upheld the powers of the Committee to summon both members and non-members, including representatives of Facebook.

Air quality in

city drops to

STAFF REPORTER

'poor' category

The air quality in the city

deteriorated to the higher

end of the "poor" category

on Friday, official data

showed. The effect of stub-

ble burning has increased

and the air quality is ex-

pected to be in the "very

poor" to "poor" levels on

The air quality index

(AQI) of Delhi was 283 on

Friday, up from 268 on

Thursday, as per the

CPCB's 4 p.m. bulletin.



12 held for duping cyber fraud victims through fake websites

They swindled ₹1.74 cr. in last one year

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Twelve people, including two women, have been arrested for allegedly posing as government officials and cheating cyber fraud victims through an online redressal system. The accused have managed to swindle ₹1.74 crore in the past one year, the police said on Friday.

The police said they had received a complaint where the complainant alleged that while he was trying to report an incident of cheating, he came across a website www.jansurkashakendara.in. When the complainant called on the

mobile phone number pro-

informed him that they were the authorised persons working with the Government and they would lodge his complaint.

vided on the website, they

"On the pretext of lodging and investigating his complaint, the alleged people charged ₹2,850. Once the payment was done, they blocked the number of the complainant," DCP (Cyber Crime) K.P.S. Malhotra said.

Officers found similar complaints registered on the National Cyber Crime Reporting portal. Further investigation revealed that the fraudsters have received ₹1.74 crore in the past one year.

Art for heart's sake: Deepavali with Raja Ravi Varma

From oleographs to coasters, an ongoing exhibition allows you to take a bit of the legendary artist home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With Deepavali around the corner, it is time to bring the gods home. What better way to celebrate than investing in a Raja Ravi Varma masterpiece. More than a century after his demise. his works continue to attract aesthetes and devotees alike.

Inspired mother Rupika Chawla. noted art conservator and author of the acclaimed book, Raja Ravi Varma: Painter of Co-India, Delhi-based creative de-

signer Mrinalini Chawla is holding an exhibition showcasing a collection of original Raja Ravi Varma oleographs. The oleographs depict themes like goddesses Lakshmi, Saraswati, Mohini and Lord Krishna, which are available in a wide range of sizes and pric-

The exhibition has collectibles like 19th century European enamel, Burmese lacquer bowls, and Tanjore paintings from 1950s. Also available are limited-edition home products that Mrinalini designs and hand decorates, such as trays, stoles, wrapping paper, coasters and even an adult-child interactive colouring book inspired by Ravi Varma's works.

Art accessibility

"My intent is to make high-end art accessible to all through affordable and stylish home products. My aim is that the energies of beautiful, aesthetic art should flow in everyone's homes,"



Timeless classic: A Raja Ravi Varma oleograph. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

says Ms. Mrinalini.

originals from "dusty corners and interesting streets", she reminds that "Ravi Varma's oleographs were created specifically for the common man, who could not afford his oil on canvas works." Over the years, she says, the appeal of his work has expanded to all age

Enriching experience Mrinalini has been designing products, intimate spaces for theatre and exhibitions for years. "Often, one has been short of production funds. Therefore, I had to rely on imagination, inner aesthetics and improvisation. That has been so enriching. Ravi Varma's stunning works and other beautiful works, discovered after a great deal of searching and time,

have helped me design

and create anew," says

the designer, who also Having collected the runs Scrapilicious, an organisation dedicated to upcycled products.

> At the exhibition, Deepavali diyas made and decorated by the students of The Lepra India Trust (TLIT) are on sale. The diyas are either wrapped in recycled products or with European enamel and Burmese lacquer to give them a unique look.

> "Recycling is an integral part of my work and exhibition. We encourage that after use, all diyas are returned to TLIT for recycling. Please get in touch with me if you would like to return your unbroken diyas for recycling," says Mrinalini, adding that a percentage of sale proceeds from the exhibition shall go to TLIT and the The Yuva Ekta Foundation.

(The 20 Drawers Exhibition cum Sale is on till November 2 in Nizamuddin East, New

Students seek reopening of DU colleges; protest on

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Despite the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) clearing the decks for opening of schools, colleges and other educational institutions, the Delhi University has not taken an official call yet on complete reopening. Various student organisations, though, have been protesting demanding the reopening of the campus.

Members of the All India Students' Association (AISA) have been on a hunger strike outside the arts faculty building for over five days. AISA said

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even though it has received support from students across the university, no university official has come to meet or listen to its demands.

AISA questioned why the university administration is not willing to listen to students' demands and reopen the campus when they have been given the go-ahead by the Government authorities.

The ABVP has also called for a protest across all college campuses on Friday and protests outside the venue of the executive committee meeting of the university



Saturday.

Our Top 20 Rank Holders in IFS 2020

▶ AIR -1 Sooraj Ben K R from Shankar IAS Academy - Trivandrum

▶ AIR - 2 Gobbilla Vidhyadhari from Shankar IAS Academy - Andhra Pradesh Topper. AIR -10 Dhivya N from Shankar IAS Academy - Tamilnadu Topper (1st Attempt) ▶ 8 Rank holders among top 10 ranks in IFS 2020.

▶ 9 Rank holders are women among the 50 selections from Shankar IAS Academy

OJ IFS 2020 Result SIA Produces toppers from Tamilnadu for IFS for the 8th consecutive year.



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(AIR 08)

Vikalpa N

Vishwakarma

(AIR 14)

Jain

(AIR 20)







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Srivastava

(AIR 09)

Mridula

Singh

(AIR 15)

Mohammed

Azeez Khan

(AIR 24)





K A V S Prasad Reddy (AIR 04)

Dhivya N

(AIR 10)

R Vidyadhar

(AIR 16)

(AIR 27)





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₹825 crore for development work in Narela

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Friday approved development schemes in Delhi's Narela -Sector G-2 and Sector G-6 at an estimated cost of ₹824.73 crore.

Approved by the DDA vice-chairman, Manish Kumar Gupta, the works will include construction of roads, storm water drains and sewerage system, a press note said.



WEDDING & FESTIVAL OFFER

Kerala releases water from Mullaperiyar reservoir

AIADMK coordinator OPS urges Stalin to counter Kerala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Kerala released 517 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of water from the Mullaperiyar reservoir on Friday, prompting protest from farmers in T.N.'s southern districts and the Opposition AIADMK.

The water was released around 7.30 a.m. in the presence of Kerala Irrigation Minister Roshi Augustine and Revenue Minister Rajan.

Dam site inspected

The Kerala Ministers and officials inspected the dam site in the presence of Tamil Nadu PWD executive engineer J. Sam Irwin and others.

Farmers of five southern districts were not in favour of water release and had urged the Tamil Nadu Government to store the water up to 142 feet.

PWD engineers said that after the widespread rain overnight in Kerala, the in-



Water flowing out of Mullaperiyar dam on Friday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

flow stood at 6,635 cusecs and the discharge at 2,300 cusecs. The level was 138.05

AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam urged Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to hold talks with farmers of the Mullaperiyar dam 'ayacut' and take steps to defend the State's rights. In a statement, he wanted the State to defeat Kerala's "false campaign" through solid arguments placed by the best lawyers at

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the next hearing before the Supreme Court on Novem-

At the same time, it had been the expectation of farmers that cordial relations with Kerala should be maintained, he pointed out.

Theni, Dindigul, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga and Madurai districts receive water for irrigation and drinking purposes from the Mullaperiyar and Vaigai dams.

In 2014, the Supreme Court directed that the water be stored up to 142 feet. A three-member Supervisory Committee was formed to monitor the inflow and other aspects. The team has conducted periodic inspections since then.

Farmers' association leader K.M. Abbas alleged that the decision was "unilateral". The Tamil Nadu Government had the right to release water, but the discharge was done by Kerala.

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DECLARE that vide the deed of 'Revocation of Power of Attorney' dated

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John September, 2021, Thereby revoke in its entirety the Power of Attorney executed in June 2007, whereby Shri Bhavesh Thakorbhai Thakkar R/O 3 Radha Apartment, 1st Floor, Telli Gali, Andheri (E), Mumbai-400069 was appointed as

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Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar passes away

He suffered a cardiac arrest after a workout session at his home

KARNATAKA BUREAU

Puneeth Rajkumar, 46, one of the leading names in the Kannada film industry and the youngest of the five children of matinee idol Rajkumar, passed away following cardiac arrest on Friday morning.

The actor, well known as 'Power Star', complained of chest pain after a workout session at his home gym. An ECG at his family doctor's clinic indicated cardiac arrest, and he was rushed to Vikram Hospital, sources

Dr. Ranganath Nayak, cardiologist at Vikram Hospitals, said at the time of arrival at the emergency, the patient was unresponsive. "Immediate advanced cardiac life



<mark>Sad end:</mark> Puneeth Rajkumar in action during the shooting of his film *Dodmane Huduga* and, right, Parvathamma Rajkumar and actor Rajkumar with sons Puneet Rajkumar, Raghavendra Rajkumar and Shivarajkumar. • FILE PHOTOS

support measures were initiated. However, the patient continued to be unresponsive... He was declared dead at 2.30 p.m.," he said.

Puneeth made his debut with his father when he was just six months old and won a national award as child artist. He then took a break, only to re-emerge as a lead actor in 2002. He went on to star in 29 films as lead actor, delivering some of the biggest hits. Puneeth was one of the rare singer-actors of his generation, following in the footsteps of his father Dr. Rajkumar. He started singing even as a child artist, and many of the songs were hits.

He is survived by wife Ashwini Revanth and daughters Drithi and Vanditha. His brother Raghavendra Rajkumar, appealing for calm

among his fans, said the family was yet to come to terms with the loss. "He was at the party celebrating my birthday on Thursday night, singing and dancing, and to realise he is gone today is unbelievable," said music composer Guru Kiran.

His mortal remains have been kept at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, where fans and well-wishers can pay their respects on Saturday. His last rites will be conducted with state honours at Dr. Rajkumar Punyabhoomi in Kanteerava Studio on Sunday, the Government announced.

Puneeth Rajkumar's daughter is abroad and is expected to reach by Saturday night; so the last rites will be held on Sunday, according to

SC says it won't interfere with Karnataka order on RT-PCR

'No curbs on movement of citizens from Kerala'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Friday made it clear that insistence by a State Government on negative RT-PCR results from people travelling in from another State cannot be construed as a "restriction of movement of citizens".

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao did not agree with A.K.M. Ashraf, a legislator from Kerala, who faulted Karnataka's rule that people

entering it from his constituency of Manjeshwaram at Kasaragod in Kerala should have a negative RT-PCR certificate within 72 hours of their trip. He called it a violation of their right to free movement.

Mr. Ashraf, represented by advocate Haris Beeran, said people travel daily across the border from Manjeshwaram to Mangaluru in Karnataka for education, medical care and other essentials. Karnaright to movement of these daily commuters. "There is no violation of any fundamental right of persons living in Kasaragod district. Circulars issued by Karnataka cannot be interfered by this court in the interest of public health," the Supreme Court

taka's rule "inhibits" the

The court concluded there was "no restriction of movement of citizens from Kerala to Karnataka".

M.P. farmer kills self after failing to get fertilizer

ANUP DUTTA

Amid an acute shortage of fertilizer during the sowing of rabi crops, a 44-year-old farmer has died by suicide in Madhya Pradesh. The farmer, from Ashok

Nagar district, allegedly ended his life after he was unable to get fertilizer from distribution centres. He was disturbed over

the low yield from his farm in the previous season, said his younger brother and

Many districts in the State have been reeling from a

severe fertilizer crisis for several weeks. Almost all the 3,400 cooperative societies across Madhya Pradesh are out of stock. Under stress, farmers have resorted to protests by blocking National Highways in Bhind district and forcefully snatching fertilizer sacks in Morena district. In Sheopur district, fertilizers had to be distributed under police protection.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 am -7.30 pm



General Public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), Namely: Rihan S/o Unknown R/o Unknown is an accused under FIR No 570/21 U/s 394/411/34 IPC dated 07.09.2021 registered at Police Station Sadar Bazar, New Delhi has been absconded. His physical description is

Age: About 21 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Wearing: Unknown

boy, may inform SHO, Sadar Bazar, New Delhi at E-mail Idcic@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in

011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/1619/N/2021

P.S. Sadar Bazar, New Delhi North Distt., Delhi

Any person having any information/ Clue about this absconded SHO Phone: Ph. No. 011-23512411, 23512412

State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) (Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking) TENDER NOTICE Tender Reference No. Proj/T.No.17/EMC/PPKM/MNLR/2021, Dated 29-10-2021 The Managing Director, SIPCOT, 19-A,Rukmani Lakshmipathy Road, Egmo Chennai - 600 008. Selection of Consultant for Preparation of Detailed Master Plan and DPR for Name of the Work setting up of Electronic Manufacturing Cluster at Pillaipakkam, Kancheepuram District and Manallur, Tiruvallur District in Tamil Nadu under the EMC 2.0 Sche Tender document can be downloaded from 30-10-2021 to 23-11-2021. The tender documents could be downloaded from www.sipcot.tn.gov.in/ and www.tenders.tn.gov.in at free of cost. Rs.11,800/- (including GST) Rs.50,000/-5 Bid Security Due Date, Time & Place of submission of the tender 24-11-2021up to 3.00 PM at the address mentioned in SI.No (1) above Date, Time and Place of opening of the tender 24-11-2021 at 4.00 PM at the address mentioned in Sl.No (1) above

Managing Director சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போ

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVES IN OMC LTD.

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CIV	IL CADRE							
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Interested eligible candidates are advised to download the application format from OMC website: http://omcltd.in and submit the same duly filled in & signed along with attested copies of Certificates, Mark sheets, Experience Certificate etc. in support of their eligibility by Speed Post/Courier in a cover superscribed "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF _____ "so as to reach the General Manager (P&A), Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd., OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001 by <a href="https://speed-post/general-p reason shall not be entertained and will be rejected.

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SHORT TERM "E"- TENDERING ARE INVITED FOR ACSR WEASEL CONDUCTOR TN .581, GI STAY SET TN- 1582, GI WIRE 8 SWG TN-1583, SINGLE PHASE AB 1CX25+25 S0 MM TN-1584, 1-PHASE SWITCH FUSE UNIT TN-1585, EARTHING SET 2 MTR. LONG TN .586, EARTHING CHAIN TN- 1587, CRC REPAIR POWER TRANSFORMER TN-1588 LIGHTING ARRESTER FOR DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER TN-1589 DETAILS AROU QUANTITY, TENDER SPECIFICATION COST, EMD AND DATE OF UPLOADING /OPENING OF TENDER AND G.C.C. ETC WILL BE AVAILABLE AT WEB SITE <u>WWW.AVVNL.COM</u> HTTP://EPROC.RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN.

मध्यप्रदेश पब्लिक हेल्थ सर्विसेस कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड

तिलहन संघ भवन, 01, अरेरा हिल्स, भोपाल दिनांक : 29.10.2021

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निम्नलिखित निविदायें मध्यप्रदेश पब्लिक हेल्थ सर्विसेस कार्पोरेशन लि. के वेबसाइट

पर दर अनुबंध हेत् दिनांक 29.10.2021 से 30 कार्य दिवस में जारी की जावेंगी 1. Online Tender Ref. No. T-254/MPPHSCL/DPHL Lab Equipment/2021 on Dated : 29.10.2021 (Portal & Website)

2. Tender(s) for FDA - Drug Testing Lab Equipments 3. Tender(s) for FDA - Food Testing Lab Equipments

सभी Prospective bidders कार्यालय की वेबसाइट www.mptenders.gov.in एवं https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in पर विजिट कर निविदाओं में भाग लेवें।

म.प्र. माध्यम/102474/2021

मुख्य महाप्रबंधक (तकनीकी)

Form No.3 [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/ 16(3) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DELHI (DRT 3) 4TH FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI - 11000

Case No : OA/87/2020 Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) o

rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. Fvh No : 3479 INDIAN BANK (ALLAHABAD BANK) VS M/S SHREYA INTERNATIONAL AND ORS

1) M/S SHREYA INTERNATIONAL AND ORS THROUGH ITS PROP. AT-3815, GAL ARNA, SADAR BAZAR, North, DELHI -110006 (2) SMT SIMMI JAIN W/O NARESH JAIN, R/O Z-10, 1ST FLOOR, MODEL TOWN II NORTH WEST, DELHI-110009

Also At.: 3815 GALIBARNA, SADAR BAZAR DELHINORTH WEST, DELHI-110006 Also At. A 293 III FLOOR DERAWAL NAGAR DELHI NORTH WEST, DELHI-110009 (3) SHRI NARESH JAIN S/O DEV RAJ JAIN , R/O Z 10, 1ST FLOOR, MODEL TOWNII

Also At. 3815, GALI BARNA, SADAR BAZAR NORTH, DELHI-110006 Also At. A-293, III FLOOR, DERAWAL NAGAR CENTRAL, DELHI-110009

(4) M/S CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COLTD 1STAND II FLOOR PLOT NO 6, MAIN PUSA ROAD, KAROL BAGH CENTRAL, DELHI-110005 Also At. DARE HNO 2, NSC BOSE, PARRYS CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU -600001 SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/87/2020 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar of

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Applicatio under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 10724561.99/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed) In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specifie by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pendin

hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties; (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course o his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets

and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original applicatio without the prior approval of the Tribunal; (v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets of other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding securi

nterest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 20/11/2021 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Vide Conferencing and for that purpose: - (i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall downloathe Cisco Webex application/softwae; (ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next date. of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e <u>drt.gov.in</u> under the Public Notice Head. (iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph.No. 23748469. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this date: 28/09/2021

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

EXAMINATION CITY

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(Recruitment link at Home page) for detailed guidelines/ information, number of posts, eligibility criteria, etc. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/ Addendum/ updates will be

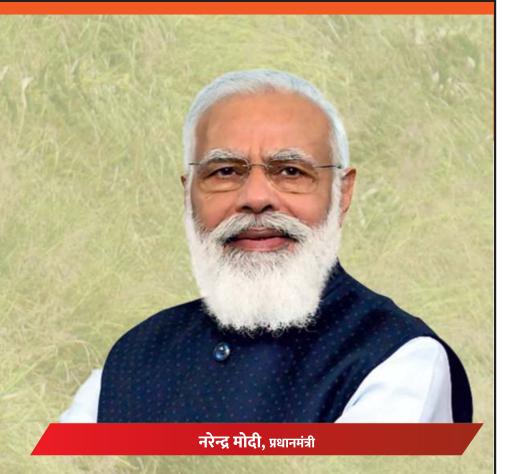
THE HINDU DELHI SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021



संकल्पसे सिद्धि, सहकारिवा से समृद्धि



मुख्यमंत्री घस्यारी क्याण योजना



योजना की विशेषताएं

मुख्यमंत्री घस्यारी कल्याण योजना के तहत 2 रुपये प्रति किलो पौष्टिक चारा उपलब्ध करवाया जाएगा।

लाभार्थियों को टोटल मिक्स्ड, पैकेज साइलेज व पौष्टिक आहार से पूर्ण चारा उपलब्ध करवाया जाएगा।

उत्तराखण्ड राज्य के पर्वतीय ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की मातृशक्ति योजना का लाभ ले सकती हैं।

जिस समय महिलाओं को चारा लेने के लिए जंगल जाना पड़ता है उस समय वह अब अन्य कामों को भी कर सकती हैं।



अमित शाह

गृह एवं सहकारिता मंत्री, भारत सरकार

—— के कर कमलों द्वारा —

पुष्कर सिंह धामी

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

अजय भट्ट

रक्षा एवं पर्यटन राज्य मंत्री, भारत सरकार

डॉ. धन सिंह रावत

सहकारिता मंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

अध्यक्षता

विनोद चमोली

विधायक, धर्मपुर

की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति में सम्पन्न होगा।

दिनांक : ३० अक्टूबर, २०२१ समय : प्रातः ११:०० बजे स्थान: बन्नू इंटर कॉलेज, रेस कोर्स, देहरादून



€ हमारी सरकार द्वारा ग्रामीण महिलाओं के उत्थान एवं उनके सिर से घास का बोझ कम करने के लिए **मुख्यमंत्री घस्यारी** कल्याण योजना प्रारंभ की जा रही है। इस योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य चारे के लिए महिलाओं की जंगल पर निर्भरता कम करना, जंगली जानवरों एवं दुर्घटनाओं से उनकी रक्षा करने के साथ ही पशुओं के लिए पौष्टिक आहार उपलब्ध कराना है।

पष्कर सिंह धामी, मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

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Silly point

Support for the national cricket team or its players is no litmus test for patriotism

eople who allegedly celebrated the victory of Pakistan against India in a T20 cricket World Cup match on October 24 are facing the brunt of the state. All of them are Muslims. In Rajasthan, a young schoolteacher has been terminated by a private school and the police have charged her under IPC Section 153B for 'imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration'. In Jammu and Kashmir, the police have registered two cases against unknown persons under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and other sections. In Uttar Pradesh, three students from J&K have been charged under IPC Sections 153A (promoting enmity between groups), 505 (creating or publishing content to promote enmity) and, later, Section 124A, sedition. The wisdom, propriety or acceptability of celebrating Pakistan's victory is beside the point. From moral, tactical, and practical perspectives, this sweeping policing is unwise. No democracy, least of all a country of India's size and diversity, can demand unyielding uniformity and conformity from its population, on all questions and at all times. It is unlikely that any of these charges will stand judicial scrutiny, but that only makes this spectacle a ridiculous distraction for the stretched law enforcement system. Far from enforcing national integration as the purported aim of this heavy-handed police action is, it will only brew more resentment and social disharmony apart from derailing young lives.

An unremitting loyalty test of citizens can be a selfdefeating pursuit for a country like India that has global ambitions. People of Indian origin live around the world, with split loyalties. There are U.S. citizens who chant victory for India at gatherings in their home countries addressed by the Indian Prime Minister, and there are British and Australian citizens who boo their own country in favour of India during sporting events. Sports teams around the world have members of foreign origin. Infusion of toxic hyper-nationalism in sports is bad in such a world; more so for India. While the BJP has been championing this link between cricket and nationalism, other parties are not far behind as the incident in Rajasthan, a Congress-ruled State, shows. AAP in Delhi was one step ahead and questioning the Narendra Modi government for allowing the cricket match with Pakistan. Had all this been on account of an unspoken link between cheering for the national cricket team and support for a united India, the police would have also charged those who mercilessly trolled Mohammed Shami, a Muslim in the Indian cricket team. True, it would have been wonderful for the Indian cricket team to enjoy the unqualified support of the entire nation, but, surely, there is no reason to charge those who support another team with sedition. The Indian state looks silly now, and the whole episode bodes ill for cricket, and the country.

Descent into chaos

The Myanmar junta should immediately end

the violent suppression of democratic protests The decision by ASEAN to exclude Myanmar's military junta from its annual summit held on October 26-28 is a major setback for the Generals' attempts to gain regional legitimacy for their brutal regime. Ever since it seized power by toppling the democratic government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February, the junta has unleashed a reign of terror claiming an estimated 1,000 lives. Ms. Suu Kvi, who had been the State Councillor for five years from 2015 heading the quasi-democratic government, has been in detention since the coup and is facing absurd charges such as "illegally owning walkie-talkies". Thousands of others were arrested by the military, notorious for its reprisal of democratic protests in the past. But this time, the crisis seems much worse. Months after the seizure of power, the junta, led by Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, is still struggling to restore order. If in the past the National League for Democracy (NLD), Ms. Suu Kyi's party, had upheld non-violence even in the face of repression, this time, NLD leaders have called for a "revolution". The remnants of the old regime have formed a National Unity Government, which claims to be the true representative of Myanmar. In cities, protests slid into armed fighting between pro-democracy protesters and security personnel, while in the jungles, anti-junta groups joined hands with rebels for military training. The situation was so grave that the UN Special Envoy warned this month that Myanmar had descended into a civil war.

One of the regional groupings with some leverage over the junta is ASEAN. In April, Gen. Min Aung Hlaing was invited to Jakarta for emergency talks with ASEAN members. The bloc asked him to immediately end violence, start the reconciliation process and allow a regional special envoy to meet with all stakeholders, including Ms. Suu Kyi. None of these requests was met. Most recent reports suggest that the junta has been systematically torturing political prisoners. A special envoy was appointed as part of the ASEAN plan, but he was not allowed to meet Ms. Suu Kyi. Regime violence, political crises and strikes and counter-attacks by protesters have all pushed Myanmar to the brink of collapse. According to the UN, some three million people are in need of life-saving assistance because of "conflict, food insecurity, natural disasters and COVID-19". Still, the Generals do not show any signs of compromise and are not even ready to talk with the NLD. Violence might allow them to hold on to power for now, but that is not sustainable. The ASEAN snub is a reminder that continuing violence could cause regional isolation of the regime, which could worsen the crisis. The international community should continue to put pressure on the junta and urgently start a reconciliation process.

In India, the steady subversion of equality

The sharp turns away from democracy seen recently in the country must jolt citizens into stopping the descent



SEEMA CHISHTI

rime Minister Narendra Modi has loudly reiterated India's embrace of democracy internationally, hailed its 'diversity' when abroad and is seeking India's relevance as an ally of the West on 'democratic values'. Therefore, it is imperative to measure the distance between today's India and democratic values.

The central edifice of a democracy, or what makes it a revolutionary idea, is equality, or that it accords an equal status to all its people. But the E-word is in rapid remission. A commitment to all being equal as a desired ideal even if not fully realised in reality accorded India its sheen and power in the past. India now, from being a truly remarkable case of composite nationalism, appears happy to huddle in that corner of the room which many of its neighbours occupy.

Faith as differentiator

The promise of the far-sighted Indian Constitution was of equal rights to all. If any benefit was accorded to smaller groups, religious or linguistic minorities or Dalits, it was in order to achieve substantive equality. This cut across all markers of identity - colour, race, language, faith, caste, region or food. But faith seems to have increasingly emerged as a visible differentiator between citizens. It must be recognised that laws and not just the spirit – are in the process of being rewritten in

First and foremost, the basis of citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019, allowing for non-Muslims from three countries to fast-track their citizenship, was the most serious push to introduce religion into citizenship.

Second in terms of marital choices, laws in the country in States where the national ruling

harsh attention on inter-faith couples. Imaginary fears of a 'love-jihad', the basis for new legislations have meant that inter-faith marriages are seen as crimes unless proven otherwise. The Gujarat law criminalising inter-faith marriages has been called out by the Gujarat High Court, but the ordinance introduced in Uttar Pradesh (Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020), which is now a law, till July, saw 63 FIRs filed against it, and 80 people arrested among 162 people who were booked, the majority being Muslim. A similar law in Madhya Pradesh has a similar trajectory, and a differential impact on Muslims, emphasising the rapid unspooling of the E-word. In terms of personal law, only Muslim men divorcing their wives through the triple talaq, now outlawed by the Supreme Court, is deemed a criminal act; not so for men of other faiths.

Drastic changes

Third, food has been criminalised. Stringent laws on cattle end up penalising those who have a certain diet, namely beef. The mood in the country created and abetted by people close to the powers that be, has led to lynchings. IndiaSpend has recorded bovine-related hate violence since 2010 and concluded that 98% of these attacks occurred post-May 2014, after the Bharatiya Janata Party assumed office. State governments and the Union government have mostly ignored the Supreme Court's directions in 2018 to set up fast track courts, advice to take steps to stop hate messages on social media, or compensation to victims, or bringing in an anti-mob lynching law.

Fourth, consider the Guiarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Act, popularly known as the Disturbed Areas Act, which circumscribes where one can reside. Brought in an atmosphere where there was communal rioting and forced displacement, to ostensibly protect communities from distress sales, the twist accorded to it over



separation of communities evident. Vijay Rupani, till recently the Chief Minister of Gujarat, said in an interview on July 27, 2019; "A Hindu selling property to a Muslim is not okay. A Muslim selling property to a Hindu is also not okay." He added, "We have set this rule in areas where there have been riots to tell them (Muslims) that they must buy property in their own

Hostile environment

That the environment in even the informal sector where minorities sought refuge in vocations to battle the prejudices of the formal sector is now curdling, is clear from recent studies on the subject. The linkages between those wielding extraordinary power in high offices with those making vicious noise on social media, and with the violent mobs on the ground trying to shut down Muslim businesses - or attack vegetable sellers or bangle sellers to prevent them to operate - are becoming more explicit by the day. It is old hat to say that several purveyors of hate are "proud to be followed by the Prime Minister" on social media. But even that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Those in power actively support and reward those who head mobs. raise slogans or demonstrate hate enough to shut down cities and regular life. Ministers garland them and the anti-minority hate spewed by them is a CV building exercise for better political prospects within the ruling party. The Member of Parliament representing Bhopal, Pragya Thakur, a public defender of the Mahatma's assassin, is only one of the many who exemplify the career path

amity or calls for harmony.

Scholars like Thomas Blom Hansen and Paul Brass have unhesitatingly pointed to the role of violence that has historically been acceptable in Indian society and politics. The stark difference between now and a few decades ago is a difference in top leaders being silent at important moments when mob violence is reported prominently. Dissenters are sought to be marked out "by their clothes" as the Prime Minister said infamously in December 2019 about those protesting the discriminatory citizenship laws. Far from discouraging those indulging in hate speech, they are given a place in the party hierarchy.

The line was drawn simply but sharply by no less a person than Sardar Patel on September 11, 1948 when the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was banned after the Mahatma's assassination. Patel wrote to the RSS chief M.S. Golwalkar, that he had no problem with the Sangh indulging in activities organising or benefiting Hindus, but had a problem with actions that were aimed at solely spreading anti-Muslim hate – "All their speeches were full of communal poison. It was not necessary to spread poison in order to enthuse the Hindus and organize for their protection."

Exclusive entitlement There was clearly a sentiment in Indian society and politics that wanted a country in the mirror image of Pakistan, as one for a Hindu majority. This view did not want to better the lives of Hindus. This was about claiming that those adhering to one religion have exclusive entitlement to Indianhood. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad, an organisation very much in the family of the ruling party, rubbishes the idea of the mosaic that India is, when its secretary-general, Milind Parande said on September 7, 2021, that "the very idea of Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb (term used to denote the coming together fusion of Hindu and Muslim cultures in the country), is irrelevant. What exists is one culture, and the rest can

like these to denigrate the idea of India as a shared palette are never denounced by those in power. In fact, increasingly, there is little to distinguish these from statements of those in power and wielding authority representing the Indian state. The seriousness of what is afoot must be acknowledged.

The backbone

Scholars like Christophe Jaffrelot have pointed out that there will not be a seamless transition to an "ethnic democracy". There is no smooth path towards a 'Category two' or diminished citizenship status for large numbers of people who deviate from a prescribed cultural path. The Indian nation is one formed on the promise of shared and participatory kinship, which recognised Indian nationalism as being distinct from the faith you practised at home. Prioritising any one identity will have disastrous consequences and history provides enough evidence of this. Rwanda, South Africa or Germany are reminders that the E-word is as much a pragmatic consideration as it is a normative ideal.

India was proud of its hallowed constitutional precepts. More so as it was in a region which has seen a precipitous slide; Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Myanmar prioritised one ethnicity/religion and defined belonging and nationhood in the narrowest sense possible. But differences between them and India are fast fading and not merely due to hotheads or mobs on the street. The formal ruling establishment, with its silences, utterances and formalising of new laws and norms, is indistinguishable with the ideas guiding mobs. The mobs read together with actions of the Union government and that of State governments mark a sharp turn away from the democracy India claims it is. That must jolt us into recognising the distance we have already travelled down the wrong path. That may be the first step to try to wrest the descent into the darkness of an

Seema Chishti is a journalist. The views

The Evergrande-sized question over Chinese politics

The Evergrande crisis is significant, with answers linked to the Communist Party of China's political and social outlook



AVINASH GODBOLE

hina's construction giant, the Evergrande Group, was in the news about a month ago as it ran out of money, had no options to get more loans or overdrafts, and had almost \$310 billion worth of liabilities and several angry lenders, suppliers and homebuyers wanting clear answers that did not seem to come from anywhere. It began in January 2021 when regulators in China changed lending regulations with an aim to "strengthen [the] anti-monopoly push and prevent disorderly expansion of capital" which brought in more curbs in lending to big private businesses. While this was a delayed structural reform, it also marked the beginning of the end for Evergrande.

Housing as a bubble

The Evergrande crisis is a significant recent development that has struck the country's ruling elites. However, at least since 2014, China's housing sector has been labelled as a "bubble waiting to burst". What kept it going on over the seven years or so and why Evergrande has imploded so suddenly is the real story that can be answered only with reference to the Communist Party of China's (CPC) present political and social

Developments in China tend to be explained with the help of Chinese idioms. One such popular idiom is to "kill the chicken to scare the monkey". Perhaps what China did with the Ant Financial IPO late last year was akin to killing the chicken. But now it seems that Evergrande was indeed the monkey that is now about to die. and the party does not know how exactly to handle it. In other words, did the Chinese government want to make an example out of Evergrande?

Factors behind China's rise China's spectacular rise thus far is based on two pillars of exports and infrastructure. There is a realisation now that this has led to what was called "unbalanced and inadequate growth" when the new principal contradiction was declared during the 19th Party Congress in 2017. Recently, exports have slowed down and are not as profitable as before. The infrastructure sector, on the other hand, is at the centre of the guanxi (social network) induced corruption and cronyism, and is adding to the country's debt problem. China's President Xi Jinping has spoken of a need for course correction right since 2012, primarily to avoid a heating of the economy; expensive



houses would make the middle class angry and it may have cascading implications for the party's

Second, the ostentatious lifestyle of the Evergrande boss is also something the party wants to distance itself from, and may be punish; in China, it is okay to make money but let it be about your hard work and acknowledge the party's guidance but do not be nouveau riche. This feeling has only got stronger since the 2012 incident involving a fatal Ferrari crash involving Ling Jihua's son. China's netizens are also aware of this problem and they often take to social media to vent their anger. Chinese youth are angry as jobs are hard to find, and recently, there have been popular protests targeting several icons. Such protests may even be managed from inside the party to underwrite its imminent policy choices as it helps the party appear more responsive and engaged. Thus, celebrities with busioutside China, non-conforming youth, fin-tech

and ed-tech moguls who were too autonomous for the party's liking were targeted because the party leads everything as Mr. Xi proclaimed in 2019.

Common prosperity is the central explanation for what is happening in China right now in several diverse sectors. This idea did not make a sudden appearance in the party lexicon. It was mentioned in the 19th Party Congress document as a target for the Chinese people "... to work together and... ultimately achieve common prosperity for everyone" and more as a wishlist in the previous two reports. For the same reason, Alibaba will invest \$15.5 billion in corporate social responsibility under the party's guidance. There is also a strong influence of China's new left thinkers who have for long argued that China is moving from being a market economy to a market society where corruption and cronyism are rampant and where distribution of social goods takes a back seat.

Domestic consumption

However, there is another dilemma that the CPC must resolve soon. China needs companies such as Evergrande to operate because the country has ambitious twin targets of expanding urbanisation and increasing domestic consumption as was highlighted in the Dual Circulation strategy. Today, China's construction sector directly accounts for 7% and along with allied industries accounts for close to 17% of the country's GDP. So, the role of the construction sector is critical in terms of employment, wealth creation, contribution to tax, and in terms of the overall expansion of the urban middle class. The CPC already finds it hard enough to make the Chinese middle class spend its money since it is a savings driven class. Any sign of contraction may drive the middle class away from consumption and that may indeed be a bad sign for the economy.

Also, China consumes 50% of the global steel and cement production. So the Evergrande crisis does have global implications. Is it possible then that this is one that is actually a party-engineered crisis to assert Chinese centrality for the world economy? There are economic reasons to consider and whether China would let Evergrande fall. However, beyond that is the political issue of whether it might happen because it is closer to the Jiang Zemin faction and has links to the family of former Premier Wen Jiabao. Depending on how these questions are answered one might find the clues to what happens in the next party congress in fall next year.

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

Where India stands With the disastrous consequences of climate change making their presence felt rather forcefully in the world today, the veritable truth is that the man-made-catastrophe of global warming can be mitigated only through collective efforts. India has become one of the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases, and it is imperative that it joins the climate mitigation bandwagon (Page 1, "India will stress 'climate justice' at global summit, says

Minister", October 29). However, what is unjust and unacceptable is that historical polluters are conveniently overlooking the clause of 'common but differentiated responsibility' enshrined in the Paris Accord of 2015. The points that the Indian Prime Minister and his French counterpart together launched the International Solar Alliance; the country has set a target of installing 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030; has a robust electric vehicle policy in place, besides a mission for hydrogen, and

is steadily increasing its forest cover, all prove that India has recognised need for global climate change mitigation efforts. NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,

Committing to net zero carbon emissions is a tall order. India is a developing nation, with the lion's share of its energy produced through thermal power. The country should for now focus on gradually turning to and relying on renewable sources of energy. AANYA SINGHAL,

Noida, Uttar Pradesh

The recent case of alleged

'Drug bust' case

drug seizure on a cruise ship and the arrest of high-profile celebrities only highlight the growing danger of the consumption of narcotics in India, especially among the young. It is no exaggeration to say that there is a culture of rave drug parties in Mumbai. Why does the Narcotics Control Bureau not crack the whip? While walking down Colaba Causeway, one can often spot youngsters smoking narcotics in the narrow lanes and bylanes. There are also those who are on the fringes

of society who indulge in drugs. There need to be concerted moves to educate all, especially youngsters, on the dangers of narcotic use. JUBEL D'CRUZ,

■ The way the high-profile case has proceeded only raises more questions than answers. Of concern is the way the investigation has proceeded. The seriatim of controversies that have arisen will certainly open a Pandora's box. Let the case not drag on for months. MANI NATARAAJAN, Chennai

Films and the messages Vice-President M. Venkaiah

Naidu while appreciating the standing of the iconic thespian, Rajinikanth, also indirectly highlighted the status of cinema today that vastly differs from its purpose of being a carrier of social, moral and ethical messages. This should serve as a reminder to actors and producers. The selectors of the National Film Awards should also choose films that shun violence in their plots. BABY HARLINE, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

Following the arrest of superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son in a drugs-related case, allegations of professional and personal impropriety have been made against Sameer Wankhede, the officer heading the investigation. **Alok Deshpande** reports on the events of the last three weeks which have grown into a political slugfest

n the wee hours of October 3, a crowd gathered outside the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) office in south Mumbai. When an officer stepped out of the building and under the glare of television cameras, reporters, hungry for bites, pounced on him, many almost pushing their mikes into his mouth. "Yes, we have taken eight to 10 people in our custody," said the officer, Sameer Wankhede, Mumbai Zonal Director of the NCB. "Investigation is in progress."

"Eight or 10?" a reporter demanded to know, but this voice got lost in the volley of questions that were being thrown at the officer. Little did anyone in that crowd know that this question would haunt the NCB in general and Wankhede in particular in the coming days. But that is for later.

On that day, the famed NCB officer had everything under control. Aryan Khan, the 23-year-old son of Shah Rukh Khan, who is one of the biggest film stars in the world, was sitting inside the NCB office. He and his friends Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha were being probed by the agency for alleged drug abuse on board the Cordelia cruise ship the day before, at a party organised by Fashion TV. Of the 1,300 guests at the party, the NCB had picked up a few youngsters, later alleging that they were part of an international drug racket. The arrests of the three accused immediately caught the country's attention. But no one would have expected it to spiral into what it has become today a bewildering story of accusations and counter-accusations involving politicians, government servants and Bollywood stars.

In the limelight

Wankhede's brush with fame, glamour and controversy is neither new nor surprising. The 2008-batch Indian Revenue Service officer from the Customs and Central Excise branch was posted at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai from 2010 to 2013. In 2011, he made headlines when, as Assistant Commissioner of Customs, he imposed a fine of ₹1.5 lakh on none other than Shah Rukh Khan, who had returned from a family holiday in Holland and London, for excess luggage.

Besides Shah Rukh Khan, Minissha Lamba and Anushka Sharma and team members of Katrina Kaif, Bipasha Basu, Ranbir Kapoor, Vivek Oberoi, Anurag Kashyap and Mika Singh have come under Wankhede's radar during his stint at the airport and then at the Service Tax department for reportedly not declaring imported valuables such as watches, perfumes and footwear.

gation Agency on deputation in 2013. In 2017, he was assigned to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. "What attracted the attention of many and resulted in him being deputed to the NCB was that he had a wide network of informants," an official with the NCB says on the condition of anonymity.

In 2020, Wankhede began to probe the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. It all began on June 14 when Rajput, 34, was found dead at his Bandra home. The Mumbai Police began an investigation stating that the death was being treated as a suicide. The autopsy report confirmed that the actor had died by suicide. Nevertheless, an unprecedented political storm occurred in the wake of his death, with the Bihar Assembly elections scheduled to take place a few months later. Rajput was a native of Bihar. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) saw an opportunity to denounce the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra, especially the Shiv Sena. Senior BJP leaders alleged that Rajput had been murdered and that the incident was being covered up to protect an influential, young leader of the Sena. An FIR was registered in Bihar. The allegations, all made without any evidence, received extraordinary media coverage. Rajput's girlfriend and actor Rhea Chakraborty was blamed for his death and was then accused of killing him. Following the BJP's claims, which were aided by Rajput's family members, central investigating agencies were brought in to probe the case. A team of the Central Bureau of Investigation questioned all those related to Rajput, including Chakraborty. In July 2020, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a money laundering case based on the FIR registered in Bihar and the allegations made by Rajput's father against Chakraborty. According to sources, the ED's audit showed references to drugs in Chakraborty's WhatsApp chats. And

so, the NCB was brought in. On August 31, 2020, Wankhede, who was in the DRI, was inducted into the NCB for six months. The NCB categorically denies that he was brought in especially for the Rajput case. A statement issued by Mutha Ashok Jain, Deputy Director General, South West region, NCB, read, "The vacancy circular for filling the post of ZD/DD was initiated in the year 2019. Sh. Sameer Wankhede



(Clockwise from top): Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan being brought to court from the Narcotics Control Bureau office in Mumbai; NCB officer Sameer Wankhede; and NCP leader Nawab Malik



Many say they were surprised when applied for the post of ZD in NCB on DRI. The application was forwarded to NCB on 27.08.2020 by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs. Sh. Sameer Wankhede, IRS was inducted as Zonal Director, Mumbai on 31.08.2020 on loan basis for the period of six months."

> Within a week of taking charge, Wankhede arrested Chakraborty, despite finding no drugs on her, purely on the basis of her WhatsApp chats which the agency then claimed were related to procuring narcotics for Rajput. The NCB's investigations based on WhatsApp chats didn't end there. Actors Deepika Padukone, Shraddha Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan and Rakul Preet Singh were also questioned in connection with an alleged drug racket in Bollywood. Kshitij Prasad, former employee at Dharmatic Entertainment, the digital arm of Dharma Productions, was arrested by the NCB. When he was later granted bail, Prasad claimed that the NCB led by Wankhede had harassed him and coerced him to falsely implicate actors Ranbir Kapoor, Dino Morea and Arjun

> Rampal. The NCB denied the claim. With Wankhede's arrival, the NCB's drive to 'clean up' Bollywood seemed to gain momentum. "Messages used to go to certain reporters well before the NCB would go to interrogate a celebrity," a journalist working with a leading private television channel says. WhatsApp chats were leaked to sections of the media, which helped create a narrative against the accused. An agency which was earlier investigating and probing drug cartels and suppliers started making headlines for probing alleged drug users, most of them celebrities, who were found in possession of small quantities of drugs or none at all. Reacting to the criticism that was being directed against him, Wankhede simply said he was following the law.

> The officer who had come to the NCB on "loan basis" for six months has till now received two extensions. Since Wankhede's induction, the NCB has set a record by arresting over 300 people. The agency claims it has dismantled around 12 drug gangs in Mumbai and Goa. But sources point out that none of the high-profile cases have stood scrutiny in court; in many cases, even the charge-sheets have not been filed. That WhatsApp chats alone are being used as evidence against celebrities has come under the scanner too.

Wankhede has said in interviews that his mother worked for street children and his father, who is from the uniformed services, always wanted to see him work for the nation. All these personal details have added to his image as a daredevil officer.

Nawab Malik's salvos

Wankhede's actions were countered for the first time when the NCB arrested comedian Bharti Singh and her husband Haarsh Limbachiyaa in November 2020 and allegedly seized 86.5 grams of ganja from their home and office. Nationalist ter for Minority Affairs and Skills Development Nawab Malik said then that drug addicts should be sent to rehabilitation centres and not jail. "The NCB's duty is to track down drug traffickers but no action is being taken against them," said Malik, a five-time MLA who is close to NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

Two months later, on January 13, 2021, messages were sent to reporters about a "high-profile" interrogation at the NCB office. The accused, the reporters found out on rushing there, was Sameer Khan, Malik's son-in-law. On January 9, the NCB had seized 200 kilograms of marijuana and arrested British national Karan Sejnani and two sisters -Rahila and Shaista Furniturewala from Bandra. Sameer was summoned by the NCB after an alleged online transaction of ₹20,000 between him and Sejnani was found. Asked for his reaction then, Malik had said, "Law will take its due course and justice will prevail. I respect and have immense faith in our judiciary." Sameer remained in jail for nearly eight months.

Months later, Malik paid keen attention to the visuals that were flashing on television screens of some men with Aryan Khan inside the NCB office. Malik decided to hear what Wankhede was saying in front of the camera. "He said 'eight to 10 are in our custody'. What is this? A joke? It is either eight or 10. An officer always knows how many are in custody," Malik said.

Malik's eyes were also drawn to the footage of a bearded man on the cruise ship where Aryan Khan was also present. "An officer with a styled beard?" he wondered. Around the same time when Malik's suspicions rose, a bald and hefty man's selfie with Aryan Khan went viral on social media. Wankhede, who was now unknowingly being sucked into a whirlpool, quickly responded that the person in the photo was not an NCB officer. The media ran the clarification. But Malik decided to dig deeper. A photo search on Google led him to K.P. Gosavi, an accused in a and using his own network of contacts in the Gujarati trading community, Malik also identified the bearded man on the ship as Manish Bhanushali, a BIP worker. Malik knew he had got hold of something.

Malik, who Wankhede says harbours a personal grudge against him, does not deny his past altercations with team Wankhede. He says he was quiet when his son-in-law was arrested as he believed that the law would take its course. But when the judiciary found no evidence against Sameer Khan and the court order stated that what was seized was herbal tobacco, he decided to speak out, he said. He alleged that the NCB had framed his son-in-law.

Following these revelations, the NCB aggressively defended the use of Gosavi and Bhanushali as independent witnesses on the first day of allegations and even hinted that Malik's outburst was due to personal reasons.

Undeterred, Malik then addressed Wankhede's vague statement that "eight to 10 people" had been detained. He said that 11 people, in fact, had been detained by the NCB during the October 2 raid but three of them - BJP leader Mohit Kamboj's brother-in-law Rishabh Sachdev, Pratik Gabha and Amir Furniturewala – were let off.

Malik kept the heat up on Wankhede. Two days later, he raised questions about the involvement of a man cited by the NCB as an independent witness in as

many as three cases. He asked whether the man, Fletcher Patel, was an independent witness or a close aide of Wankhede's. The NCP leader also took to Twitter to post a screenshot of an Instagram picture of Fletcher Patel with a woman described as "lady don". The woman in the picture is Yasmeen Wankhede, Sameer Wankhede's sister. A few days later, Malik claimed that Wankhede was extorting money from Bollywood celebrities by threatening them and released photos of the NCB official's trip to the Maldives.

Malik also alleged that Wankhede is certificate to get his government job. On the same day, another independent witness, Prabhakar Sail, who was a bodyguard of K.P. Gosavi, filed an affidavit claiming that the NCB had demanded ₹25 crore from Shah Rukh Khan of which ₹8 crore was to go to Wankhede. Sail also said that Wankhede asked him to sign on blank papers. The next day, Malik released the 'nikahnama' of Wankhede's first marriage with Shabana Qureishi where the officer's father's name is mentioned as Dawood instead of Dnyandev as per his caste certificate. The Qazi who officiated the marriage in question said that both families involved in the wedding were Muslims.

The NCB has been on a defensive mode. For the first time, it has been forced to issue a string of clarifications. Things came to a head with Sail's affidavit which left the NCB with no option but to form a five-member vigilance team to probe the allegations against Wankhede. The NCB's Deputy Director General (Northern Region), Gyaneshwar Singh, appealed to Sail to come and depose in front of the agency, but Sail has gone underground.

Facing the heat

Meanwhile, the NCB officer's family says they are being harassed and have been receiving threats ever since Malik claimed that Wankhede's caste certificate is fraudulent. Wankhede says he is Hindu by birth and was married to Qureishi under the Special Marriage Act. "The nikahnama was done as my late mother, who was a Muslim, wanted Islamic rituals," he said. His father claims that he never converted to Islam and

was lovingly called Dawood by his wife. Wankhede's wife Kranti Redkar-Wankhede, an actor, has also denied all the allegations. She says Wankhede is a Hindu and an honest officer. She has written to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray demanding "justice" while invoking her Marathi roots.

"I do not have a problem with him being a Muslim or a person from any other religion. We have the freedom to practise the religion of our choice. However, Wankhede, by faking his caste certificate, has denied the right of a hard-working child from the Scheduled Caste community by usurping a seat,"

Malik's tweets every morning have

kept the pot boiling for the NCB. The BJP has targeted Malik, claiming that the MVA government has been working hard to save Shah Rukh Khan's son. BJP MLA Atul Bhatkhalkar complained to the Kurla Police station alleging that Malik, by claiming that Wankhede was a Muslim, was creating communal disharmony. Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale held a press conference where he termed Malik's allegations baseless. 'Wankhede is a Dalit officer, who is doing good work... and it is not right to target him," he said.

A political slugfest

GROUND ZERO 7

Following Rajput's death as well as the bomb scare in Antilia in February this year, where a car laden with explosives was found parked near the house of industrialist Mukesh Ambani, the BJP strongly advocated the use of central agencies for investigations claiming that the Maharashtra Police were being misused by the MVA government. The Union government ensured that central probe agencies took control of the investigations in these cases. All three parties in the MVA government have alleged several times that the BIP is using central agencies to tarnish the State's image and destabilise the government.

The BJP's outburst against Malik came after he exposed the party's direct connection with the Aryan Khan case. The party could not deny Bhanushali's presence during the raid. BJP leader Mohit Kamboj, whose brother-in-law was let off by the NCB, has threatened to file a defamation suit against Malik.

After spending more than three weeks in jail, Aryan Khan was granted bail on October 28. Gosavi, who was on the run after his identity was revealed, has now been arrested by the Pune Police in a 2018 cheating case. Bhanushali is nowhere to be found. Wankhede has approached the Bombay High Court seeking protection from possible arrest by the Mumbai Police on the charge of extortion. A departmental inquiry has been initiated against him too.

In the midst of the political slugfest. social media has flared up with one section supporting Shah Rukh Khan and the other, Wankhede. Several social media accounts have been running hashtags personally targeting Shah Rukh Khan, demanding rejection of bail to his son and calling for a boycott of all the products he endorses. Attacks were also mounted against Malik using hashtags such as #SendNawabMalikToJail.

In the blockbuster film Om Shanti Om, Shah Rukh Khan's character famously says, 'Picture abhi baaki hai, mere dost (The show is yet to get over, my friend)'. The Aryan Khan case has created ripples everywhere and brought many under the scanner. The son of the famous actor may be out on bail, but with Malik continuing to make allegations against Wankhede and the officer now running to court for protection, the show is yet to get over.





No money left in MGNREGA coffers

This provided a critical lifeline to a record 11 crore

However, the scheme's 2021-22 budget was set at just ₹73,000 crore, with the Centre arguing that the nationwide lockdown was over, and that supplementary allocations budgetary would be available if the monev ran out

As on October 29, the total expenditure, including payments due had already reached ₹79,810 crore, pushing the scheme into the red. Already, 21 States show a negative net balance, with Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal faring the worst.

"We are facing a situation of MGNREGA closing down halfway through the year. Who is going to absorb the cost? The poorest and most vulnerable communities, who have already been crushed by the pandemic's impact," said Nikhil Dey, a founder of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan.

"The Government of India is, on the face of it, pushing crores of people into forced labour, as held by the SC," added Mr. Dey.

"It is somewhat early this year [to run out of funds]," admitted a senior official of the Rural Development Ministry, who did not wish to be named. "People will continue to get work. Only thing that might happen is that the payment will only be made once funds are available. But many States can provide temporary funds out of their own kitty and then once the fund is available, it can be reimbursed [by the Centre]."

The official blamed the State governments for the current situation.

"My apprehension is that the States are using it not as a demand driven scheme, but as a supply-led scheme. The States are asking their field authorities to artificially create demand," said the

Activists say the exact opposite is happening on the ground. MGNREGA data shows that 13% of households who demanded work under the scheme were not

Barriers removed from farmers' protest sites

"It was the Delhi Police that had put these barricades after the January 26 episode [when protesters entered the Red Fort and indulged in violence]. It seems after the SKM's affidavit in the Supreme Court, the Delhi Police have corrected their mistake," Mr. Singh said.

Mr. Singh said the move was not an indication of the government reaching out to farmers for the peaceful resolution of the protest against the contentious farm laws and that the protest would continue at the Ghazipur border with "even more vigour". "My 40 years of experience in holding protests for farmers' cause tells me that the government wants to stretch it [the impasse] further rather than arriving at a decision,"

Notably, at the Ghazipur border, the police chose to remove the barricades from the lanes which lead to the day.

Farm laws, protests not our business: panel

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture will not discuss the three contentious farm reform laws nor the 11-month long agitation by farmers demanding that the laws be repealed. The newly reconstituted panel held its first meeting on Friday, to discuss and select subjects for examination this year. Chairperson and BJP MP P.C. Gaddigoudar told The Hindu that the agricultural marketing reform laws and the protests against them would not be among the subjects to be looked into by the Committee.

main stage and the langar of the protesting farmers.

At the Tikri border, the police started removing the layers of barbed wire on Thursday and the process was still under way on Fri-

Suicides among farm workers rose 18% in 2020

This is slightly higher than the 10,281 who died in 2019. Most of these deaths were among those whose primary work and main source of income comes from labour activities in agriculture or horticulture. In 2020, a total of 5,098 of these labourers died by suicide, an 18% rise from the 4,324 who died last

However, among farmers who cultivate their own land, with or without the help of other workers, the number of suicides dropped 3.7% from 5,129 to 4,940.

Among tenant farmers who cultivate leased land, there was a 23% drop in suicides from 828 to 639.

The worst among the States continues to be Maharashtra, with 4,006 suicides in the farm sector, including a 15% increase in farm worker suicides.

Other States with a poor record include Karnataka Andhra Pradesh (889) and Madhya Pradesh (735). Karnataka saw a dismal 43% increase in the number of farm worker sui-

Top officials liable for sale of toxic crackers: SC

The court said an equal blame should lie with the authorities who turn a blind eye to the violation of the

The court, however, made it clear there was no total ban on the use of firecrackers. "Only those firecrackers are banned which are found to be injurious to health and affecting the health of citizens," it clari-

Akali Dal flays Congress over decision on Tytler

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The decision by the Congress party to name Jagdish Tytler as permanent invitee in Delhi Pradesh Congress's Executive Committee has invoked sharp criticism from the Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab. SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal said the decision has yet again showed the Congress's insensitivity towards the Sikh community. "This is a brazen display of shocking insensitivity to the Sikh wounds by AICC president Sonia Gandhi and the Congress. They have chosen the eve of the painful anniversary of the massacre of Sikhs to announce this decision. Could there be a worse way to rub salt into the wounds than this decision and its timing?"

Crucial byelections in 11 States today

Outcome of contest for three Lok Sabha and 29 Assembly seats set to have political implications

NISTULA HEBBAR

October 30 will see bypolls across 11 States for three Lok Sabha and 29 Assembly seats that will have implications for the politics of each of these States.

Haryana, the State closest to Delhi, will see an Assembly bypoll in Ellenabad and is important for the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) led by former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala after his release from jail after nearly a decade and the breaking away of his grandson, Dushyant Chautala, who floated a new outfit calling on the same support base as the

Abhay Chautala, son of Chautala senior, resigned from the seat in protest against the three contentious Central farm laws. Therefore, this is not just a turf war within the Chautala family for the Jat vote base. It's also on just how much political hit the BJP has taken over the farm laws. The BJP has fielded controversial MLA Gopal Kanda's brother Govind Kanda.

Bihar is seeing bypolls to

two Assembly seats. This follows the death of the Janata Dal (U) MLAs and is crucial for the NDA government's stability, as the majority of the government rests on a slender margin with just four more than the required

Allies Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress have each announced candidates for the seats after much verbal sparring between them. The RJD feels that the Congress's low strike rate in the Assembly polls brought the alliance low, while the Congress thinks it needs to assert itself. The bypolls are, therefore, crucial for the ruling as well as the Opposition alliance.

arashtra has been all about the cruise chip drug bust, a tough bypoll contest is on in Deglur in Nanded district. It was necessitated by the death of MLA Raosaheb Antapurkar, considered close to former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan. The Congress has fielded his son, Jitesh Antapurkar. The seat, a reserved one, was won by the Shiv Sena in 2014 and the

While the news from Mah-



Election fervour: Officials carrying EVMs leave for polling stations on the eve of bypolls to the Musalpur seat in Baksar district of Assam on Friday. • PTI

Congress in 2019. The BJP has decided to challenge the Maha Vikas Aghadi's (MVA) dominance in the area by fielding former Shiv Sena man Subhash Sabne.

The implications of this contest for the personal career of Mr. Chavan are significant, but the question of whether or not the MVA as a grouping can have a complimentary electoral equation will be put to test.

As the second wave of CO-VID-19 was barely on the wane earlier this year, the BJP managed to gain a big catch- former Health MinisSamithi (TRS)-led government Eatala Rajendra. This necessitated a bypoll in the Huzurabad seat. Mr. Rajendra is being fielded by the BJP and the TRS has put up Gellu Srinivas Yadav. The Congress has joined the battle by placing Venkat Balmoor as its candidate.

Grudge match

It is, however, at the basic level, a grudge match between the TRS and the BJP over Mr. Rajendra's defection. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao in fact launched the Dalit Bandhu scheme, with pilot project for distribution of grants upto ₹ 10 lakh to Dalit entrepreneurs.

For Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, bypolls to five Asembly seats will be his first test after being sworn in to the top job. While two seats fell vacant due to the death of MLAs, the three vacancies arose due to the defection of two Congress and one All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) MLAs to the BJP. The BJP has fielded all the defectors in the three seats, with two seats given over to allies. If the BIP wins the three seats it is contesting, it will be two seats short of a full majority in the Assembly sans allies.

In Karnataka, bypolls to Sindagi and Hanagal will be a similar test for the newly-appointed Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who replaced strongman B. S. Yediyurappa recently. But the test is also for the latter, as his son, B.Y. Viiavendra, is one of the party in charge of the Hanagal poll. The outcome of the bypoll will affect the chemistry of power in

Power being misused in Bihar: RJD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A day before the bypolls for two seats in Bihar, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Friday accused the Nitish Kumarled National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in the State of putting pressure on officials to influence voters in favour of the Janata Dal-United (JD-U) candidate.

Mr. Yadav also alleged that the Nitish Kumar government had been distributing liquor, sarees and money to voters.

Both the ruling JD(U) and the principal Opposition party, the RJD, are locked in close contest for Tarapur in Munger and Kusheshwarsthan in Darbhanga district. The Congress and the Lok Janshakti Party too have put up their candidates for the bypolls.

Earlier, Mr. Tejashwi Yaday had filed a complaint with the Election Commission against a particular police officer's posting in Kusheshwarsthan by the government to influence

Mamata makes her pitch against BJP

She says Trinamool Congress is ready to 'give blood' in the fight in Goa

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday began her political engagements in Goa by targeting the Congress. She said that party could not be trusted to fight the BJP. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) chairperson assured the voters of the western coastal State that her party would never compromise with the BJP. "Somebody can tell us

why are you contesting. Let the Congress contest. They contested for 70 years, what have they done... Last time Congress MLAs went to the BJP to help them form government. You [Congress] cannot control your MLAs. You cannot take a decision in proper time. You allowed the BIP to form government. Who can say it won't be rebeated. How do we trust them?" she told TMC work-

The remarks by Ms. Banerjee, who is on a three-day visit to Goa, assumes signifi-



cance as questions were raised that a split of votes will only help the BJP. A section of Congress leaders has alleged that by dividing Opposition votes in Goa, Ms. Banerjee is helping the BJP.

"If you can trust us, I can tell you that the Trinamool Congress will fight the battle. They are ready to give blood but will not compromise with the BJP. It's our promise," she asserted.

Earlier in the day, tennis

New roles: Nafisa Ali, left, and Leander Paes joining the TMC, in Panaji on Friday. • PTI legend Leander Paes and Congress leader Nafisa Ali joined the Trinamool Congress. "Leander is my sweet and cute younger brother. He will be an inspiration for the younger generation," Ms. Banerjee stated. The 48year-old tennis veteran stressed that he had retired from tennis and wanted to serve people through the vehicle of politics. Ms. Ali ob-

served that the "Congress

has let its voters down and

the Trinamool Congress is the new Congress of India".

During her interactions with media persons and party workers, Ms. Banerjee spoke of a number of issues, including the similarities between Goa and West Bengal and how her party has given maximum representa tion to women.

"There are three similari ties between Goa and Bengal - fish, football and folk cul-

Cong. steps up attack on former CAG Vinod Rai

'He conspired to destabilise UPA Govt.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A day after former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai tendered an apology to former Congress Lok Sabha member Sanjay Nirupam for making incorrect allegation against him, the Congress on Friday accused the former of being 'conspirator' to destabilise the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government.

"We demand that Rai apologise to the entire nation in the same manner in which he unconditionally apologised to Nirupam," Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera told reporters at a press conference.

He said the former CAG needs to issue an unconditional apology to the country as he owes one "for making a fool of everyone'

Stating that the CAG's reputation as a watchdog has been 'tarnished,' the Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Choud-

hury tweeted, "Vinod Rai the former CAG has proved himself as a stooge of BJP, who was entrusted upon playing a sinister design to tarnish the image of UPA govt by his quixotic, wilful and deliberate observations in the CAG paras. He should be punished for his dereliction of duty".

On Thursday, Mr. Rai had tendered an unconditional apology to Mr. Nirupam in an affidavit filed in the Patiala House court for "wrongly mentioning" him as one of the MPs who had pressured him not to name former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the CAG report on 2G spectrum allocation.

"Imagine a man who can lie to sell a book; what all can he do to push his own agenda and the agenda of his masters," Mr. Khera said. adding the former CAG needs to issue an unconditional apology to the country as he owes one "for making a fool of everyone".

Chidambaram slams Centre on 'snooping'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Friday targeted the Government over the snooping allegations, claiming that the Israeli envoy's statement on the Pegasus spyware made it clear that "the buyer was Government of India [GoI]".

"After the Supreme Court's wise and bold order in the Pegasus controversy, the first skeleton has tumbled out. Yesterday, Israel's Ambassador publicly stated that Pegasus spyware was sold only to government. So, in India's case, the buyer was certainly the Government of India," he tweeted.

UIDAI seeks indemnity from Data Bill

It was implementation of Aadhaar that first triggered the data privacy debate

SOBHANA K. NAIR

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has asked for exemption from the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Law. In an interaction with the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Data Protection Bill 2019 on Thursday at its office in Bengaluru, UIDAI functionaries said the authority is already being governed by the Aadhaar Act and there cannot be

duplicity of laws. Ironically, it was making Aadhaar compulsory for many key services including the banks that first triggered the data privacy debate. The genesis of this Bill lies in the report prepared by a Committee of Experts headed by

Justice B.N. Srikrishna. The committee was constituted by the government in the course of hearings before the Supreme Court in the right to privacy case (Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of

The Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill 2019 has a contentious section 35, which invokes "sovereignty and integrity of India," "public order", "friendly relations with foreign states" and "security of the state" to give powers to the Central government to suspend all or any of the provisions of this Act for government agencies

The UIDAI during the interaction with the Joint Parliamentary Committee, sourc-

es said, demanded that it should get a blanket exemption from the act under this section. It further argued that it already is being governed by the Aadhaar Act and the PDP bill could be counter productive.

The 2019 Bill already has clauses which are open to interpretation. As Prasanth Sugathan, Legal Director, Software Freedom Law Centre pointed out, "Section 12 of 2019 Bill gives UIDAI some leeway from the rigours of the Bill as it enables for processing data for provision of a service or benefit to the data principal. However, even then prior notice has to be

Sources indicate that UI-DAI might not be the only

fear is that the Bill, if implemented in the present form, may create two distinct ecosystems. One with the government agencies who will be completely out of the ambit of the law, giving them complete freedom to deal with the personal data. And the second will be private data fiduciaries who will have to deal with every letter in the law," one of the members said. The committee is on a tour to meet various data fiduciaries for a last round of discussion on "operational issues" in the implementation of the law. The panel which has already got five extensions has to submit its re-

port at the upcoming session

"So that people believe that

Mr. Shah said Samajwadi

the BJP does what it promis-

Party president Akhilesh Ya-

day would mock the BJP over

the date of the construction

of the Ram Mandir in

es," said Mr. Shah.

one to seek exemption. "Our

SC to examine pleas against **HC** order

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine appeals against the Kerala High Court's decision to strike down the 80:20 ratio in the allotment of minoritv scholarships among Muslims and Christians in

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao issued notice on the State government's plea that the May 28 judgment of the High Court was erroneous.

The High Court had held that the action of the State government to sub-classify minorities and provide them scholarship at an 80:20 ratio was legally unsustainable.

The government was also directed to issue orders guaranteeing scholarships to members of notified minority communities on an equal basis.

The top court also issued notice on two other connected petitions filed by MSM Kerala State Committee and Minority Indians Planning and Vigilance Trust, represented by advocate Haris Beeran, challenging the High Court

One of the petitions pointed out that the High Court had quashed three Government Orders of the Kerala Government passed in 2008, 2011 and 2015.

Elect Yogi again if you want Modi as PM in 2024: Shah her maternal house got all he to 100% as much as possible.

OMAR RASHID

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that if people of Uttar Pradesh want to see Narendra Modi as their Prime Minister again in 2024, they must elect Yogi Adityanath as their Chief Minister for a second term in 2022.

While Mr. Shah lavished praised on Mr. Adityanath on several fronts, especially law and order and making Uttar Pradesh mafia mukt (free of mafia), he also said that it was "impossible" in five years to fill the "large pothole" left behind by previous governments. "If you want to make Mo-

diji PM again in 2024, then in

2022 you will have to make Yogiji CM once again. Then, the country's development can move forward. Because without development of Uttar Pradesh, the country cannot develop," said Mr. Shah while launching the BJP's fresh membership drive in



Amit Shah

the State ahead of next year's Assembly election.

Mr. Shah said that under Mr. Modi as PM all wishes of Uttar Pradesh were fulfilled just like a child visiting his or

or she desired. Victory in the Assembly election would serve as the foundation stone for a win in 2024 Lok Sabha election under the leadership of Mr. Modi, said Mr. Shah. Mr. Adityanath and his

team had fulfilled 90% of the promises made by the BJP in its manifesto released in 2017, said Mr. Shah, expressing the wish that in the coming two months the Chief Minister would work to take it

Ayodhya. "Akhilesh babu, the foundation stone of the mandir has already been laid. But you missed out from even donating ₹5,000," said the Home Minister.

decision.

Modi holds talks with top EU leaders

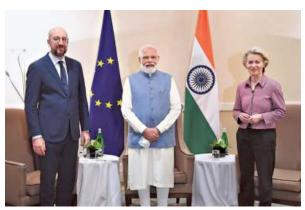
COVID-19, trade, security relations were discussed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held wideranging talks with the top leaders of the European Union here during which the two sides discussed deepening the India-EU friendship, particularly in areas such as political and security relations, trade, culture and the environment.

Prime Minister Modi, who arrived here earlier in the day to participate in the G20 Summit, began his official engagements in Rome with a "productive interaction" with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leven.

Later, Mr.Modi described his meeting with the EU leaders on the sidelines of the 16th G20 Summit here as "wonderful". "Wonderful meeting with @EU_Commission President @vonder-



Deepening ties: Narendra Modi with the president of the European Council Charles Michel and president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen on Friday. • PTI

leyen and @eucopresident Charles Michel. We had wide-ranging talks on deepening the India-EU friendship, particularly in areas such as trade, commerce, culture and the environment," Mr.Modi tweeted after the meeting.

In a tweet, European Council President Michel said India has a key role to play in green transition."India has a key role to play in green transition. We discussed global health and fighting the pandemic, the strong EU-India Strategic Partnership, the situation in Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific," he said, amid China creating tensions in the

European Commission President Leyen said it was "good to meet" Prime Minister Modi. "Good to meet @narendramodi. Our strategic agenda is on the right track. We agreed that our trade negotiators will start to work. We'll deepen our cooperation on climate including on innovation & technology. Looking forward to cooperating in the IndoPacific," she said in a tweet. **Treat vaccination as** She also congratulated In-

dia for its "excellent progress" on vaccination and for resuming the export of vaccines. "We need to join forces to help vaccinate the world and beat the global pandemic," Ms. Leyen said. Her remarks came as India achieved a major milestone in its vaccination pro-After their meeting, Ministry of External Affairs spo-

kesperson Arindam Bagchi said that a number of key issues were discussed. "An extensive discussion covering trade & investment ties, climate change, COVID-19, global & regional developments," Mr.Bagchi tweeted. They also reviewed India-EU cooperation in covering political and security relations, trade and investment as well as the Roadmap 2025 agreed at the last India-EU Summit.

In a press release, the MEA stated that they "recalled their productive virtual engagements in the form of India-EU Leaders' meeting in the form of EU+27 in May 2021 and 15th India-EU Summit in July, 2020."

global public good: Goyal

NEW DELHI Vaccination against COVID-19 should be considered a "global public good". India argued at the pre-summit discussions at the G20, said Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in Rome. Mr. Goyal, who is serving as the Sherpa for India, said the country had made strong interventions for securing vulnerable communities and for the ease of travelling and business in a post-COVID scenario.

Sitharaman meets Singapore FM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday met her Singapore counterpart Lawrence Wong to discuss opportunities for boosting economic and trade relations between the two Asian countries. Ms. Sitharaman reached Rome to participate in the G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' meeting. ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit. This is the first meeting of the G20 Finance and Health Ministers under

Document with NPR form removed from Census site

The proforma has not been finalised yet: Home Ministry

VIJAITA SINGH

The Registrar General of India (RGI) under the Union Home Ministry pulled down a document with the latest form of the National Population Register (NPR) from its website. The NPR schedule (form)

generated through an online system on August 18 was part of a handbook, Census of India 2021 - Handbook for Principal/District Census Officers and Charge Officers, that was shared with all the States. After The Hindu reported on October 26 that the form had retained contentious questions such as the "mother tongue, place of birth of father and mother, and last place of residence," the handbook was removed the from censusindia.gov.in.

A Home Ministry official, however, said on Friday that "the NPR proforma was yet to be finalised." Though NPR was first compiled in 2010



The Office of the Registrar General of India comes under the Home Ministry.

and updated in 2015, the new questions were added during a trial exercise in September 2019.

The exercise has been opposed by some States and citizen groups as NPR is the first step toward compilation of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRC) according to Citizenship Rules, 2003. NPR already has a database of 119 crore residents.

The NPR is to be conducted along with the first phase of Census. The House listing and Housing Census and NPR update were to be conducted simultaneously from April-September 2020 but the exercise was postponed indefinitely due to the CO-VID-19 pandemic. New dates are yet to be announced.

In January 2020, Rajasthan Chief Secretary D. B. Gupta while attending a meeting convened by the RGI in Delhi had said that many States objected to the new fields in the NPR, particularly the place of birth of parents. "This is impractical, sometimes in villages and even in cities people are not aware about their own place of birth. What is the objective of adding such a column? We asked them (Home Ministry) to remove the column. The Ministry officials replied that it was not mandatory for the respondents to provide information, if he or she wants, they could deny or say that they are not aware. They cannot be forced to respond," Mr. Gupta had told reporters af-

IN BRIEF



HC sets aside CAT order on Alapan plea

The Calcutta High Court on Friday set aside the Central Administrative Tribunal's Principal Bench order to transfer a petition by former West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay to

After U.S. request, ED freezes BELL 214 chopper

NEW DELHI The Enforcement Directorate has frozen a BELL 214 helicopter in connection with a case registered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security over its alleged end use in a prohibited country.

U.N. tool to facilitate e-evidence collection

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate have launched Data Disclosure Framework, a tool that outlines the practices developed for responding to data requests from foreign criminal justice authorities for counter-terrorism investigations.

Bombay HC rejects plea by Anil Deshmukh

In no relief to former home minister of Maharashtra, Anil Deshmukh, the Bombay High Court on Friday rejected his plea to quash the summons issued against him by the Enforcement Directorate, A Division Bench granted him liberty to move the appropriate court.

SAD stages rally against BSF area expansion

Shiromani Akali Dal members on Friday held a rally in Punjab's Amritsar to oppose the Centre's notification extending the jurisdiction of the BSF along the international border. The rally was carried out on motorcycles from the Wagah-Attari border to Amritsar's 'Golden Gate'.

Cong. wins panchayat polls in Rajasthan

The ruling Congress won the majority of seats in the panchayat body elections held in three phases in Raiasthan's Alwar and Dholpur districts on Friday, registering victory at 42 Zila Parishad and 208 panchayat samiti seats.

Dalits assaulted in Kutch for entering temple

AHMEDABAD Six members of a Dalit family were allegedly attacked and assaulted by a mob of around 20 people for visiting a temple in a village in Guiarat's Kutch district. The incident occurred in the village of Ner on October 26, the police said.

Aryan Khan to spend another night in Arthur Road jail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Aryan Khan, son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, will spend one more night in the Arthur Road Jail as his bail papers did not reach the authorities

Mr. Khan, 23, was arrested on October 3 by the Narcotics Control Bureau from a cruise ship after some other individuals on board were found with contraband. He was sent to Arthur Road Jail on October 8. After 25 days in prison, he was granted bail by the Bombay High Court on Thursday but the detailed bail order, citing



Long wait: Police personnel deployed outside the Arthur Road jail, where Aryan Khan is lodged. •PTI

bail conditions was made available only on Friday.

One of the advocates appearing for Mr. Khan told The Hindu that there was a

delay in taking the papers to the jail and as per protocol no inmate is released after 5.30 p.m. He will be released

NOC must for admission in Pak.: AICTE

the Italian G20 Presidency.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indian nationals and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) need to obtain a no-objection certificate (NOC) before admission to engineering and technology courses in Pakistan, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has said.

The technical education regulator has said that aspiring students should apply for clearance in the format specified by the council.The council has also cautioned students to ensure the validity of a degree before applying to foreign universities.

Women to be trained on par with men at the NDA

'Theaterisation of military in process'

STAFF REPORTER

Remarking that the "theaterisation process" of India's military was underway, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane on Friday said that new technology was being inducted into the country's Armed Forces keeping in view the changing character of wars.

"The character of war has been changing over the years. The theaterisation process (integration of the capabilities of the Army, Air Force and Navy for optimal resource utilisation) is going

ding that India was not lagging behind any other country in the world as far as induction of technology in the Armed Forces was concerned. Gen. Naravane said he expected women cadets to be welcomed with the same sense of fair play and professionalism that the IAF were known for all over the world. He said that the training of women will be on par with the men.

on" Gen. Naravane said, ad-

He was speaking here after reviewing the passing out parade of the 141th course of the National Defence Academy (NDA).

India, Israel to boost military cooperation

ter the meeting.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

To further advance the bilateral defence cooperation, India and Israel have agreed to form a task force to formulate a comprehensive 10-year roadmap to identify new areas of cooperation.

This was agreed at the 15th India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on bilateral defence cooperation held on October 27 in Tel Aviv, Israel, a Defence Ministry statement said on Friday.

The JWG is the apex review body of the Defence + Ministries of the countries.

COCHIN FISHERIES

Surat wins award for best public transport

Delhi praised for Metro services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Surat won the award for the city with the best public transport system, while Kochi was judged the city with most sustainable transport system by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

The awards were given out by Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at the end of the day-long Urban Mobility India conference here. Delhi received the award for the city with the best non-motorised transport system for the Chandni Chowk redevelopment project. Delhi also won the best Metro passenger services and satisfaction award, while Nagpur's multi-modal integration with Metro rail was found to be the best in the country.

During the conference, Mr. Puri announced the theme of next year's conference, which will be the 15th edition, as "Azadi@75: Sustainable Atmanirbhar Urban Mobility" to be held in Kochi.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Puri inaugurated the conference, which was held online for the second year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Puri said that

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ு நாப்போட்டு பாட்டியார். கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம். " Managing Director, ELCOT

<u>e-TENDER NOTICE</u> e-Tenders are invited to select vendors for the Supply, Ir



Hardeep Singh Puri

the urban population of the world was expected to increase to 60% by 2030, from 56% in 2020, and about 90% of this increase was expected in Asia and Africa. He said the need for sustainable mobility and universal access was crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals.

In his keynote address, Daniel Moser, the head of Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative, Germany, said the world had 15 years to address the pressing issues. He said more urban areas would be constructed in the first the three decades of the 21st Century than all of history.

"Urban transport is the make and break of the global climate agenda," he said, adding that it accounted for 23% of carbon emissions and 61% of global oil demand...

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Rs.11800/- (inclusive of GST @ 18%)

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nereby notified that the last date for submi application for the post of Project Engineer cum Estate Officer is hereby extended till 19.11.2021.

The eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions remains the same.

Date: 28.10.2021

Sd/-, REGISTRAR



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Any amendments / further notice will not be published in newspaper and will only be

GVK EMRI. Guiarat-108 EMC. Naroda-Kathwada Road. Ahmedabad-382330. Tel: 079-22814896, <u>www.emri.in</u>
Contact Person Mr. Ashish Muley. Contact No: 9727714818-

Supply Chain Management



Karnataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar

E-PROCUREMENT MODE 15 Days Short Term Tender Notification

No.: R/TPC/KVAFSU/eProc.68/2021-22/838-A Dt.: 28.10.2021 KVAFSU Bidar invites bids through e-procurement in 2 covers system for Biologicals, Chemicals, Equipments and miscellaneous items for IAH&VB, Bengaluru of KVAFSU, Bidar from Tenderers registered in e-procurement cell of Government of Karnataka, Total cost of the tendered amount is Rs. 192.10 Lakhs.

No.: R/TPC/KVAFSU/eProc.67/2021-22/839-A Dt.: 28.10.2021 KVAFSU Bidar invites bids through e-procurement in 2 covers system for Expression of Interest, AMC Equipments and Feed ingradients for Veterinary College, Gadag, Shivamogga, CoF, Mangaluru & IAH&VB, Bengaluru of KVAFSU, Bidar from Tenderers registered in e-procurement cell of Government of Karnataka, Total cost of the tendered amount is **Rs. 1,46,70,900.00**.

No.: R/TPC/KVAFSU/eProc.69/2021-22/840-A Dt.: 28.10.2021 KVAFSU Bidar invites bids through e-procurement in 2 covers system for Biologicals, Chemicals, Equipments, miscellaneous items & Services for IAH&VB, Bengaluru of KVAFSU, Bidar from Tenderers registered in e-procurement cell of Government of Karnataka, Total cost of the tendered amount is Rs. 194.00 Lakhs.

The detailed notification of tender can be obtained by logging on to website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 30.10.2021. The last date for uploading tender documents is 15.11.2021 up to 5:00 PM. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

> Dr. M.K. Tandle, Coordinator, TPC, KVAFSU, Bidar-585226. Ph.: 9448569337

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2.	2021_KMML_446409_1	For fabrication and supply of FRP Scrubber
3.	2021_KMML_448883_1	For the supply of Inconnel pipe
4.	2021_KMML_448606_1	For the supply of Gear Box
		- J/ DCM (MAL)

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Sreedharan, Age 77, S/o Velu, Ushas, Pangalukadu. Pulippara P.O, Kummil Village, Kollam District from Vengavila Puthen Veedu, Tholippacha is missing on 03/09/2021. In this regard a case in crime 688/2021 U/Sec 57 of KP Act registered in Chithara Police Station, Kollam Rural.



Identification Details: Wearing white shirt & dhothi, Bicolour body, Height 163 cm. If any Information please contact

Chithara PS - 0474 - 2440011 Police Inspector - 9497960609 Sub Inspector - 9497980184 (1797/F2/2021/I&PRD)





भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION समानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान केंद्र / HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE बेंगलूरु / BENGALURU – 560 094

विज्ञा.सं./Advt No. HSFC/02/RMT/2021

दिनांक / dated 30th अक्तूबर October, 2021 समानव अंतरिक्ष उडान केंद्र (एच.एस.एफ.सी.) भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनसंधान संगठन (इसरो), अंतरिक्ष विभाग के

नए केंद्र के रूप में गठित किया गया है। एच.एस.एफ.सी., जो कि अस्थाई रूप में, फिलहाल, इसरो मुख्यालय के परिसर, बेंगलूरु में स्थित है और जिसे, बाद में, भारत में कहीं भी किसी स्थाई परिसर में पुनःस्थापित किया जाएगा, निम्नलिखित अस्थाई पदों के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है, जिनके अनिश्चित समय तक आगे भी जारी रहने की संभावना है। Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC), has been formed as a new Centre under Indian Space Research Organization(ISRO), Department of Space. HSFC is located temporarily in the ISRO Headquarters campus, Bengaluru and will be

relocated to a permanent campus anywhere in India, invites on-line applications

tor the	or the following temporary posts, which are likely to be continued indefinitely.								
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आवेदन केवल ऑनलाइन ही प्राप्त किए जाएँगे। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विस्तत विवरण एवं ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने हेतु वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in \rightarrow वृत्ति $\stackrel{\longrightarrow}{\rightarrow}$ समानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान केंद्र, बेंगलुरु देख सकते हैं। इस ँहेतु ऑनलाइन भर्ती पोर्टल दिनांक 30.10.2021 से 20.11.2021 तक उपलब्ध रहेगा ।

Applications will be received ONLY THROUGH ON-LINE. Interested candidates may visit the website www.isro.gov.in → Careers → Human Space Flight Centre, Bengaluru for detailed information and filling-up of on-line application form. For this purpose, the on-line recruitment portal will be available from 30.10.2021 to 20.11.2021

Some PF staffers moonlight for private sector: vigilance report

Official held after being caught receiving payment

VIKAS DHOOT NEW DELHI

Officials entrusted with the safekeeping of workers' retirement corpus worth lakhs of crores have been found to be working on the side to further private employers' interests instead, in a blatant and widespread violation of civil services rules in PF of-

fices across the country. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EP-FO) has "discovered" that several officers and staff are offering their "services" to private firms in return for monetary remuneration routed directly to them or to their family members.

While one officer has been arrested after being

Trial in Dabholkar case

begins in Pune court

A special court here finally

Narendra Dabholkar case or

Friday, eight years after the eminent rationalist was shot

dead with a 7.65 mm calibre

motorcycle-borne assailants

cross-examination of the first

witness - a former neighbour

of the slain rationalist - who

lived in a flat adjacent to the

one that was intermittently

salesman with an ayurvedic

company, was one of the two witnesses in the original FIR registered by the Pune police

used by Dr. Dabholkar.

in the case in 2013.

Abu Salem's plea not made out: Delhi HC

The Delhi High Court on

plea by the extradited

for his role in the 1993

by a court of law.

Mumbai serial blasts case,

was not made out, as as he

was found guilty in the case

A Bench of Justice Siddharth

Jairam Bhambhani stated that

Salem guilty, he could not say

that the custody was illegal.

Supreme Court judgement,

initially your detention was

conviction by a court of law,

your custody does not remain

the Bench observed, "even if

Mridul and Justice Anup

once a court of law held

Referring to a previous

bad in law, after your

Friday said the habeas corpus

life imprisonment since 2002

The former neighbour, a

country-made pistol by

while he was out on a

morning stroll in Pune.

The trial began with the

commenced trial in the



A total of 16 PF staffers were found to be involved in such activities at a single office.

caught red-handed "negotiating and accepting illegal payments" from an employer, 16 staffers were found involved in such activities at a single PF office. In a separate case, a social security assistant was trapped in the act of helping a firm secure a PF code number.

"In some of the offices, the practice of PF consultan-

cy is so entrenched that it has come to be viewed as normal. Recent joint surprise check in one office vielded incriminating evidence against as many as 16 officials, which demonstrates how pervasive the malaise has become," the vigilance wing pointed out in a missive to top PF Commissioners across regions on Thursday.

"Instances of staff actively engaging in consultancy abound and have only increased over the years with no fear or understanding of the consequences," said the communiqué, urging senior officers to stop "ignoring or taking a lenient view" on such matters and take prompt action with "requisite gravity" against all such

Coming on the back of a multi-crore fraud in a MumSC prefers to wait and watch for Covaxin's WHO approval

Plea seeks revaccination with Covishield

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Friday decided to wait and see if the World Health Organization (WHO) gives emergency use authorisation to Bharat Biotech's Covaxin before considering a plea to allow people vaccinated with Covaxin to be administered two doses of Covishield.

"Let us see if authorisa tion from the WHO comes or not," a Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and B.V. Nagarathna told petitioner-inperson Kartik Shah. However, the court was sceptical about intervening in the

"You want us to order people who were given Covaxin to be given Covishield...



Covaxin were forced to undergo guarantine abroad. • THE HINDU

Revaccination of fully vaccinated people? We cannot play with the lives of people," Justice Chandrachud

addressed Mr. Shah. The petitioner said students and professionals travelled out of India every day. If they were inoculated with Covaxin, they were forced to quarantine under abroad.

Justice Chandrachud observed that the court would not be made a forum for competitors to battle each

other for the market.

In his petition, Mr. Shah stated that the government "at the time of rolling out Covaxin for use in the market, failed to make the public aware that it was not approved by the WHO and that it had not even submitted an application for approval... This was submitted as late as in April 2021".

Until May 1, the Government did not allow people to choose their vaccine, Mr. Shah submitted.

Nationwide PCV drive launched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviva launched a nationwide expansion of Pneumococcal 13-valent Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) as a part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', here on Friday.

He also released communication and awareness packages on PCV to create awareness. They will be shared with all the States/ Union Territories for furthadaptation utilisation.

It was for the first time in the country that PCV would be available for universal use. Pneumonia was a leading cause of death among children under five, globally and in India, he said.

"Pneumonia caused by pneumococcus is the most common cause of severe pneumonia in children. Around 16% of deaths in children occur due to pneumonia in India. The nationwide roll-out of PCV will reduce child mortality by around 60%", he stated.

'Children are future'

Highlighting the importance of healthy children in a country's growth, productivity and development, he pointed out that children were the future of the country and 'it is our responsibility to provide them a healthy life'.

"Mission Indradhanush, launched by the Prime Minister, is one such endeavour in this regard," Mr. Mandaviya said.

"The vision of 'Sabko vaccine, Muft vaccine' by the Prime Minister is guiding the COVID-19 vaccination programme and it has ensured that the eligible population gets access to the vaccines across the country," he added.

Counselling to precede eviction drive

Encroachers of Lumding Reserve Forest on radar, says Assam Chief Minister

RAHUL KARMAKAR

A month after a violent eviction drive that claimed two lives, the Assam Government has taken the counselling route to remove encroachers from State-owned

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said encroachers of the Lumding Reserve Forest were now on the radar after those in northern Assam's Gorukhuti.

'PFI triggered trouble'

On September 23, the police shot two Bengali Muslims when an eviction drive in the Dhalpur area of Gorukhuti turned violent. One of those

"Discussions with the set-



Moving out: Two Bengali Muslims were killed during an eviction drive in Gorukhuti on September 23. • FILE РНОТО

tlers and leaders of minority organisations preceded the Gorukhuti eviction drive but a few members of the Popular Front of India fomented trouble. The local authorities have now been counselling them on vacating the land and applying for rehabilitation," he told journalists on Friday.

bai EPF office, where several

staffers connived to siphon

out funds from the country's

largest retirement fund's cor-

pus, the letter approved by

the Central PF Commission-

er (CPFC) Mukhmeet Singh

Bhatia stressed that the "rep-

utational risk to the organi-

sation" by the conduct of

employees moonlighting for

"It is observed that the

disciplinary authorities of-

ten tend to ignore or take a

lenient view when such mis-

conduct is noticed and the

delinquent officials are al-

lowed to get away without

disciplinary action," the di-

rective, dated October 28,

Mr. Bhatia is the Director

General of the Employees'

State Insurance Corporation

(ESIC) but has been given ad-

ditional charge of the EPFO.

the private

"incalculable".

recorded.

The central Assam authorities were likewise appealing to the encroachers of the vacate. The landless among them were also being counselled on applying for alternative land under the relevant laws, he stated.

'NRC won't hit Census'

The impasse over the National Register of Citizens would have no bearing on the Census expected to be undertaken in 2022, Mr. Sarma asserted during interaction.

The updated complete draft of the NRC was published in August 2019, leaving out 19.06 lakh of some 3.3 crore applicants in the State.

"We have been maintaining that there is no link between the NRC and the Census, which we want to be conducted," he added.

Sputnik's clinical trials on children in the works

Dr. Reddy's also proposes booster shot

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories plans to approach the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) seeking permission to conduct clinical trials of Russian COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik in children as well as a booster shot for vaccinated adults.

"Planning to do this soon and expect we will be able to commence the trials in November," CEO-API and Services Deepak Sapra said.

Next month is also when the marketing partner and brand custodian of Sputnik V in India expects to submit results of clinical trials for Sputnik Light, the single dose vaccine, to the regulator for approval. Asserting that the vaccine

- the DCGI had accorded EUA for the two-dose Sputnik V in April – continued to be relevant for India's inoculation programme, Mr. Sapra said 1.1 million doses had been administered thus far. He, however, admitted that a mismatch in the availability of the two different components of the vaccine and supplies from Russia getting impacted posed

challenges previously. However, with a clutch of firms in the country getting into manufacturing of the vaccine, majority of products would be made in India, he said during a virtual

media interaction on Friday. Rahul Gandhi appears before Surat court

Assam woman gets Foreigners' Tribunal notice once more

Indian in 2019

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Foreigners' Tribunal in western Assam's Bongaigaon has issued a proveyour-citizenship notice to a woman it had declared an Indian citizen more than two years ago.

The Bongaigaon-based FT No. 1 had in March 2019 declared Bharati Sarkar of No. 2 Jamdoha village in the Bongaigaon district "as not being a foreigner of the stream post-1971 or any other stream". The Assam police's

to be a Bangladeshi national, had referred her case to the FT in July 2005.

Foreigners in Assam are determined on the basis of the Assam Accord that seeks the detection, detention and deportation of people who entered the State illegally after March 24, 1971.

But the same FT issued a notice to her again on September 30 on the basis of a Border police investigation that said she had entered Assam illegally.

"This is a clear case of harassment. How can an Indian woman established as an Indian be served notice

Border wing, suspecting her as a suspected foreigner again?" Amritlal Das, general secretary of All Assam Bengali Oikya Mancha said.

Bongaigaon's SP Swapnaneel Deka said the notice to the same person twice in two years could have been a case of oversight. "The case can be disposed of if a copy of the earlier order is attached to the reply to this notice," he told The Hindu. Senior police officials said there have been cases where a person was issued 'D-voter' (doubtful voter) or suspected foreigner notice more than thrice. Pressure to achieve "targets" is said to be the primary reason.

He was sued for his remark on Modi community in 2019 in Karnataka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday appeared before a magistrate's court in Surat to record his statement in connection with a criminal defamation case filed against him for his remark on the "Modi surname" during a speech in Karnataka in 2019.

This was his third appearance before the court in connection with the case filed by Surat BJP legislator and now Cabinet Minister Purnesh Modi.

On October 26, the court directed Mr. Gandhi to ap-

pear before it between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to record his

'I don't know' On Friday, while recording

his statement; Mr. Gandhi stated "I don't know" to most of the questions asked by the court on the basis of recent testimonies of two witnesses - then electoral officer of Kolar in Karnataka where the leader made the speech, and a videographer appointed by the Election Commission of India to shoot that rally as per the

normal campaign protocol. He said "I don't know"



magistrate court in Surat on Friday. • PTI

when Chief Judicial Magistrate A.N. Dave asked if he knew about the appointment of Arun Kumar as the official videographer to shoot the rally that he addressed.

To other queries posed by

the court, his replies were in the negative. Mr. Gandhi's second ap-

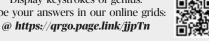
pearance before the court was in June last and the previous one was in October 2019, when he pleaded not guilty. In the midst of parliamen-

tary polls in 2019, Mr. Purnesh Modi, in April, filed the case against Mr. Gandhi. He alleged that the latter, while addressing a poll rally on April 13, defamed the entire Modi community by saying "how come all the thieves have Modi as the common surname?"

Last month, Mr. Purnesh Modi was inducted as a Cabinet Minister in the new government led by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

THEROSSWORD+ 13390 Type your answers in our online grids: On the state of genius of the state of the state of genius of the state of

20 Track family business (4)



SCAN TO PLAY

24 Flight? In other words, 'twas airy! (8)

28 On getting work, sign-up actively for donating! (9)

29 Egg on various unheralded lads everyday, for starters (5) 30 To assist, they play captions as CM rambles (12)

DOWN

2 Deformed from accident involving player with two other players (9)

3 Drunk old man gets energy on drinking energy drink (8) 4 Old friend's a gem (4)

7 Ignorant rogue loses principal while accruing interest (5)

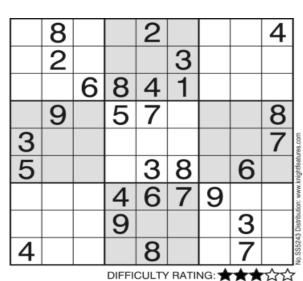
8 Basically, underwater vessel? (1-4) **9** Protest a fool's arrogant, thoughtless enactments at the outset (7)

17 Fashion scam nearly brought down model (9)

19 "I'm on a car, cooking pasta!" (8) 22 Dance away to unending beat (6)

23 Often, etiquette embraces dogma (5)

SUDOKU



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FAITH

Greatness of Dravida Veda

Scriptures are the source of esoteric knowledge but it is also very clear that the path to God realisation is not through mere Vedanta study or practice of yagas and yagnas. It is an intuitive perception that shines in the inner being through divine grace. In this context, Vedanta Desika pays tribute to the Nalayira Divya Prabandha that has come to be acknowledged as Dravida Veda in the spiritual tradition, pointed out Vanamamalai Sri Padmanabhachariar in a discourse. These hymns are the unique compositions of the Azhwars, who are held to be specially endowed by the Lord to reveal the esoteric truths hidden in the Vedas in simple Tamizh. The Vedas, that are the very life breath of the ineffable Supreme Brahman, are compared to the boundless ocean that is truly unfathomable. Both are repertoires of innumerable and invaluable treasures. Vyasa has provided us with the garland of sutras, the Brahma Sutra which contains the essential truths in the Upanishads. But even this needs to be unravelled with the extraordinary scholarship. Just as the rain bearing clouds extract the palatable sweet water from the ocean and shower it as rainwater on the lands to benefit and sustain life, Azhwar's hymns very clearly and without any ambiguity present the inaccessible meanings of the Vedas for the benefit of humanity.

Known as 'arulicheyal,' these hymns speak about what is important for the jiva to get out of samsara. Alavandar, Ramanuja and other acharyas have formulated the Visishtadvaita philosophy based on the study of these hymns. Contradictory viewpoints such as the question of supremacy among the Trimurtis are resolved in the hymns that go in accordance to the Upanishad statement that speaks of the supremacy of Narayana in relation to Brahma and Siva.

10 Bust chiefly shattered in blast (5) 11 Fulfilling programme primarily emphasising anchor's yell (9) **12** Hurt jawbone plated with metal (6)

ACROSS

15 Resistance overcome by widespread disease concerning the skin (9) **16** Sing jazz improvisation from intro of 'Smelly Cat' (4)

1 Emotional air all around leading to a change for the better (12)

13 Most savage cryptic clue set traps solver ultimately! (8)

21 Worker embraces a young, queer woman offering advice (5,4)

Display keystrokes of genius.

26 Male takes no true responsibility! (6)

5 According to some sources, they're charged with multiple counts of

6 Setter matures on imbibing methods introduced in icons (6)

14 A qualifying test invested in viewpoint of realism (10)

18 Tightest of catches goes down - with it, match essentially! (7)

25 Royal phalanx shields dominant leader (5)

27 Silver lining of Raja's wonderful city, perhaps? (4)

U.S. to deepen relations with Taiwan

Actively working on new areas of cooperation, such as cybersecurity and supply chains, says diplomat

The U.S. wants to deepen its relationship with Taiwan, the self-ruled island that has become a major point of conflict in the strained U.S.-China relationship, and will work to counter Beijing's "malign" influence, a U.S. diplomat said on Friday.

In her first public news conference, Sandra Oudkirk, the new director of the American Institute in Taiwan, the de facto embassy, reiterated that the U.S. remains deeply committed to Taiwan and is actively working on new areas of cooperation, such as cybersecurity and supply chains.

"The value of our partnership and our support for Taiwan is rock solid," Ms. Oudkirk said. "We are committed to deepening our ties with



Help at hand: A file photo of U.S. vessels transiting the Taiwan Strait amid tensions with China. • AF

Taiwan." The U.S. support for Taiwan comes as tensions between China and the island are now at the highest in decades, with Beijing stepping up its military harassment by flying fighter jets to-

ward Taiwan. China has not

with Taiwan, which split from the mainland during a civil war in 1949.

The U.S. switched diplomatic recognition of China from the ruling Nationalist Party government in Taipei

to the Communist Party in Beijing in 1979, but has continued to maintain a strong unofficial relationship with the self-ruled island.

Ms. Oudkirk declined to comment on any security initiatives or give any details about the presence of U.S. troops on the island, after Taiwan's President Tsai Ingwen confirmed on Thursday that U.S. boots were indeed on the ground, though less than what people would think

'Malign PRC influence'

"We are going to continue to advance global and regional goals of the Biden administration, including countering malign PRC influence, recovering from the devastating impacts of the pandemic and addressing the threat of climate change," Ms. Oudkirk said, referring to the People's Republic of China, China's official name.

Washington has supported Taiwan with arms sales to boost the island's ability to defend itself, and also routinely navigates the waters around the island in what it calls freedom of operation movements.

Ms. Oudkirk, who became director over the summer, also reaffirmed that the U.S. will support Taiwan in its role on the international stage, without giving details.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday called on other members of the United Nations to support Taipei's independent participation in international organisations related to transportation, health, climate change, culture

Ensure Afghan soil is not used for terror, U.S., India tell Taliban

Both sides agree to continue consultations on Afghan issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India and the U.S. have called on the Taliban to ensure that Afghanistan is not used as a safe haven for terrorists, as officials from the two countries concluded their joint dialogue on counter-terrorism to expand their cooperation to combat the scourge.

The Indian and the U.S. sides also called for concerted action against all terror groups, including those proscribed by the UN Security Council such as the Lashkare-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad, a joint statement issued after the meeting here said on Thursday.

Reaffirming counter-ter rorism cooperation as an im-

portant pillar under the U.S.-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, both sides pledged to further expand cooperation on law enforcement, information sharing, exchange of best practices and strategic convergence on counter-terrorism challenges, it said.

During the meeting here on October 26 and 27, the U.S. reiterated its commitment to stand together with the people and the Government of India in the fight against terrorism. They called on the Taliban to ensure that Afghanistan is not used as a safe haven for terrorists. According to the joint U.S.-India statement, the two countries strongly condemned any use of terrorist proxies and cross-border terrorism in all its forms, and called for the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai attack to be brought to justice.

"In line with UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021), both sides called on the Taliban to ensure Afghan territory is never again used to threaten or attack any country, shelter or train terrorists, or plan or finance terrorist attacks," it said. Both sides committed to continuing close consultations on developments in Afghanistan and potential terrorist threats emanating from there. They also exchanged views on countering narco-terror networks and trans-national illegal weapons smuggling

New PM within a week, says Sudan coup leader

New premier will share leadership

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Sudanese General who seized power in a coup this week said the military he heads will appoint a technocrat Prime Minister to rule alongside it within a week.

In an interview with Russia's state-owned Sputnik news agency published on Friday, Abdel-Fattah Burhan said the new premier will form a Cabinet that will share leadership of the country with the armed forces. "We have a patriotic duty to lead the people and help them in the transition period until elections are held," Gen. Burhan said.

On Monday, Gen. Burhan dissolved the transitional government and detained

Prime Minister Abddalla Hamdok, many government officials and political leaders in a coup condemned by the U.S. and the West. The military allowed Mr. Hamdok to return home under guard the following day after international pressure.

The Generals have not yet produced a list of candidates for the premiership, Gen. Burhan said. The decision to appoint such a premier follows earlier calls by the Generals for a non-partisan technocrat Cabinet.

The military takeover came after weeks of mounting tensions between military and civilian leaders over the course and pace of Sudan's transition to de-

Biden hails pope as a 'warrior of peace'

President and pontiff discuss climate change, pandemic and the issue of refugees

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE VATICAN CITY

U.S. President Joe Biden, only the second Catholic to hold his office, had a private audience with Pope Francis on Friday at the start of a European trip aimed at reasserting U.S. international credentials.

The President hailed the pontiff as "the most significant warrior of peace I have ever met", in a meeting at the Vatican. It was closed to the media

but footage released by the Vatican showed a good-humoured gathering full of smiles, with Mr. Biden at points visibly moved, and elsewhere telling the pope "God love ya". He gave the pontiff a presidential coin recalling the regiment in



Sharing thoughts: U.S. President Joe Biden, left, with Pope Francis at the Vatican on Friday. • AP

which his son Beau Biden, who died from cancer in 2015, had served, saying: "I know my son would want me to give this to you."

Mr. Biden, who is open about his faith and how it gives him strength, has already met Pope Francis three times before but this was their first tete-a-tete since he entered the White House.

It was arranged to coincide with the G20 leaders summit in Rome and next week's crunch UN climate talks in Glasgow, in which Mr. Biden hopes to push his mantra that "America is back" after the Trump years.

Both Mr. Biden and the pope have been outspoken on the need to tackle global warming and this was a dominant theme of their talks.

"I thanked His Holiness for his advocacy for the world's poor and those suffering from hunger, conflict, and persecution, and lauded his leadership in fighting the climate crisis and ending the pandemic," the President tweeted later. He said the meeting, part of which was with his wife Jill, had been "an honour".

The Vatican said they discussed climate change, the pandemic and the issue of refugees and migrants, as well as "the protection of human rights, including freeconscience".

Suu Kyi aide jailed for 20 years for 'treason'

80-year-old to appeal sentence: lawyer

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Myanmar's military sentenced a close aide of ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi to 20 years in prison on Friday, his lawyer said, the first high-ranking member of her party to be jailed by a junta court.

The country has been in turmoil since a February 1 coup ousted Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) government, accusing it of fraud in the 2020 elections it won in a landslide.

Former member of Parliament and NLD speaker Win Htein was handed 20 years in jail for treason by a special court in the capital Naypyidaw, lawyer Myint

Thwin said. He added that he would appeal the sentence, and that his client was in good health.

Considered Ms. Suu Kyi's right-hand man, Mr. Win Htein, 80, is the first highranking NLD member to be sentenced by the junta after a trial.

The wheelchair-bound politician requires oxygen to help him breathe, according to local media, and suffers from hypertension, diabetes, and heart and thyroid

Ahead of his arrest three days after the coup, he told local media the military putsch was "not wise", and that its leaders "have taken (the country) in the wrong direction".

Tedros set to continue as WHO chief

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE GENEVA

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, one of the most prominent figures during the COVID-19 pandemic, is the sole candidate to lead the World Health Organization once his current term expires, the WHO announced on Friday.

In his application letter, the former Ethiopian Health and Foreign Minister said COVID-19 had "ravaged the world" and in a second term, he wanted to make sure the planet was "truly ready" to deal with another such crisis.

Elected to the WHO leadership in 2017, his fiveyear mandate runs out in August. "A single candidate was proposed by member states by the September 23, 2021 deadline: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebrevesus," the WHO said in a statement.

Amid fertilizer row, China blacklists Sri Lankan bank

Court had blocked payment over contaminated consignment

China has blacklisted a top state-owned bank in Sri Lanka, citing a "vicious" Letter of Credit "default" in relation to a recent order for organic fertilizer placed by Colombo with a Chinese company. Last week Sri Lankan authorities rejected the consignment that they found to be contaminated.

China's Ministry of Commerce said the "default" had caused "huge losses" to Chinese enterprises in international trade with Sri Lanka. Responding to a tweet from the Colombo-based Chinese Embassy on the decision, People's Bank in Sri Lanka said it was only following a court order, restraining the bank from paying the Chinese company. "Once the legal barriers in effect are removed, the LC payment will be effected promptly as per the usual trade practices," the bank said in a statement on Friday.

Last week, Sri Lanka barred a Chinese ship carrying organic fertilizer, after the National Plant Quarantine Service tested samples and confirmed presence of "organisms, including certain types of harmful bacte-



PM Mahinda Rajapaksa said Colombo cannot accept the tainted fertilizer stock

ria". A Commercial High Court banned any payment to Qingdao Seawin Biotech Group Co. Ltd. for the 96,000 tonnes of fertilizer.

news agency AFP reported. China's subsequent blacklisting of the Sri Lankan bank, and the public clash between officials on both sides, come as concerns of an acute agriculture crisis grow in the island nation, following Colombo's decision to abruptly switch from chemical to organic fertilizers in May this year.

Critics have slammed President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's move as "ill-timed" during the pandemic and "ill-advised", due to its likely adverse impact on food production. The decision has also triggered farmers struggles that are fast spreading, even as Colombo tries sourcing organic fertilizer from other countries. Meanwhile, the Chinese

Embassy in Colombo, on its Twitter page, sought to give a "timeline" of events, and said Seawin [Chinese company Qingdao Seawin Biotech Group] had won an open bid, signed contracts, passed tests of China and an international agency designated by Ceylon Fertilizer Company, and shipped the consignment ahead of schedule. Sri Lankan authorities "disagreed in halfway", called the consignment "toxic/harmful", the Embassy's tweet said, adding: "Ship refused. Third party test refused. L/C payment obligarefused. blacklisted," omitting the October 22 court order.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Thursday told the Chinese Ambassador, who met him at his official residence, that the government cannot accept the "tainted" fertilizer stock but is willing to purchase fertilizers that meet Sri Lanka's "expected standards", the staterun Daily News reported on

Office Of The Superintending Engineer 9th Circle Public Work Department Dehradun Office of the Superintending Engineer, 9th Circle PWD, Dehradun Uttarakhand Nebsite- http://pwd.uk.gov.in Letter No. 8545/IC-9/21 Dated: 28/10/2021 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING e-tender Notice(Short term) https://www.uktenders.gov.in from date 01.11.2021. Money (Rs. of Tende der Document Completic Construction of Road & Drain Registered in 'B' & above Dharampur Assembly ward no 89 & 90 a Durga vihar, Harbhajwala, Kumauni basti category in Road works in Central Govt./State Govt./ 5000.00 + 3.94 60 Nanda enclave, Tuntowala, chandratal Vishnu Maya enclave & Neelwala Under any Govt. Undertaking State Sector, Distt Dehradur

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Public Works (North) Division, Pune New Administrative Building, First Floor, Pune -411 001 e-mail- northpune.ee@mahapwd.com Phone No. 020 - 26123305 Fax No. 020/26123305 E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 49 FOR 2021-2022 (Online)

The Executive Engineer, Public Works (North) Division, Pune - 411 001

(Telephone No. 020- 26123305) invites tender in "B-1" Tenders for following work through e-tendering process from contractors who fulfills terms and condinion mentioned in bid document.

document can be download from htpps:// mahatenders.gov.in Right to reject any or all online bid of work without assigning any reasons thereof is reserved by competent authority. Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

ЭI	r. Name of wo	rk		Estimated Cost		
No.				Rs. Lakh		
1	Construction of Payarimarg and	l Praveshdwar at Shri Ksh	etra	Rs.1229.84 lakh		
	Bhimashankar Tal. Ambegaon, D	Dist. Pune				
	E-Ten	der Time Table				
1	E-tender Document Sale Start &	9.11.2021		3.12.2021		
	End Date and Time	from 10.00 hrs.	u	oto 18.15 hrs.		
2	Place, Date & Time of Pre-bid	In the office of the Chief	Engi	neer, P.W. Region		
	Meeting	Central Building, Pune on or before				
		dt. 23.11.2021 at 12.00 h	ırs.			
3	Bid Submission Start & End date,	9.11.2021		3.12.2021		
	Time	from 10.00 hrs.	u	oto 18.15 hrs.		
4	Place, Date & Time of Bid Opening	Dt. 8.12.2021 at 11.00 hi	rs. in	the Office of the		
	of Technical & Financial Bid	Superintending Enginee	er, P.V	V. Circle, Pune		
		(If Possible)				

1) www.mahapwd.com (only Tender Notice)

DGIPR/2021/2022/2526

(Any Change in tender notice will be informed on the web sites)

(Note - Tenderers Bidding Capacity shall be ascertained as per Post Qualification

(R. Y. Patil) Executive Engineer. **Public Work (North) Division** Pune 411 001.

China tightens control over company data

'Measure needed to protect the public and safeguard national security'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Companies in China would need government approval to transfer important data abroad under proposed rules announced on Friday that would tighten Beijing's control over information and might disrupt operafor international corporations.

The measure is needed to

and "safeguard national security", the Cyberspace Administration of China said. President Xi Jinping's go-

protect the Chinese public

vernment sees information about China's 1.4 billion people as a potential security risk in private hands. It has issued a flurry of rules tightening control over how companies gather and handle information. A crackdown on data security launched in late 2020 fuelled anxiety among investors, who have knocked more than \$1.3 trillion off the total market value of e-commerce platform Alibabaand other tech

Companies that want to transfer important data abroad would have to report on how much and what type of information is involved cording to the CAC. Regulators would decide within a week whether to accept that or conduct their own review, which could last up to 60 days. The rules would apply to transfers that involve "sensitive personal information" of at least 10,000 people or any company that handles information on more than 1 million people.

and security measures, ac-

stern Railway, Lucknow and or behalf of The President of India, invite tenders through e-Procurement system for the supply of the following item Complete description of the item and

Name of Work

Ν	o.			Rs. Lakh	
Construction of Payarimarg Bhimashankar Tal. Ambegace			etra	Rs.1229.84 lakh	
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1	E-tender Document Sale Start &	9.11.2021		3.12.2021	
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2	Place, Date & Time of Pre-bid	In the office of the Chief Engineer, P.W. Regior			
	Meeting	Central Building, Pune on or before			
		dt. 23.11.2021 at 12.00 h	ırs.		
3	Bid Submission Start & End date,	9.11.2021		3.12.2021	
	Time	from 10.00 hrs.	up	oto 18.15 hrs.	
4	Place, Date & Time of Bid Opening	Dt. 8.12.2021 at 11.00 hi	rs. in	the Office of the	
	of Technical & Financial Bid	Superintending Enginee	er, P.W	/. Circle, Pune	
		(If Possible)			

2) https://mahatenders.gov.in

3) Notice Board of Executive Engineer, P.W.North Division, Pune Criteria)

> the website <u>www.ireps.gov.in</u>.
> Senior Divisional Materials Manager.
> CPRO/S-70 N.E. Railway, Lucknow About any Passenger Amenity complain SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, North

other conditions are available or vebsite www.ireps.gov.in.

S.No.: 1, Tender No.: 60216121, Due

Date: 08.11.2021. Description of

Material: Supply installation testing

and commission of passenger elevator

Lift) without machine room suitable fo

15 persons, operating on 415v, 3 phase AC, supply with rear side glass

stainless steel car door, all landing doors and falls ceiling in hair line finish with

utomatic rescue device and as pe

section-I (in conjunction with chapte 01, 02 & 04) of CPWD specification

general specification for electrica

vorks (Part-III - Lift & Escalator) 2003

Confirming to IS: 14665 (Part-I to Part V) physical dimension as under 1.) Loac (a) person-15 (b) Kg-1020, 2) Car inside

(a) inside width-1000 mm (b) Inside depth-2400 mm, 3) Lift well (a) Inside

width-1850 mm (b) Inside depth-3000

mm, 4) Entrance cab door & landing

doors of 1000 mm width Emergence stop button should be provided Note- 02 No. Lift will be commissione at Sitapur Railway station and 02 No. a Aishbagh Railway station, **Qty.**: 04

Nos., Earnest Money: Rs 1,70,000.00. Note: Above tender has been uploaded on the website www.ireps.gov.in. The firms, who

desire to participate in e-tender are advised to electronically register

themselves on the above website for

which they would require to have a

class-III Digital Signature Certificate Authority licensed by CCA India

Manual offers against e-tenders will not be considered. For details, please visit

Do not travel with inflammable article in tra

Urban poor bearing the

brunt of high

inflation: Crisil

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The urban poor have been

the worst-hit by the high in-

flation that has prevailed

over the past one-and-a-

half years, and the persis-

tent uptick in fuel prices

continues to pose a major

threat for them, rating

agency Crisil said in a note

purchasing power across

the board, the impact on

different income classes

varies with their share of

spending on different com-

modity groups, Crisil eco-

nomists D.K. Joshi and

Pankhuri Tandon pointed

out. They segregated the

population into three

groups by spending, and

mapped inflation in com-

modities they consume. They found that the experience of inflation was simi-

While inflation shrinks

NEW DELHI

on Friday.

MARKET WATCH

	29-10-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,307	-1.13
US Dollar	74.88	0.05
Gold	46,887	-0.35
Brent oil	84.21	0.56

Brent oil	940,887 94 21	
Di circ dic	07.21	0.5
NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANG
Adani Ports	693.00	4.9
Asian Paints	3100.10	16.2
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto	3707.25	6.
Bajaj Finserv	17821.15	-166.
Bajaj Finance	7400.20	84.0
Bharti Airtel	685.35	4.4
BPCL		
Britannia Ind	3675.75	6.
Cipla	905.05.	13
Coal India		
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors	2484.80	42.
Grasim Ind	1721.10	18.
HCL Tech		
HDFC		
HDFC Bank	1582.85	-10.
HDFC Life	680.45	2.0
Hero MotoCorp	2657.10	10.0
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank	1140.20	35.
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp	185.05	-0.8
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
State Bank		
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma	795.00	12.0

EXCHANGE RATES	
Indicative direct rates in	rı

Products Ltd.

UltraTech Cement

except yen at 4 p.m.	on Octob	er 29
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.68	75.00
Euro	86.98	87.36
British Pound	.103.01	103.45
Japanese Yen (100)	65.59	65.87
Chinese Yuan	11.67	11.73
Swiss Franc	81.88	82.24
Singapore Dollar	55.47	55.72
Canadian Dollar	60.48	60.74
Malaysian Ringitt	18.03	18.12
Source-Indian Rank		

809 50 -0 20

1315.95.

..7636.05.

.. 16.35

-55.45

... 189.40

Centre extends Das's tenure for 3 more years

The government has extended the tenure of Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das for a period of 3 years, through an order late on Thursday

Core sector growth decelerated to 7-month low of 4.4% in September

Output at eight industries declined sequentially as rains hit mining, construction

Output from India's eight core sectors grew 4.4% in September, the slowest pace of year-on-year growth in seven months. That reversed two months of accelerating production, with August logging an expansion of 11.5%.

On a sequential basis, September saw the second successive monthly decline in the Index of Eight Core Industries compiled by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The index, which stood at 134.7 in July, slid almost 1% in August and slumped 5% in September.

In September 2020, when the economy had largely opened up after the national



Glass half full: On a positive note, output exceeded the pre-COVID level of September 2019 by 5%, says Nayar. • AFP

COVID-19 lockdown, core sector output had grown 0.6%. While five sectors posted distinct year-on-year growth last month, crude oil output shrank 1.7% and fertilisers and electricity barely remained in positive territo-

ry, with growth rates of 0.02% and 0.3%, respectively. Natural gas production surged 27.5% in September after a 10.6% contraction in 2020, while cement output rose 10.8% after suffering a 3.4% fall a year earlier.

Even as coal supplies remain a concern for power and metal producers, the data showed coal output grew 8.1% last month, and this despite production having grown 21% in September 2020. Coal output expanded 20.5% in August 2021.

Economists said heavy rains had hit mining, construction and power demand, adding that the sequential momentum would improve while year-on-year growth would likely stay in the same range in October.

"On an encouraging note, core output in September exceeded the pre-COVID level... by 5%, led by coal, natural gas, steel, cement and electricity" said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.

Fiscal deficit touches 35% of annual budget target

Compares with 115% seen year earlier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The union government's fiscal deficit has worked out to be ₹5.26 lakh crore or 35% of budget estimates at the end of September, as per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Friday.

The deficit figures in the current fiscal appear better than the previous financial year when it had soared to 114.8% of the estimates mainly on account of a jump in expenditure to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. In absolute terms, the fis-

cal deficit or gap between expenditure and revenue was ₹5,26,851 crore at the end of September, the CGA said.

For the current fiscal, the

crore. As per the data, the

'Expenditure at 46.7%' The CGA further said the Centre's total expenditure at the end of the first half stood

of the current fiscal's BE. Of the total expenditure, account accounted ments ₹3,63,757 crore

government expects deficit at 6.8% of GDP or ₹15,06,812

Centre's total receipts stood at ₹10.99 lakh crore or 55.6% of corresponding budget estimates (BE) FY22 up to September. Total receipts were 25.2% of the BE a year earlier. Of the total receipts, tax revenue was ₹9.2 lakh crore or 59.6% of BE, compared with 28% a year earlier.

at ₹16.26 lakh crore or 46.7%

₹13,96,666 crore was on re-₹2,29,351 crore was on capital account. Interest pay-₹1,80,959 crore was due to major subsidies.

> lar across income groups in rural India, but the urban poor faced a double whammy last year as well as in the first half of this year. In FY21, the bottom 20% income earners in urban

India experienced 7% inflation, while it was 6.4% for the top 20% and 6.8% for the rest. In the first half of FY22, this difference has narrowed but urban poor experienced inflation of 5.6%, while it was 5.4% for the top 20%. Cereals, fuel and vegeta-

bles are the top commodities for the poorest 20% in both rural and urban areas; inflation remains above 6% in six of 10 commodities used by the rural poor and five by the urban poor. The economists said the share of fuel in total consumption is more for the poor. "The poor, urban more than rural, have likely [seen] inflationary pressures this fiscal primarily through fuel," they added.

Dr. Reddy's net surges 29% to ₹995 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories reported consolidated net profit rose 29% to ₹995.8 crore for September quarter on the back of good perfomance in India and emerging markets in the generics business segment, while new offerings helped partially offset the impact of accelerating price erosion in the North America market. The increase, compared with the ₹771.8 crore net profit in the year earlier, came on an 18% increase in revenue from operations to ₹5,786.9 crore (₹4,910.9 crore), according

to the results Total income at ₹5,992.4 crore (₹4962.1 crore) was

Apple doubled business in India in FY21: Cook

'Emerged fastest growing in July-Sept.'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA NEW DELHI

Technology major Apple doubled business in India during fiscal 2021, said chief executive officer Tim Cook.

"During fiscal 2021, we earned nearly one-third of our revenue from emerging markets and doubled our business in India and Vietnam," Mr. Cook said during the company's fourth-quarter earnings conference call on Thursday.

"We are optimistic about the future, especially as we see strong demand for our new products," he said.

The CEO added that the company had achieved more than 20% growth across all product categories and in every geographic



segment. "This fiscal year. we reported \$366 billion of revenue, which represents 33% annual growth," he said. According to a report by Counterpoint Research released on Thursday, Apple emerged as the fastest growing brand in the July-September 2021 quarter in India, with 212% y-o-y growth, and led the premium smartphone market

JioPhone Next to hit stores on Deepavali

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Jio Platform of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and Google on Friday announced that the JioPhone Next jointly smartphone, designed by the two companies, would be made available at stores across the country from Deepavali.

"This will be the most affordable smartphone anywhere in the world with an entry price of ₹1,999 and the rest paid via easy EMI over 18/24 companies said in a joint statement.

Wheels India net more than doubles to ₹21 cr.

Firm raises capex on export demand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd. (WIL) has scaled up capital expenditure plans for the current fiscal by 37% to ₹136 crore to help service strong export demand, after the company reported profit more than doubled last quarter. "We have seen six contin-

uous quarters of growth in exports; this trend... in exports is likely to continue," said Srivats Ram, MD.

"Our exports [now] constitute 25% of total sales. We expect it to inch towards 30% by the end of the current fiscal. Demand outlook for exports and domestic markets is broadly positive," he added. The auto parts maker had in March pegged



capital expenditure at ₹99 crore; this was raised due to a rise in global demand in the construction equipment and windmill segments.

WIL was facing challenges from the rising costs of aluminium and steel, and fuel prices, Mr. Ram said.

Second-quarter profit jumped 186% to ₹21 crore, while revenue rose 78% to

+

Karnataka is champion

Srihari Nataraj and Apeksha Fernandes adjudged best



Simply the best: The Karnataka team that reigned supreme at the Nationals. • K. MURALI KUMAR

AQUATICS

N. SUDARSHAN BENGALURU

There was no let-up in Karnataka's dominance as golds from Srihari Nataraj, Ridhima Veerendra Kumar and Shoan Ganguly on the final day powered the State to yet another overall title, as the 74th senior National aquatic championships drew to a closehere on Friday.

While Srihari and Ridhima won the 200m backstroke races for a clean sweep of the event, Shoan Ganguly completed the medley double, adding the 400m to the 200m.

Srihari also clinched the 200m freestyle title, in record time (1:49.78), just over half a second faster than Sajan Prakash's mark set in

The 20-year-old finished with five individual golds, and he along with Maharashtra's Apeksha Fernandes, who won the 100m butterfly race in 1:03.38 for her third gold, were adjudged the best swimmer.

Sajan Prakash created a new National record in



Apeksha Fernandes.

100m butterfly (53.24), rewriting his own (53.46) from 2018. There was also win for 38-year-old Richa Mishra in 400m medley.

Assam Shivangi Sarma finished with a hat-trick of golds from the meet, adding the women's 200m freestyle title to her wins over 100m and 400m.

At the end of the Championships, the Indian contingent for FINA World Short Course in Abu Dhabi in December was announced.

It will include Srihari and Sajan, who have qualified with 'A qualifying time', and Kushagra Rawat, who has made the team with 'B qual-



Ridhima was selected for securing the highest FINA points from the events she swum here.

The results: Men: 200m freestyle: Srihari Nataraj (Kar), 1:49.78 (NMR; OR: Sajan Prakash (Police), 1:50.35, 2018): 200m backstroke: Srihari Nataraj, 2:04.20; 100m breaststroke: M. Lohith (RSPB). 1:04.24; **100m butterfly:** Sajan Prakash, 53.24 (NMR; OR: Sajan Prakash, 53.46, 2018); 400m medley: Shoan Ganguly (Kar),

Women: 200m freestyle: Shivangi Sarma (Asm), 2:07.10; 200m backstroke: Ridhima Veerendra Kumar 2:21.58; 100m breaststroke: Chahat Arora (Pun), 1:17.01; 100m butterfly: Apeksha Fernandes (Mah), 1:03.38; 400m medley: Richa Mishra (Police), 5:14.69.

Individual champions: Srihari Nataraj (5 golds, 3 National records); Apeksha Fernandes (3 golds, 2 silvers).

Team championship: Men: Karnataka (119 pts); Women: Karnataka (77 pts); Overall: Karnataka (300 pts).

Diving: Men: SSCB (29 pts); Women: RSPB (19 pts). Water polo: Men (finals):

RSPB 14 bt SSCB 12; Women: Kerala 16 bt Police 10.

Swimming Federation of India plots water polo's revival

Ropes in Serbian double-Olympic medallist Slobodan Soro to kick-start the effort

N. SUDARSHAN BENGALURU

The last time India was a force to reckon with in men's water polo, at least at the Asian level, was in the 1970s. After a gold in the inaugural Asian Games in 1951, it claimed silver in 1970 and bronze in 1982.

But since then, the sport has been on a steady decline. The men haven't participated at a single Asian Games since 1986. The women featured in the 2010 edition and finished fourth out of four teams, conceding 96 goals in three matches.

The Swimming Federation of India (SFI) has thus solicited help from a Serbian Olympic hero, Slobodan Soro, who won bronze at 2008 Beijing and 2012 London, to set India on the path towards redemption.

"The level is low, I under-



Recipe for success: Soro says that with better infrastructure. the level of the game can go up in India. • K. MURALI KUMAR

stand the situation," says Soro, who is in the city to help scout talent at the ongoing Senior Nationals, ahead of the 2022 Asian Games.

"Infrastructure is not that good. There are not many heated pools in India, which is one of the basic things. But I see they are really enthusiastic. With some better conditions, the level of players, coaches and referees can all go up."

Water polo, though eye-

floor nor hang on to the side walls, which means constant pedalling to just stay afloat. Then come the passing, synchronous team moves etc.

Players can neither touch the

Unique sport

"It's a unique sport. Different muscle groups are used during different times. Even vour Javelin champion [Neeraj Chopra] will find it tough to throw the ball more than 10m."

Ahead of the 2016 Rio

Olympics, Soro became a naturalised Brazil citizen and was a goalkeeper in the host's team that finished eighth. "I have some experience of trying to develop the game. We managed it in Brazil. After winning the first three Olympic games, all Brazilians were talking about water polo."

But Brazil already had

sports clubs with water polo. In India we need to make the base bigger, because you need quantity and quality."

The 42-year-old also points to the need for heroes. "I started playing after watching [erstwhile] Yugoslavia win Olympic gold in 1984 and 1988 and World Championship in 1986. Team sports have more influence on society. We have [Novak] Djokovic, but when our basketball or water polo teams

win, it makes more impact." Monal Chokshi, the secretary general of SFI, concedes that water polo and diving have been given "secondhand treatment," and calls this engagement with Serbia, "a starting point."

"We are also looking at parallel development of coaches and refereeing. We are far behind in these sports. There

Niki surmounts Paras' challenge, to play Digvijay in final

Zeel Desai takes on Sharmada Balu in the women's summit clash



Niki Poonacha...going for a double. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

Fourth seed Paras Dahiya served a wake-up alarm to top seed Niki Poonacha before being beaten 6-3, 6-7(7), 6-1 in the semifinals of the Fenesta National tennis championship here on Friday.

In the final, the champion of the 2019 edition, Niki will face seventh seed Digvijay Pratap Singh who tackled the climax with competence for a 6-1, 5-7, 7-5 victory over third seed Nitin Kumar Sinha. Both the contests were three hour battles and understandably engrossing, as it was also about being content with ₹40,000 or trying to push

one's case for the final which carries a total prize purse of ₹5,00,000 with the champion getting ₹3,00,000.

Niki put himself in line for a double by winning the doubles crown with S.D. Prajwal

Much in contrast, top seed Zeel Desai and qualifier Sharmada Balu were pretty sharp in showing the door to former finalists, Sai Samhitha and Vaidehi Chaudhari respectively, in the women's event.

in patiently stroking her way past Sai, after having dropped serve early in the second set. Sharmada was candid in dealing with Vaidehi who did not get her serve rhythm and delivered 13 double faults in the match.

Zeel was quite composed

Despite focusing on doubles on her return to the circuit after a few years, Sharmada was light on her feet and fluent with her punchy game in asserting her grit and class. She has put herself in line for a double by winning the doubles title with Sravya Shivani.

The results: Men: Semifinals: Niki Poonacha bt Paras Dahiya 6-3, 6-7(7), 6-1; Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-1, 5-7, 7-5, Doubles (final): S.D. Praiwal Dev & Niki Poonacha bt Chandril Sood & Lakshit Sood 6-2, 7-6(3).

Women: Semifinals: Zeel Desai bt Sai Samhitha 6-2, 6-2; Sharmada Balu bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-4, 6-3. Doubles (final): Sharmada Balu & Sravya Shivani bt Vaidehi Chaudhari & Mihika Yadav 6-2, 6-3.



SUCCESS. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Asif's blitzkrieg seals the deal for Pakistan

Smashes four sixes in an over to pilot the team home after Babar provides the launch pad

ICC T20 WC

AYAN ACHARYA

Babar Azam's clinical innings (51, 47b, 4x4) and Asif Ali's cameo (25 n.o., 7b, 4x6) helped Pakistan overcome a spirited Afghanistan and maintain its 100% record in Group 2 at the ICC T20 World Cup on Friday.

Needing 26 off the last three, Naveen ul Haq had Shoaib Malik caught behind to leave Pakistan five down for 124. But Asif's sensational assault – four sixes off Karim Janat in the 19th over sealed the chase and gave Babar's men their third straight win.

Defending 147, Mujeeb Ur Rahman had Mohammad Rizwan caught at deep square-leg. But Fakhar Zaman hit Mohammad Nabi for a four and a six in the next over to set the tempo. Mujeeb bowled his four on the trot to finish with one for 14.

With 76 required off 10 overs, Rashid Khan was introduced, finally. Babar survived an lbw call off on review. But off the first ball of the next over bowled by Mohammed Nabi, Zaman missed a sweep and was trapped in front. After Mohammed Hafeez fell to Rashid, Shoaib Malik joined Babar. The skipper brought up his half-century off 45 balls before he was bowled by Rashid (two

Earlier, Afghanistan batted first after winning the toss. Shaheen Afridi's pacy first over ruffled Hazratullah



Firing away: With 24 needed off 12, Asif settled the issue in six deliveries. • TWITTER/THEREALPCB

Zazai and Mohammad Shahzad. With two right-handers at the crease, left-arm spinner Imad Wasim came into the attack. The move clicked as Zazai was caught by Haris Rauf. Afridi accounted for Shahzad in the next over.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Asghar Afghan tried to up the ante in Imad's second over with two big sixes and a four. But Haris, in his first over, took a sharp caught and bowled to remove Afghan. In the next over, Hasan Ali had

Innings scan

Afghan- istan		Pakistan
62	Dots	38
15	Fours	9
5	Sixes	6
49/4	PP	38/1
7.35	RR	7.78

Gurbaz caught. Afghanistan was 49 for four after six overs and slipped to 76 for six in 13 overs. Nabi and Gulbadin Naib joined forces, the

Next assignment

Afghanistan: Oct. 31 vs Namibia, Abu Dhabi,

Pakistan: Nov. 2 vs Namibia, Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

latter hammering two fours and a six to take 19 off Hasan's last over. Nabi and Naib scored 15 off Haris' fourth over as they finished with an unbeaten 71-run stand. But it

Can Kohli & Co. get the measure of the Kiwis?

New Zealand has been India's bogey team in World Cups

AMOL KARHADKAR

SCOREBOARD

AFGHANISTAN

Hazratullah Zazai c Rauf b Imad

O (5b), Mohammad Shahzad c

Babar b Afridi 8 (9b, 1x4), Rah-

manullah Gurbaz c Babar b

Hasan 10 (7b, 1x6), Asghar

Afghan c & b Rauf 10 (7b, 1x4,

1x6), Karim Janat c Fakhar b

Imad 15 (17b, 1x4, 1x6), Najibul-

lah Zadran c Rizwan b Shadab

22 (21b, 3x4, 1x6), Mohammad

Nabi (not out) 35 (32b, 5x4),

Gulbadin Naib (not out) 35

(25b, 4x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-3,

w-6, nb-3): 12; Total (for six

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Hazratullah, 1.3 overs), 2-13

(Shahzad, 2.4), 3-33 (Asghar,

4.3), 4-39 (Rahmanullah, 5.1),

5-64 (Janat, 9.1), 6-76 (Najibul-

PAKISTAN BOWLING

Afridi 4-0-22-1, Imad 4-0-25-2,

Rauf 4-0-37-1, Hasan 4-1-38-1,

PAKISTAN

Mohammad Rizwan c Naveen b

Mujeeb 8 (10b, 1x4), Babar

Azam b Rashid 51 (47b, 4x4),

(25b, 2x4, 1x6), Mohammad

Hafeez c Naib b Rashid 10 (10b,

1x4), Shoaib Malik c Shahzad b

Naveen 19 (15b, 1x4, 1x6), Asif

Ali (not out) 25 (7b, 4x6),

Shadab Khan (not out) O (1b);

Extras (lb-2, w-2, nb-1): 5: Total

(for five wkts. in 19 overs): 148.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-12 (Rizwan, 2.3), 2-75 (Fakhar,

11.1), 3-97 (Hafeez, 14.1), 4-122

(Babar, 16.6), 5-124 (Malik,

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING

Mujeeb 4-0-14-1, Nabi 4-0-

36-1, Naveen 3-0-22-1, Janat 4-

Pakistan won by five wickets

0-48-0, Rashid 4-0-26-2.

Man-of-the-Match: Asif.

Toss: Afghanistan.

Shadab 4-0-22-1.

wkts. in 20 overs): 147.

India versus New Zealand doesn't ring as loud a bell for cricket fans as it does for an India-Pakistan or an India-Australia clash. But the fact is New Zealand has been India's bogey team in World Cups over the last five decades.

No wonder then that it will be a challenging task for Virat Kohli's men on Sunday to overcome the Black Caps, open its account and avoid its ICC T20 World Cup campaign from derailing.

Three on eight

Ever since the inaugural men's World Cup in 1975, India has managed to beat the Kiwis only three times in eight meetings, with the last victory being in 2003. The only time the two teams took each other on since then, Kane Williamson's wily pacers floored India in the World Cup 2019 semifinal.

As for the T20 World Cup, the two teams have met only twice. M.S. Dhoni's men first faltered in the inaugural edition in South Africa and suffered a reverse during the last edition on home soil in 2016.

Dhoni having switched into a mentor's role, no Indian squad member would need to be reminded of its mediocre record against one of the most under-rated teams in World championships.

New Zealand has a knack

An in-form England will face

a buoyant Australia with

Group 1 bragging rights up

for grabs in a Super 12 game

at the ICC Twenty20 World

the back of facile wins; Aus-

tralia beat Sri Lanka by se-

ven wickets at the same ve-

nue and England thrashed

Bangladesh by eight wickets

Finch were big pluses

against Sri Lanka. Australia

was able to control the game

during the middle overs

through Adam Zampa and

Mitchell Starc. But the Sri

Lanka batters targeted the

TODAY'S MATCHES

SHARJAH, 3.30 P.M. IST

H2H IN T20IS

Played: 16

DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST

H2H IN T20Is

Played: 19

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka

England

England

David Warner and Aaron

in Abu Dhabi

South Africa

South Africa |

Australia

Australia

Both teams are coming on

Cup in Dubai on Saturday.

AYAN ACHARYA



Lining it up: India and mentor Dhoni will look to Hardik to start firing again. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of optimising its potential in World Cups. The expertise and squad members' camaraderie invariably come to the fore when it matters the most. Naturally, despite its loss to Pakistan in the tournament-opener, New Zealand will continue to pose as big a threat to India as it has done earlier.

India too has been doing its bit to enhance the teambonding after all the squad members were scattered representing their respective IPL franchises in the buildup to the tournament. Having trained at the ICC Academy just once since their loss to Pakistan on Sunday, India's cricketers were involved in a session of beach volleyball on Friday.

Right combination

Relaxing against a must-win tie isn't a bad way. But more than getting their volleys together, India will be first hoping to get its combination right and then be backing the unit to fire on all cylinders

Will the Black Caps syndrome strike yet again on India? Or will Kohli's cavaliers take a cue from their Pakistan counterparts and register India's maiden win against New Zealand in a T20 World Cup?

West Indies clinches a thriller, keeps hopes alive

Bangladesh falls short by three runs after Pooran's cameo takes Pollard's men to 142

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Defending champion West Indies kept its hopes alive of retaining the title as it edged Bangladesh by three runs in a last-ball thriller for its first win in the ICC T20 World Cup on Friday.

Bangladesh needed 13 off the 20th over bowled by Andre Russell, but fell short by just three runs to lose its third straight Super 12 match and all but ending its chances of progressing.

Bravo's vital strike

Dwayne Bravo struck a huge blow when he dismissed Bangladesh's top-scorer Liton Das, who had made 44, with the final ball of the 19th

Earlier, Nicholas Pooran hit 40 off 22 deliveries to lift West Indies to 142 for seven after being put in.

Roston Chase scored 39 on his T20 debut as he and Pooran added 57 for the fifth wicket to give West Indies the much-needed momentum in the final few overs.

Former captain Jason Holder hit two sixes in the 20th over in a five-ball 15 on his re-

Innings scan

WEST INDIES		BANGLA- DESH	
49	Dots	42	
5	Fours	12	
7	Sixes	1	
29/2	PP	29/2	
7.10	RR	6.95	

turn to the team.

The Bangladesh bowlers had had the upper hand earlier in the innings, removing the out-of-form Chris Gayle for four.

lam and Mustafizur Rahman took two wickets each.

pair of Shakib Al Hasan and Mohammed Naim was kept in check by the West Indies

when Soumya

tempting a scoop shot.

Liton and skipper Mahmudullah took it down to the wire before the former departed. Russell held his nerve in the final over to give the West Indies a crucial win

Bangladesh: Nov. 2 vs 3.30 p.m. IST

West Indies: Nov. 4 vs Sri Lanka, Abu Dhabi,



Mahedi Hasan, Shoriful Is-

Bangladesh started its reply cautiously as the opening

Russell sent back Shakib

for nine after the batter had been dropped the previous ball. Holder bowled Naim in the next over to put Bangladesh on the backfoot and the Tigers slipped to 60 for three departed. Das kept one end occu-

pied and together with Mushfigur Rahim kept the side in the hunt, despite the climbing asking rate. Ravi Rampaul broke the partnership when he bowled Mushfiqur, who missed the ball at-

after two losses.

Next assignment

South Africa, Abu Dhabi,



Swing factor: Pooran's 22-ball 40 took the West Indies to a winning total. • GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES

Chris Gayle b Mahedi 4 (10b), Evin Lewis c Mushfiqur b Mustafizur 6 (9b, 1x4), Roston Chase b Shoriful 39 (46b, 2x4), Shimron Hetmyer c Sarkar b Mahedi 9 (7b, 1x4), Kieron Pollard (not out) 14 (18b, 1x6), Andre Russell run out O (Ob), Nicholas Pooran c Naim b Shoriful 40 (22b, 1x4, 4x6), Dwayne Bravo c Sarkar b Mustafizur 1 (3b), Jason Holder (not out) 15 (5b. 2x6); Extras (b-1, lb-6, w-7): 14; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 142.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-12 (Lewis, 2.6 overs), 2-18 (Gayle, 4.2), 3-32 (Hetmyer, 6.4), 4-62 (Russell, 12.4), 5-119 (Pooran, 18.1), 6-119 (Chase, 18.2), 7-123 (Bravo, 19.1).

BANGLADESH BOWLING Mahedi 4-0-27-2. Taskin 4-0-17-0, Mustafizur 4-0-43-2, Shoriful 4-0-20-2, Shakib

4-0-28-0. BANGLADESH

Mohammad Naim b Holder 17 (19b, 2x4), Shakib Al Hasan c Holder b Russell 9 (12b, 1x4), Liton Das c Holder b Bravo 44 (43b, 4x4), Soumya Sarkar c Gayle b Hosein 17 (13b, 2x4), Mushfiqur Rahim b Rampaul 8 (7b, 1x4), Mahmudullah (not out) 31 (24b, 2x4, 1x6), Afif Hossain (not out) 2 (2b); Extras (b-2, lb-1, w-8): 11; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 139.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-21 (Shakib, 4.3), 2-29 (Naim,

5.4), 3-60 (Sarkar, 10.4), 4-90 (Mushfigur, 13.3), 5-130 (Liton,

WEST INDIES BOWLING Rampaul 4-0-25-1, Holder 4-0-22-1, Russell 4-0-29-1, Hosein 4-0-24-1, Bravo 4-0-36-1.

Toss: Bangladesh. Man-of-the-Match: Pooran.

West Indies won by three

Sindhu enters semifinals

Points table

Both enter the contest on the back of two successive wins

Red-hot England vs upbeat Australia

		, ,,	_		THAT
England	2	2	0	4	3.614
Australia	2	2	0	4	0.727
South Africa	2	1	1	2	0.179
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	2	-0.416
West Indies	3	1	2	2	-1.598
Bangladesh	3	0	3	0	-1.069
Pakistan	3	3	0	6	0.638
Afghanistan	2	1	1	2	3.092
Namibia	1	1	0	2	0.550
New Zealand	1	0	1	0	-0.532
India	1	0	1	0	-0.973

After the Afghanistan-Pakistan match on Oct. 29

fifth and sixth bowlers -Glenn Maxwell (16 off his only over) and Marcus Stoinis (0-35 off three overs). En-

gland will look to exploit the fifth-bowler potential weakness. Pat Cummins, however,

indicated that Australia is unlikely to change its combination.

"Maxy (Maxwell) bowling one in the first six, that means now Starcy (Starc) can have an extra over through the middle. You saw he took a couple of wickets in the middle overs. We were able to do that because of Maxy," Cummins said.

Ruthless

On the flip side, England's bowling attack has been ruthless. Moeen Ali and Chris Woakes toppled Bangladesh with combined figures of 3 for 27 in the PowerPlay.

Moeen has bowled all seven of his overs on the trot four in a row against West Indies, and three more against Bangladesh.

Crucial match-up

The match-up between Warner and Moeen will be crucial. Tymal Mills has been incisive at the death.

England's batting has looked in good shape but hasn't been put under pressure. The Australia clash will be a litmus test.

All four matches held in Dubai have been won by the chasing team. "There's always an advantage in chasing, statistically, regardless of the country that you're playing in," Eoin Morgan said.

Sathiyan-Harmeet duo in final

WTT TUNIS

SPORTS BUREAU

G. Sathiyan had a mixed day in the World Table Tennis Contender Tunis here on Friday. The 28-year-old Indian

reached the men's doubles final, but lost in the singles quarterfinals and mixed doubles semifinals. Sathiyan went down to

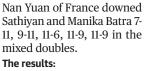
Dang Qiu of Germany 5-11, 15-17, 6-11 in singles. Sathiyan and Harmeet De-

sai entered the men's doubles title clash with a 8-11, 12-14, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9 win over



■ FILE PHOTO

Nandor Ecseki and Adam Szudi of Hungary. They will meet Emmanuel Lebesson and Alexandra Cassin of



France. Lebesson and Jia

Men: Singles, quarterfinals: Dang Qiu (Ger) bt G. Sathiyan 11-5. 17-15. 11-6.

Doubles, semifinals: Sathiyan & Harmeet Desai bt Nandor Ecseli & Adam Szudi (Hun) 8-11, 12-14, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9; Emmanuel Lebesson & Alexandra Cassin (Fra) bt Tomas Polansky & Jiri Martinko (Cze) 9-11, 11-9, 12-10, 11-5.

Mixed doubles (semifinals): Emmanuel Lebesson & Jia Nan Yuan (Fra) bt Sathiyan & Manika Batra 7-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-9.

BADMINTON

AGENCIES

P.V. Sindhu stormed into the semifinals of the French Open badminton tournament after defeating Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan 21-14, 21-14 on

The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, seeded fifth, beat M.R. Arjun and Dhruv Kapila 15-21, 21-10, 21-19 to reach the quarterfinals.

Earlier, Lakshya Sen lost in the quarterfinals to South



Korea's Heo Kwanghee 15-21,

Sourabh Verma, too, bowed out after losing 12-21, 9-21 to Japan's Kenta Nishimoto.

Nihal Sarin holds top seed Caruana The results (second round): **CHESS** SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Nihal Sarin held World No. 2 and top seed Fabiano Carua na as Indian youngters held sway in the second round of the FIDE Grand Swiss in Riga, Latvia, on Thursday.

D. Gukesh, India's youngest Grandmaster, held former World junior champion Parham Maghsoodhoo to join Nihal at 1.5 points.

For the second successive day, Arjun Erigaisi punched above his weight to hold eighth-seeded Russian Daniil Duboy.



However, seventh seed P. Hari Krishna lost to veteran Aleksey Dreev while K. Sasikiran scored over Uzbekistan's Shamsiddin Vokhidov. Among the women, D. Ha-

rika defeated teammate Divya Deshmukh and Padmini Rout defeated veteran Pia Cramling.

Open: Nihal Sarin (1.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA) 1.5): Parham Maghsoodhoo (Iri.

1.5) drew with D. Gukesh (1.5); Aleksey Dreev (Rus, 1.5) bt P. Harikrishna (0); S.P. Sethuraman (1) drew with Gabriel Sargissian (Arm, 1); Sanan Sjugirov (Rus, 1.5) drew with Raunak Sadhwani (0.5); Ivan Cheparinov (Bul, 1) drew with Surya Shekar Ganguly (1); K. Sasikiran (1.5) bt Shamisiddin Vokhidov (Uzb, 0.5).

Women: R. Vaishali (1) lost to Nino Batsiashvili (Geo); Divya Deshmukh (0.5) lost to D. Harika (1.5); Meri Arabidze (Geo, 1) drew with Vantika Agarwal (1): Pia Cramling (Swe, 0) lost to Padmini Rout (1). M ND-NDE

TV PICKS

Badminton: Paris Open, Star Sports 3, 1,30 p.m.

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.

Men's World Boxing Championships: Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



rally against Warriors

LOS ANGELES

Ja Morant scored 30 points as Memphis Grizzlies ended Golden State Warriors' unbeaten start to the season with a come-from-behind 104-101 overtime victory in San Francisco on Thursday. The results: Wizards 122 bt Hawks 111; 76ers 110 bt Pistons 102; Bulls 103 lost to Knicks 104; Rockets 91 lost to Jazz 122; Mavericks 104 bt Spurs 99; Warriors 101 lost to Grizzlies 104 (OT). AFP



Zverev racks up 300th **ATP Tour-level win**

German second seed Alexander Zverev earned his 300th ATP Tour-level win by defeating Alex de Minaur of Australia 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 to make the Vienna quarterfinals on Thursday. AFP



coach in men's pro game

Former England wicketkeeper-batter Sarah Taylor has become the first woman coach in men's professional franchise cricket She was named assistant coach of Team Abu Dhabi for the Abu Dhabi T10 league beginning on November 19. Earlier, Taylor had become the first woman specialist coach at a men's county side,



Norman to launch 10 events on Asian Tour

SINGAPORE Australian golfing great Greg Norman teamed up with the Asian Tour on Friday to launch 10 new events to be held every year over the next decade. The partnership has a commitment of more than \$200 million from PIF — the Saudi sovereign wealth fund involved in the takeover of Newcastle United. The events will be staged across Asia, the Middle East and Europe and the series will be added to the Asian Tour schedule starting next year. AFP

HC dismisses VFI's stay application

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Having failed to deposit ₹2 crores to its credit before October 28 (Thursday), the Madras High Court on Friday dismissed the stay application of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) to hear its petition, challenging the earlier judgement awarded by the arbitrator Justice K. Kannan in favour

of Baseline Ventures. Due to VFI's non-compliance with the court orders, VFI owes Baseline Ventures ₹6 crores, calculating the 12% interest to the ₹4 crores as compensation and ₹5 lakh in legal fees, which Justice Kannan delivered in his judgement on November 18, 2019.

Dogged Levante holds Atletico

Napoli makes it five wins in as many home games to retake top spot



Drawing level: Levante's Enis Bardhi scores for the second time from the spot to dash Atletico's hopes. • REUTERS

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Atletico Madrid spurned the chance to move level on points with Real Madrid on Thursday after conceding from two penalties, the second in the 89th minute, to draw 2-2 away at Levante.

Atletico led twice at the City of Valencia Stadium as Antoine Griezmann opened the scoring before Matheus Cunha's first goal for the club looked to have sealed victo-

But each time Levante hit

back from the spot after a Luis Suarez foul and then a late handball by Renan Lodi allowed Enis Bardhi to convert from 12 vards.

Diego Simeone was also sent off towards the end of the contest as Atletico edge up to fifth, five points off early leader Real Sociedad, albeit with a game in hand.

Real Sociedad earlier returned to the top of the table after it won 2-0 away at Celta

Simeone had said before the game he was "worried but busy" trying to fix his team's unexpected fragility in defence, with this game making it seven goals conceded in the last three

Atletico has won only one of its last four league matches, against Barcelona, after a surprise defeat by Alaves and draws with Real Sociedad and now Levante.

games.

Napoli made it five wins in five home games this season with a 3-0 victory over Bologna on Thursday to go back to the top of Serie A.

Napoli lost its 100% record last weekend with a 0-0 draw at Roma after eight successive wins but Luciano Spalletti's side was back to its best against Bologna.

Napoli, which is now unbeaten in 16 games at home stretching back to January, has 28 points and leads AC Milan on goal difference. Champion Inter Milan is third.

The results: La Liga: Celta Vigo O lost to Real Sociedad 2 (Isak 55, Elustondo 79); Granada 1 (Jorge Molina 90+7) drew with Getafe 1 (Unal 37); Levante 2 (Bardhi 37-pen, 90-pen) drew with Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 12. Cunha 76).

Serie A: Napoli 3 (Ruiz 18, Insigne 41-pen, 62-pen) bt Bologna 0.

Our collective dream is to do well, says captain Ashalata

Indian women not perturbed at being grouped with China, Chinese Taipei and Iran

AFC ASIAN CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Indian women's football team is not unduly perturbed after it was drawn with China, Chinese Taipei and Iran in next year's AFC Asian Cup at home as it has beaten two sides in the group recently.

India is the third-ranked side in the four-team Group-A at 57th spot in the FIFA chart after the draws were held in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. China is the highest ranked team at 17th while Chinese Taipei is ranked 40 and Iran 72.

But India has beaten Chinese Taipei 1-0 in an international friendly match in Bahrain earlier this month. The team had also beaten Iran by the same margin during the Hero Gold Cup in Bhubanes war in 2019.

"Every one of us had our predictions (while watching the draw live). I had also predicted Iran, because I have so much respect for them, and we did get them in our group right at the start," team captain Ashalata Devi said.

DELHI ROUND-UP



Ashalata.

Nobody will give an inch in the Asian Cup, and we have to fight for every little bit that we get

"Not only are they (Iran) a very good side, but just the determination of all the women in their team to go out there and play football against all the odds is something that still gives me goosebumps.'

The women's Asian showpiece will be held from January 20 to February 6 in two venues in Mumbai and one in Pune.

India plays Iran on January 20 at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai in its

first group match. It faces Chinese Taipei (D.Y. Patil) on January 23 and China (Mumbai Football Arena) on January 26.

"We have a collective dream, and that is to do well in the Asian Cup. We only have a few months left now, and seeing the draw live was a huge motivating factor for us all," Ashalata added.

Midfielder Sanju Yadav said despite the recent wins against Chinese Taipei and Iran, the team will have to start from scratch at the Asian showpiece event.

"We've got equal respect for all teams. Yes, we have beaten Iran and Chinese Taipei, but that's all in the past. Nobody will give an inch in the Asian Cup, and we have to fight for every little bit that we get," Sanju said.

Winger Dangmei Grace said, "We were all excited about the draw, and now is the time to focus on the job

Some of the national team players have joined Gokulam Kerala FC in their preparation for the pilot edition of the AFC Women's Club Championship in Jordan next month.

No secrets to City's success: Guardiola

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Pep Guardiola says there are "no secrets" to his success during his tenure at Manchester City as he prepares to take charge of his 200th Premier League game.

Since arriving in 2016, the Catalan has guided City to the league title three times, the FA Cup once and the League Cup four times.

Whatever the result against Crystal Palace on Saturday, Guardiola will have won more of his first 200 games in the Premier League than any other manager to reach the milestone. His tally currently stands at 146 wins.

"I've been many years here," said the City boss, whose side are third in the table, two points behind



At 200: Pep Guardiola has transformed City into a champion side in a memorable journey at the Etihad • GETTY IMAGES

leaders Chelsea.

"When you are at 200 games, you have had many vears and that means you won games, no secrets.

"We are judged for results, not how good or bad we are, just results.

"If you get this milestone, it's because we have done quite decent with the players.

"I don't have any regrets. I could not demand or ask more than we have done so far. Impossible. I'm delighted what we lived together in this period. Hopefully we can continue working and doing well."

Anuj Uppal clinches title

Anuj Uppal won the Delhi State Amit Sharma Memorial 6-Red snooker tournament at Megapool Academy, Dwarka when he beat Harpreet Singh 5-0 in the final.

The score (final):

Anuj Uppal bt Harpreet Singh 5-0 (43-9, 51-10, 34-21, 47-21, 43-9).

Siddharth Verma elected **DDCA** secretary

Siddharth Verma stood out for his stunning 1322-704 victory over Vinod Tihara for the post of secretary even as the rival panel headed by president Rohan Jaitley swept the DDCA elections.

Jaitley retained his post by beating his nearest rival

Vikash Singh 1658-662. victory.

Ms. Shashi Khanna also held on to the post of vice-president by polling 1264 votes while her nearest contender Sanjay Bharadwaj could manage only 560. Rajan Manchanda and Pawan Gulati easily won

their elections to the posts of joint secretary and treasurer.

BMW, Tigers

in final BMW-Deutsche Motoren pulled off a thrilling 8-7.5 victory over Baale Golf to enter the final of the inaugural Delhi Golf Club League on Friday. The cliff-hanger ended on the final hole when Balle's Amit Luthra missed a much-needed birdie-putt. This gave BMW a half-point In the other semifinals, K.

Devils bounced back from being three down after eight holes to beat Delhi Tigers The results (semifinals):

BMW-Deutsche Motoren bt

Balle Golf 8-7.5; K. Devils bt Delhi Tigers 9.5-6.

Match drawn

SAI Training Centre, Sundergarh (Odisha) and PIS Girls Hockey Academy, Bathinda (Punjab) drew 1-1 in the Balwant Singh-27th Nehru girls' hockey tournament on Friday. Sukhveer Kaur scored for PIS in the ninth minute. Skipper Pooja Sahoo equalised for SAI in the 42nd minute by converting a penalty stroke.

Laporta tight-lipped on Koeman's successor

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona is considering other possible coaches besides former player Xavi Hernández to take over for the fired Ronald Koeman, the club's president said on Friday.

Joan Laporta faced a barrage of questions about the widespread speculation linking Xavi to the position.

Each time, he lauded the former midfielder while not revealing details of the job

"The name of Xavi is all over the news but Barca has other options," Laporta said, without naming names.

NZ proved you don't need sledging in your armoury to succeed: Greg Chappell



Plainspeak: Chappell feels that with succeeding generations sledging went from necessity to badge of honour. • FILE РНОТО

Says this culture led to the infamous sandpaper gate in Cape Town

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MELBOURNE Former Australia skipper Greg Chappell says World Test Champion New Zealand has shown that a team doesn't need to resort to sledging to achieve success in international cricket.

"New Zealand, now the reigning World champions of Test cricket, have proven beyond any doubt that it just isn't something you need in your armoury to succeed," Chappell wrote in his book Not Out, the extracts of

which were published in Age.com.

"In many ways, the type of cricket played by Kane Williamson's team - sound batting with proactive running between the wickets, sharp fielding and precision bowling with a combination of speed, bounce, swing and seam – is the kind Australia made their own over many generations before sledging emerged as a tactical wea-

Chappell's words were in context of the sledging culture which became a big issue in Australian cricket, soJust as he (Steve Smith) had his meltdown in South Africa, I had mine at

the MCG in 1981 mething which blew up after the 2018 ball-tampering scandal.

"While this sort of thing was occasionally seen under Allan Border and Mark Taylor, in Steve's time it became acceptable to stand there and harangue an opposition player as a commonplace tactic," Chappell wrote.

"Over succeeding generations it went from a necessity

to something like a badge of honour to be able to get up the opposition's nose faster than they could get up ours."

Chappell said this sledging culture led to the infamous sandpaper gate in Cape Town, which saw the suspension of three Australian players – Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Ban-

croft. "There was a period leading up to Cape Town where quite a few of us had the same feeling. We couldn't tell you what the problem or the blow-up was going to be, but

we knew that something

ominous was around the cor-

Chappell empathised with Australian batter Steve Smith, who was banned for a vear by cricket Australia for his role in the ball-tampering scandal.

"I had a huge degree of empathy for Steve. Just as he had his meltdown in South Africa, I had mine at the MCG in 1981. I didn't see it coming, and I don't know if anyone sees it coming. I didn't realise until that day just how strung out I was. And I don't think anyone around me knew it," he wrote.

Bopanna and Shapovalov enter doubles semifinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU ST. PETERSBURG (RUSSIA)

Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov moved into the doubles semifinals with a 6-4, 5-7, [10-7] win over the Russians, Karen Khachanov and Andrey Rublev, in the \$932,370 ATP tournament.

The results: \$932,370 ATP, St. Petersburg: Doubles, quarterfinals: Denis Shapovalov (Can) & Rohan Bopanna bt Karen Khachanov & Andrey Rublev (Rus) 6-4, 5-7,

€44,820 Challenger, Ismaning, Germany: Doubles, quarterfinals: Antonio Sancic (Cro) & Artem Sitak (Nzl) bt Vikctor Vlad Cornea (Rou) & Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-4, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Doubles, quarterfinals: Wissam Abderrahman & Aziz Ouakaa (Tun) bt Sidharth Rawat & Tushar Sharma 5-7, 6-4, [10-6]; Pre-quarterfinals: Sidharth & Tushar bt Mayeul Darras & Nathan Seateun (Fra) 3-6, 6-2, \$15,000 ITF women, Monas-

YeXin & Ni Ma Zhuoma (Chn) bt Yvette Schmucker (Ger) & Bhuvana Kalva 6-0, Pre-quarterfinals: Yvette & Bhuvana bt Sarah Iliev (Fra)

& Niditra Rajmohan 6-4,

tir: Doubles, quarterfinals: Ma

\$80,000 ITF women, Poitiers, France: Doubles, semifinals: Audrey Albie & Leolia Jeanjean (Fra) bt Lara Salden (Bel) & Prarthana Thombare 5-7, 6-1, [11-9].

Abhay applies for fielding coach job



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Former First Class cricketer Abhay Sharma, who has worked extensively with India-A, India Under-19 and the national women's team, on Friday applied for the national men's team fielding coach's job.

"Abhay's (Sharma) application has come today," a BCCI source told PTI. The application deadline is November 3.

Sanjeet dances into the pre-quarterfinals

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Asian champion Sanjeet (92kg) defeated Russia's Andrei Stotskii, while Akash Kumar (54kg) got a walkover to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the AIBA men's boxing World championships here on Friday.

Akash advanced after his German opponent Omar Salah Ibrahim fell ill and conceded a walkover. Akash will face Puerto Rico's Pagan Caleb Tirado next. "His opponent did not

show up for the weigh-in this morning as he was sick. Something like what happened to us in Varinder Singh's case. In that case, we suffered, today we gained," India high performance director Santiago Nieva said.

Sanjeet put up quite a show in the 4-1 win over Stotskii. The Indian was the more aggressive, at least in the first two rounds. He even indulged in some gamesmanship, dropping his guard and taunting Stotskii

Late on Thursday, Akash Sangwan (67kg) recorded a 4-1 victory over German Daniel Krotter to also enter the pre-quarterfinals. The 21year-old will square off against Cuban Kevin Brown.

on more than one occasion.

On Saturday, five-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) will be in action alongside three other In-

The results:

92kg: Sanjeet bt Andrei Stotskii (Rus); 54kg: Akash Kumar w/o Omar Salah Ibrahim (Ger); 67kg: Akash Sangwan bt Daniel Krotter (Ger).

Abhinandh and Jennifer triumph



Jennifer.

TABLE TENNIS

MOHALI: P.B. Abhinandh of Tamizhaga Table Tennis Association (TTTA) and Jennifer Varghese of Maharashtra bagged the u-15 boys' and girls' titles in the UTT National-ranking North Zone table tennis tournament

The results (finals): Youth:



Boys (u-15): P. B. Abhinandh

(TTTA) bt M. Balamurugan (TNTTA) 15-13, 9-11, 5-11, 11-5, 13-11, 14-12; Girls: Jennifer Varghese (Mah) bt Sandika Bhattacharjee (Ben) 11-9, 9-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-7, 11-6.

U-13: Boys: Soham Mukherjee (Ben) bt Pratiyush Bauva (Mah) 11-6, 12-10, 11-9, 11-8; Girls: Syndrela Das (Ben) bt Kavya Bhatt (Mah) 9-11, 11-5, 11-8, 10-12, 11-6, 10-12, 11-9.