



on Sunday



Jaishankar to visit Israel to strengthen strategic partnership
 page 7



Two more civilians killed in Kashmir; two LeT militants shot dead
 page 7



President Xi warns 'common prosperity' push will be 'long-term'
 page 10

Kohli says the ultimate goal is to win the T20 World Cup
 page 15



PRINTED AT - CHENNAI - COIMBATORE - BENGALURU - HYDERABAD - MADURAI - NOIDA - VISAKHAPATNAM - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - KOCHI - VIJAYAWADA - MANGALURU - TIRUCHIRAPALLI - KOLKATA - HUBBALLI - MOHALI - MALAPPURAM - MUMBAI - TIRUPATI - LUCKNOW - CUTTACK - PATNA

IN BRIEF



Gehlot's Delhi visit sparks speculation about rejig

JAIPUR
 Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's visit to New Delhi to attend the Congress Working Committee meeting on Saturday has sparked speculation about a Cabinet reshuffle in the State.
NEWS ▶ PAGE 8

Marginal dip in DU third cut-off list

NEW DELHI
 Delhi University released the third cut-off list on Saturday, with the required marks for admission seeing a decline of 0.25% to 1.5%. There is a glimmer of hope for students as seats in popular courses are still available.
CITY ▶ PAGE 2

1800 123 3455
 Toll-free: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm

AGL
 Tiles Marble Quartz Bathware

Her Hindustani ki pasand

Asian Granito India Ltd.

CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGES 2 & 4
MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES

Singhu murder: 1 more arrested, 2 'surrender'

Main accused remanded in custody; Morcha seeks probe

ASHOK KUMAR GURUGRAM

A second arrest was made on Saturday in connection with the murder of a man at the site of the farmers' protest at the Singhu border, with the "surrender" of Narain Singh at Amritsar in Punjab.

Narain, a member of the Nihang Sikh community from Amarkot village, was arrested by the Amritsar rural police.

News agencies reported late in the evening that two more persons, belonging to the Nihang order from Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab, had "surrendered" before the Sonipat police in Kundli in connection with the killing.

Lakhbir Singh, a resident of Tarn Taran in Punjab, was found dead at Sonipat in Haryana on Friday. The body was tied to a police barricade with the wrist and leg severed. He was "punished" for allegedly desecrating the holy Sikh scripture.

The prime accused Sarabjit, also a Nihang Sikh, who was arrested by the Haryana police a few hours after the murder, was remanded in police custody for seven days by the District and Sessions Court in Sonipat on Saturday.



Crime patrol: Sarabjit Singh being taken to police custody after he was produced before a court in Sonipat on Saturday. •PTI

Soon after his arrest, Narain claimed that he had informed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar, over phone that he wanted to surrender.

He said he had sought permission to visit the Akal Takht, but the police took him into custody near Jandiala town, around 25 km from Amritsar.

Talking to reporters before his arrest, Narain said Lakhbir was "punished" allegedly for the sacrilege. Members of many Sikh outfits reportedly garlanded him with currency notes when he paid obeisance at a gurdwara.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of

farmer organisations protesting against the three farm laws, has demanded an investigation into "the allegation of conspiracy to sabotage the movement through sacrilege and promotion of disturbance by hurting religious sentiments".

"From media reports, it appears that he had been receiving mysterious calls which he would take in secrecy. Lakhbir Singh is supposed to have told his sister that 'his reach has increased now and has gone far'... All this information points to a deep conspiracy of some sort," the Morcha said in a statement.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

Cong. announces organisational poll

Sonia asserts her position as party president

SANDEEP PHUKAN NEW DELHI

In a clear message to the dissident-reformists or the group of 23 (G-23) Congress leaders who had sought internal reforms, party president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday told the Congress Working Committee (CWC) that she was a full-time, hands-on president and there was no need for colleagues to speak to her



Making a stand: Congress president Sonia Gandhi with party leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Saturday. •PTI

through the media. After a nearly five-hour meeting, the CWC also announced an elaborate sche-

dule for organisational elections, according to which a new party president would be elected between August

21 and September 20 next year and thereafter, elections to the CWC would be held by October at the All India Congress Committee Plenary.

Amid a chorus from party colleagues to take back the reins of the Congress, Rahul Gandhi, for the first time after he quit in May 2019, said he "will consider it".

But he also pointed out that the Congress should have clarity of thought and decide where it stands on the question of ideology.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

8 killed as rain causes havoc in Kerala

Landslips, floods devastate central and southern districts of State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Torrential rain, powered by a low-pressure system in the southeast Arabian Sea, pummelled southern and central Kerala districts throughout Saturday, triggering landslips and floods which left eight dead and wreaked havoc across Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Idukki districts.

Six of a family were killed while 15 others were reported missing in landslips at Plapally and Kaval in the



Swamped: Passengers being evacuated from a KSRTC bus in Poonjar on Saturday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Koottickal panchayat of Kottayam.

Search and rescue operations were hindered by heavy rain and poor light. A man and a woman from Koothattukulam were killed

after their car was washed away by the floodwaters at Kanjar near Thodupuzha in Idukki district.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7
YELLOW ALERT ▶ PAGE 6

New Delhi to host NSAs on Afghan issue

SUHASINI HAIDAR NEW DELHI

Two months after the Taliban takeover of Kabul, India is planning to engage regional powers on the future of Afghanistan. It is sending an official team to attend the Moscow process of talks on October 20 that will include the Taliban Government's Deputy Prime Minister. India has also invited regional National Security Advisers to New Delhi for a meeting in November, including Pakistan's NSA, Moeed Yusuf.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

Sacred rites



Earth and water: An idol of Goddess Durga gently sinks after immersion by devotees in the Kuakhai river at the end of Dasara festivities in Bhubaneswar on Saturday. •BISWARANJAN ROUT

Mining-affected villagers in Odisha denied relief

They have been told they belong to a different administrative block in Keonjhar

SATYASUNDAR BARIK SALARAPENTH (ODISHA)

Ghasinath Penthei and fellow villager, Jaya, have been taking turns to stage a protest at the foothills of Gandhamardan Iron Ore Mines for the past fortnight. Joining them are the women of Salarapenth, a tiny village in Keonjhar district of Odisha.

Putting their livelihood at risk, the villagers have decided to give up daily wage work and block traffic on the road near the iron ore mine to demand compensation.

The residents of Salarapenth are protesting against their exclusion from welfare programmes meant for villages affected by the mines. Though Salarapenth is just two km from the iron ore mines, it comes under the jurisdiction of Keonjhar's Sa-

The waste water flows through our village and during summer, the dust blankets the whole village

GHASINATH PENTHEI
 Resident of Salarapenth village

dar block whereas the mines are situated in the neighbouring Banspal block. These villagers have been deprived of relief.

The Gandhamardan Loading and Transporting Cooperative Society was created to take care of villages situated around the mines. An amount is set aside for the society for every truck that rolls out with iron ore from the mines. According to local people, the cooperative society has recently started paying ₹5,000 per month for

each family affected by the mining activities.

Mr. Penthei said, "We are directly affected by pollution caused by iron ore mining. The waste water flows through our village and during summer, the dust blankets the whole village. But we have been denied benefits just because we come from a different administrative boundary." They have tried to explain their woes to cooperative society office-bearers and the district administration. But, their pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

'Sold land for jobs'

Mr. Jaya Penthei said, "About a decade and half ago, seven crusher companies set up their units in Salarapenth. Villagers were assured that they would get steady em-

ployment throughout the year, besides other indirect benefits. Villagers had sold all their land to these crusher units. After a few years, these units became non-functional due to a Government Order." He said the villagers now neither have a job nor can retrieve their land from the crusher units.

Another problem the villagers face is their caste identity. "We are from the Nahra community. Going by our social conditions and descriptions in the gazette, we should be included in the Scheduled Tribes list. Since we are very poor, our children cannot continue their studies beyond Class X. In Salarapenth, none of the residents has completed college studies," said Sudarshan Penthei, another villager.

Jashpur tragedy: Baghel takes potshots at U.P., M.P. Govts.

ANUP DUTTA BHOPAL

Friday's Jashpur incident, in which a person died and over 16 others were injured when a speeding SUV allegedly hauling drugs from Odisha to Madhya Pradesh ploughed into a group of devotees, assumed political overtones a day later after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath tweeted asking the Chhattisgarh Government to provide assistance to the victims.

Stressing that the two accused - residents of Singrauli district in Madhya Pradesh - have been arrested, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday challenged his U.P. counterpart to arrest all the accused involved in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident of October 3.

"Police shielding accused" "Yogi Adityanath did not succeed in arresting the accused, instead Uttar Pradesh Police was shielding the son of the Union MoS (Home) in Lakhimpur Kheri violence... Here, action has been taken and the accused have been arrested," Mr. Baghel said in Raipur.

The Chhattisgarh CM also took potshots at the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP Government in Madhya Pradesh. "Both the accused are from M.P. and had reached Chhattisgarh with ganja. The probe continues. It is also necessary to investigate who is protecting them," he said.

The Jashpur Superintendent of Police said of the 16 injured, 12 are undergoing treatment at Pathalgaon Primary Health Centre and four have been admitted at Raigad District Hospital. The Chhattisgarh Government has suspended one policeman and announced a compensation of ₹50 lakh for the kin of the deceased.

All 6 policemen arrested in Kanpur property dealer murder case

He was allegedly assaulted in a hotel in Gorakhpur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh police on Saturday said they had arrested all six policemen accused in the death of Kanpur property dealer Manish Gupta. He had died allegedly in an assault in a hotel in Gorakhpur where he was staying with two friends.

Gupta's family had alleged that he had died after being assaulted by the police. The six policemen were suspended and booked for murder. The incident led to

political outrage against the State Government, with Opposition parties questioning the conduct of the police.

The Government then recommended a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe. It said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) would probe the matter till the CBI took over. Gupta's wife was given a government job in the Kanpur Development Authority as an officer on special duty.

On October 10, inspector Jagat Narayan Singh and sub-

inspector (SI) Akshay Kumar Mishra were arrested. A reward of ₹1 lakh each was announced for information on the other four accused.

The police later arrested SI Rahul Dubey and constable Prashant Kumar, head constable Kamlesh Yadav and SI Vijay Yadav.

Vijay Yadav was the last to be nabbed on Saturday near the Railway Museum, said the police, adding that further action would be taken after informing the SIT and senior police officials.

VISIONIAS
 INSPIRING INNOVATION
 www.visionias.in 8468022022

Heartiest Congratulations
 to all candidates selected in CSE 2020

10 IN TOP 10 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2020
 from various programs of VISION IAS

2 AIR JAGRATI AWASTHI (ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)	3 AIR ANKITA JAIN (ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)	4 AIR YASH JALUKA (ABHYAAS TEST SERIES)	5 AIR MAMTA YADAV (ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)	6 AIR MEERA K (ALL INDIA TEST SERIES)
7 AIR PRAVEEN KUMAR (ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST, ABHYAAS, PDP)	8 AIR JIVANI KARTIK NAGJIBHAI (GS FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM STUDENT, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PDP)	9 AIR APALA MISHRA (ABHYAAS TEST SERIES)	10 AIR SATYAM GANDHI (ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST)	YOU CAN BE NEXT

SHUBHAM KUMAR
 A student of the following courses of VISION IAS during the last 3 years
 GS CLASSROOM FOUNDATION COURSE 2018 (Included the comprehensive 12 month classes, GS Pre, Mains, Essay and CSM Test Series, Mini Test, Daily Assignment)
 GS TEST SERIES 2019 ■ ESSAY TEST SERIES 2019 & 2020 ■ ABHYAAS TEST SERIES 2019, 2020

ADVANCED COURSE GS MAINS
 Starts: 19th Oct | 1 PM

ETHICS CASE STUDIES CLASSES
 Starts: 30th Oct | 1 PM

ESSAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
 Starts: 31st Oct | 5 PM

Foundation Course GENERAL STUDIES
 PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2022 & 2023
 LIVE / ONLINE cum Offline classes

DELHI: 13th Oct | 9 AM **HYDERABAD: 8th Oct**
JAIPUR: 6th Oct

GS FOUNDATION COURSE 2023
 DELHI: 25 Nov | LUCKNOW: 11 Jan | CHANDIGARH: 18 Jan

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2022 & 2023
 DELHI: 28 सितंबर | 1 PM | 2023 फाउंडेशन कोर्स | 15 दिसंबर | JAIPUR: 28 अक्टू | 14 PM | लाहौर / अमृतसर / एवं अफगाण क्लब

DELHI • HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | **CONTACT:** 8468022022, 9019066066
JAIPUR: PUNE HYDERABAD AHMEDABAD LUCKNOW CHANDIGARH GUWAHATI
 9001949244 8007500096 9000104133 9909447040 8468022022 8468022022 8468022022

Timings

DELHI

SUNDAY, OCT. 17

RISE 06:23 SET 17:50

RISE 16:20 SET 03:07

MONDAY, OCT. 18

RISE 06:24 SET 17:49

RISE 16:52 SET 04:04

TUESDAY, OCT. 19

RISE 06:24 SET 17:48

RISE 17:22 SET 05:00

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	36	20
Safdarjang	36	20
Palam	35	22

Delhi Palam Today
31°C Shallow fog and mist in polluted morning. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with strong winds to occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
30°C A comfortable weather to prevail. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with strong winds to continue.

© Copyright SkyMet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

Marginal dip in DU 3rd cut-off list

Seats available in popular courses; admissions to commence on October 18

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Delhi University released the third cut-off on Saturday with the required marks for admission to courses seeing a decline of 0.25% to 1.5%.

Even though the cut-offs continue to remain on the higher side, there is a glimmer of hope for students as seats in popular courses are still available.

Over 51,000 students have secured admissions to various colleges under the first two cut-offs. The admission process under the third cut-off will start on October 18.

BA (Honours) economics is open at Hansraj College, Lady Shri Ram College and Hin-



Students filling out forms at Delhi University. • FILE PHOTO

du College at a cut-off of 99%, while the course has been closed in Janki Devi Memorial College, Kalindi College, Kamala Nehru College, Kirori Mal College and Miranda House. The Indraprastha College for Women has pegged

the cut-off for BA (Honours) economics at 98%, while at Ramjas College, the cut-off is pegged at 98.75%.

Shri Ram College of Commerce has kept the highest cut-off for the course at 99.5%. Sri Venkateswara College is seeking 98.5% for admission to the same course.

BA (Honours) English is available at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, Aryabhata College, College of Vocational Studies, Daulat Ram College, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, Gargi College and Hansraj College. It is, however, closed at Hindu College and Bharati College.

The LSR has pegged the cut-offs for BA (Honours) En-

glish at 98.5%, down from 98.75%, while Hansraj and Kirori Mal College have pegged the cut-off at 98%.

Political Science (Honours), which is one of the most sought-after courses, is closed at Aryabhata College, Miranda House and Hindu College. Lady Shri Ram College has pegged the highest cut-off for the course among all colleges at 99%, down from 99.5% in the second list.

Seats for the course are also available at ARSD (98%), Daulat Ram College (98.5%), DCAC (98%), Dyal Singh College (97.5%), Indraprastha College For Women (97%) and Kirori Mal College (98.75%).

FOOD SPOT



RAHUL VERMA

A friend asked me some days ago if there was anything that I could eat day in and day out and not get bored of it. I gave it some thought and then said, 'samosa'. I am inordinately fond of this dish, and there is a good reason why I never tire of it. For, within a triangular flour casing, there can be various kinds of fillings.

Some of my favourite ones – from Kallan Sweets in the Jama Masjid area, for instance – are stuffed with minced meat. The Bengali singara may have cauliflower florets in it, or small pieces of potatoes with the skin, sautéed with peanuts. The small dry samosa, found in some parts of Delhi, is stuffed with peas. And I have also had kheerer singara, a Bengali khoya-stuffed samosa.

That is why, as the city went into festive mode earlier this week, I went looking, on the Net, for some samosas to mark the occasion. I had earlier come across an eatery called Samose (<https://samose.in>; Address: Shop No. 5, Lotus Plaza, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad) and found its menu rather interesting. I went to the site and decided that we could do with a Jodhpuri samosa, a Bengali samosa (₹20 for one), chicken masala samosa (₹55), mini chicken masala samosa (₹30) and aloo samosa ghugni chaat (₹65). I ordered through a food aggregator app, timing it such that the samosas arrived at tea time.

As I bit into the Jodhpuri samosa, I mulled over the fact that samosas have regional varieties from across the country. They are so intrinsically a part of our food culture that it is difficult to remember that they actually came in from West Asia (poetry from Iran of the 9th



DELICIOUS FROM ALL ANGLES!

Within a triangular flour casing, a samosa packs regional flavours from across the country

century mentions the sambusa). In India, food historian K.T. Achaya points out, Amir Khusro had described a samosa in 1300 as a dish prepared with meat, ghee and onions and eaten by aristocrats. In 1350 or so, Ibn Batuta referred to the samosa "as minced meat cooked with almond, walnut, pistachio, onions and spices, placed inside a thin envelope of wheat and deep fried in ghee".

Now, of course, it doesn't have to be deep fried, it can be baked. The fillings vary, though potatoes are largely the preferred choice. The Jodhpuri samosa had a boiled potato filling – deliciously spicy and just mildly sweet. The Bengali samosa was tasty but I thought it could have done without the haldi the diced potatoes had been tempered with. I par-

ticularly liked the chicken masala samosa – small pieces of chicken that had been cooked with spices. The casing in all the samosas was wonderfully crisp.

I love samosa chaats and have been fond of them ever since I had my first plate in Muzaffarnagar decades ago. I still salivate over the picture of the samosa being smashed in a dona, and then topped with curd, chutneys and spices. I had pictured the ghugni chaat somewhat differently though – I thought it would be more like the Bengali ghugni (matra with onions and what have you). This had some yellow peas but it was largely a chaat preparation with a samosa, curd and chutneys. It was delightful and I scooped out the last remaining bits of the chaat once I had tasted the rest.

The samosas gave a festive touch to my tea that day. I used to enjoy visiting the food stalls at the Durga Puja pandals but this year the stalls had been disallowed, for obvious reasons. I couldn't go for the festive food but the food came to me.

Six hurt in group clash

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

At least six persons were injured in a clash between members of two communities in Dwarka's Dabri area on Friday night. Over 25 people were detained following the clashes, the police said.

The scuffle started when a tempo driven by a member of a community hit a member of another community in

Bindapur JJ Colony. The situation escalated to the point where both groups attacked each other with sticks and swords. "They injured each other with the intention of causing such bodily injuries which are sufficient to cause death," said DCP (Dwarka) Shankar Chaudhary.

A case under relevant sections of rioting and causing hurt has been registered.

SDMC launches smart parking app

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Thursday launched a mobile application – "MyParkings" – which aims to provide users details of vacant parking spaces within the corporation's jurisdiction. It will also allow the users to book vacant spots through online payment methods.

Currently, there are 145 surface-level parking sites, six multi-level and two automated parking sites operational within the four SDMC zones – Central, South, West and Najafgarh.

Residents welcome move
Local residents praised the SDMC's parking initiative, with most citing past concerns of "lack of space" and

"no vehicle safety". "We were able to manage two-wheeler parking near our homes but my friends had to park their cars at unsupervised far-off corners due to lack of space. This had resulted in car parts, such as batteries, being stolen on multiple occasions. This initiative might help in terms of security and space," said a resident of Johri Farm area.

Senior official from J&K robbed in south Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A senior official of the Jammu and Kashmir administration was robbed allegedly by members of the 'Thak-Thak' gang in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar, the police said on Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said the official complained that the incident took place when she was travelling from Vasant Kunj to Fari-

dabad. "When she reached the Khanpur T-point, two boys signalled her to stop saying fuel was dripping from her car. As soon as she stopped the vehicle to check, two persons riding a scooter snatched her sling bag and fled," Ms. Jaiker said. The bag contained ₹2,000, her identity cards and an ATM card. "The official sustained injuries when she tried to grab her bag back from the accused," the officer said.

BLAZERS

SUITS & JACKETS SALE

upto **60% off**

Formal • Casual • Party Collection
Men & Women wear

By Economy Sales: 9212758425

ARROW

raymond

ColorPlus

LOUIS PHILIPPE

PARK AVENUE

- PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

REGIONAL

COACHING CLASSES

SOCIOLOGY BY ADITYA MONGRA

Crash Course (Offline)
Starting on 15 Oct. 2021

2 Demo Classes Permitted
*Including Comprehensive Study Material
*Including Answer-Writing Practice
*Including 50% discount on the Basic Fee of Test Series

Test Series (Online/Offline)
Starting on 24 Oct. 2021

Total 10 Tests
(8 Sectional & 2 Complete Syllabus Tests)
All Tests would be of 3 hours duration;
Total Seats: 50
Evaluation by Sir along with Personal Feedback

For Regular Updates Visit Our Website: www.sociologybyadityamongra.com
Like Our Facebook Page: [Sociology by Aditya Mongra](https://www.facebook.com/SociologybyAdityaMongra)
For Counselling Contact Aditya Mongra Sir Directly at 9999663160, Email: adityadse@gmail.com
For Admission Contact DIAS at 011-40079000, 9350934622
Head Office and Classroom 1: 18, Pusa Road, Second Floor, Opposite Pillar No: 94, near Karol Bagh Metro Station, Delhi-5.
Class Room 2: 26/3 (Basement), adjacent to Spectrum Library, near Madona Hotel, Old Rajendra Nagar, Delhi-60.

EDUCATIONAL

Under Mentorship of Vikash Ranjan Sir

SOCIOLOGY TEST SERIES

27th Oct. WATCH STARTS

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

Top Scores in Sociology under Mentorship of Vikash Sir. OFFLINE/ONLINE

One-On-One Counselling 24 to 26 Oct.

www.triumphias.com

ESSAY TEST SERIES

27th Oct. WATCH STARTS

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMMES OFFLINE/ONLINE

UPSC CSE 2020 TOPPERS @ Triumph IAS

7840888102

KSG

An Institute For IAS Exam...

MAINS 2021

MAINS DESTINAIRE

EFFECTIVE FOR FIRST TIMERS

ANSWER WRITING INDIVIDUAL FOCUS

KNOWLEDGE ENGINEERING

CAVITY FILLING

IF MAINS IS YOUR ACHILLES HEEL

"CRACKING MAINS WAS NEVER SO ORGANIZED"

Approx 70% Hit Ratio in Mains Questions
Exclusive Current Affairs Classes Included In Course

Starting 17 October

GET FREE MENTOR CALL

9667 779 058 | 9811 598 995

PAVAN KUMAR'S IAS

(An Academy of General Studies & Public Administration)

SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE

BY OUR STUDENTS IN CSE 2020/21

5 RANKS IN TOP 75

AIR-15
RIA DABI

AIR-31
Y MEGHA SAWROOP

AIR-33
NARAYANA SARMA V S

AIR-50
ABHISHEK SHUKLA

AIR-72
DHURV KHADIA

& many more selections...

NEW BATCHES

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

18th October

POLITY GOVERNANCE

20th October

OUR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TOP SCORERS

AIR-72 DHURV KHADIA Marks 299 (150+149)	AIR-499 MODAK SHRUKANT Marks 281 (145+136)	AIR-300 THEJAS U P Marks 279 (142+137)
AIR-347 ROHIT NEEMA Marks 275 (141+134)	Mains ANUP GARG Marks 273 (142+131)	AIR-33 NARAYANA SARMA Marks 270 (140+130)

Admissions Open

MAINS TEST SERIES

Public Administration

TODAY @ 9:00AM

Offline Online

www.pavankumarias.com

8447532310, 8447412868, 9911366520

11A/22, 2nd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060

ANUJ KUMAR

A Raj loyalist or a social reformist, the conundrum has shrouded the legacy of Syed Ahmad Khan (1817-1898) for more than a century. In *Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Reason, Religion And Nation* (Routledge India), Professor Shafey Kidwai has penned an objective analysis of the man who was undoubtedly more than the founder of the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College that grew into Aligarh Muslim University more than two decades after his death.

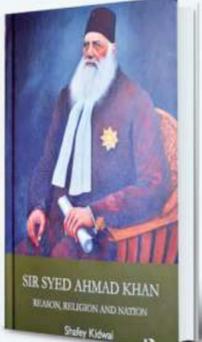
With a foreword by Professor Irfan Habib, the book deals with Sir Syed's attitude towards Congress leaders, his shifting concepts of *watan* (nation) and *qaum* (community) and his views on girl education.

A seasoned professor of journalism at AMU, Prof. Kidwai has written extensively on Sir Syed. In 2019, *Sawaneh-e-Sir Syed: Ek Bazadeed*, a biography of Sir Syed in Urdu, fetched him the prestigious Sahitya Akademi award.

Ahead of Sir Syed's birth anniversary this Sunday, Prof. Kidwai says despite his Anglophile streak, he refused to accept the prevalent culture of gunflecting. "His scientific outlook requires a thoughtful exploration that a simplistic, historiographical work could not produce."

Edited excerpts:

Isn't it difficult to write about a personality who espoused conflicting ideas and took a long time to evolve? He was not a mere reconciler, and he made no effort to wrap the conflicting ideas into a single narrative. I have tried to put a premium on showcasing how he employed reason even in dealing with emotive issues related to faith and how rationalism never deserted him. On the thorny issue of blasphemy that frequently surfaced during Sir Syed's time, he made it clear that the Koran does not prescribe corporal punishment for the offender. The deplorable act



'Sir Syed unfailingly stood for all Indians'

In *Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Reason, Religion And Nation*, Professor Shafey Kidwai combines the rigour of a scholar and the flair of a scribe to evaluate a complex figure who merits an honest appraisal

of desecration amounts to sedition and Muslim caliphs impose corporal punishment, but it cannot be implemented in a non-Islamic state. Sir Syed said that in India, the issue is to be settled according to the country's laws. It requires to be opposed with a logical rebuttal, and noisy protest will serve no purpose.

How does the book add to the existing work on Sir Syed?

Not much has been written about how he strove for mitigating the sufferings of the beleaguered while being a member of several apex bodies under the British rule. Notwithstanding his occasional emotional outbursts bordering on communalism, he unfailingly stood for all Indians as he was the first citizen who demanded that the entry age of ICS aspirants be raised to 23 instead of 21 as Indians started education quite late.

He also demanded that the coveted examination be held in India. Later, the Congress made these two demands its central plank. Similarly, he was the first Indian member who introduced the compulsory small-pox eradication Bill and vehemently supported Ilbert Bill that empowered Indian judges to hear the criminal cases filed against the British. Curiously, other Indian members

with the Anglo-Indian community, which fiercely opposed the Bill.

Do you find a dichotomy in Sir Syed's usage of *qaum* and *watan*, which, decades later, led a section of Pakistani thinkers to consider him the Father of the Nation?

Sir Syed attempted to locate the concept of nation in terms of faith, language and geographical framework simultaneously and separately at regular intervals. It is a topic that still provides ammunition to his admirers and opponents in almost equal terms. It is pertinent to point out that Sir Syed was not swayed by the pan Islamism propagated by Jamaluddin Afghani (1838-1897) and Sheikh Muhammad Abduh (1849-1905), and he vehemently opposed it by writing several editorials in his multilingual newspaper – *Aligarh Institute Gazette*.

Significantly, he never used the term *ummah* (Muslims all over the world are one) in his writings. For him the concept of Khilafat had very little relevance in the Indian context hence sowing the seeds of separatism among Muslims cannot be attributed to him.

Sir Syed asserted that all the religious communities living in India form one unified nation. He did make a difference between patriotism, nationalism and citizenship. He did repudiate the territorial or race-based concept of nationalism and candidly talked about a Muslim identity that is both In-

dian and Islamic.

How do you make sense of Sir Syed's shifting views on girl education?

Sir Syed's concept of girl education seemed skewed and unpalatable as he suggested tutor-based home education for girls. Taking a cue from Edward H. Clarke's book, *Sex In Education, or, A Fair Chance For Girls* (1873) that favoured single (male) education, Sir Syed did plead for setting up government schools exclusively for boys and home-based tutor education for girls. He was not an opponent of women education, however, he tried to offer them a faulty model. Though later on he relented, his call for women's education seems too irresolute and too late.

From the existing material, can we infer how would Sir Syed have negotiated a Hindutva-led India?

It is a tricky question to answer how Sir Syed would have responded to the tremendous emotive appeal of ethnicity or religion-based nationalism that get at us but a closer look into his writings prompts me to say that Sir Syed would have pushed for an alternative model of nationalism, resembling his indigenous model of modernism that he produced as an antidote to colonial modernism. He would have emphasised constitutional nationalism or in the terms of Hannah Arendt, "civic nationalism" that drew sustenance from tolerance, pluralism and respect for diversity.

A Space Marketing Initiative

Air quality falls to 'poor' level in Delhi

Many areas register 'very poor' AQI

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The air quality of the city deteriorated to "poor" level on Saturday and is expected to remain the same on Sunday, according to authorities.

In many parts of Delhi such as Anand Vihar, Bawana and Punjabi Bagh, the air quality dropped further to "very poor" category.



A farmer burning stubble on the Yamuna riverbed in Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

Rise in stubble burning
The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to the rising PM2.5, a chief pollutant, in Delhi increased to 14% on Saturday, according to government-run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research).

Also, the number of fire counts in the region jumped to 1,572 on Saturday from close to 500 on Friday, said SAFAR. This is more than the fire counts recorded in this period last year.

The AQI of Delhi was 284 on Saturday, up from 198 on Friday, stated the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) 4 p.m. bulletin, which is an average of the past 24 hours.

By 7 p.m., the AQI further worsened to "very poor" category with a reading of 305,

according to the real-time data of the CPCB.

"Fire counts are gradually increasing and the wind direction is favourable, coming from the north-west direction. Under the influence of approaching western disturbance, wind reversal to easterly will happen by tomorrow (Sunday) and rainfall is likely. The AQI is forecasted to improve but will remain in poor (category) for tomorrow, but thereafter it is likely to be moderate for the next three days," SAFAR said in a statement.

Air pollution in Delhi rises during the winter chiefly due to a combined effect of stubble burning in neighbouring States and climatic conditions, which lower wind speed and trap pollutants.

CM attends Ramlila in House

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday participated in the 'Sampurn Ramlila' celebrations at the Delhi Assembly, which he termed a "new tradition".

The Vidhan Sabha, Mr. Kejriwal said, was considered a very "boring and dull" place where various

political debates took place, but Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel had "broken the mould by attempting to add a measure of love and peace" to its proceedings through the event. "This attempt to celebrate every festival had made the Assembly "harmonious, lively and beautiful," Mr. Kejriwal said, terming it "remarkable".

Minor raped, cousin held

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her cousin in south Delhi's Kotla Mubarakpur area, the police said on Saturday, adding that the accused has been arrested.

A senior police officer said the matter was reported on October 14. The victim's mother said she was

not at home when the incident happened. After she returned, the daughter told her that the cousin, a 22-year-old who lives in the neighbourhood, came to the house and raped her. "The accused had threatened the girl not to disclose the incident to anyone, the mother stated in her complaint," the officer said.

SHIRIRAM BHARATIYA KALA KENDRA presents
a dance drama on Sampurna Ramayan
6.30 P.M., SBKK LAWNS, COPERNICUS MARG
EXTENDED TILL 29 OCT. ON POPULAR DEMAND
TICKETS: Rs 3000, 1500, 1000, & 500 available at Kendra. Enq: 43503333, 23386428/29

HELP US FOR DEEPAVALI
SIVANANDA GURUKULAM
Home for Orphan Children & Elders, seeking your support
To Donate via Cheque / DD. In Favour of :
"SIVANANDA SARASWATHI SEVASHRAM"
4/20, Kambur Street, East Tambaram, Chennai - 600059
To Donate Online
You can donate via PayTM, Google Pay, PhonePe, BHIM, Amazon Pay etc to our UPI ID :
BuildHope@HDFCbank
For more ways to donate like Credit Card, Debit Card, Netbanking, NEFT/RTGS/IMPS etc., please visit:
www.BuildHope.org/donate
Or give us a missed call at **(044) 4026 3626**
Donations are exempted from IT under section 80G.
Our Email ID: info@BuildHope.org

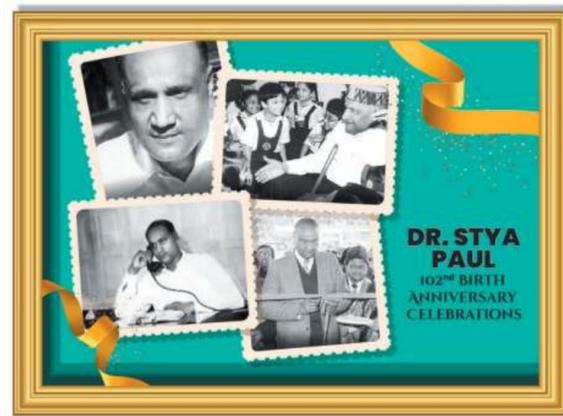
Dr Stya Paul's 102nd Birth Anniversary celebrates the life and times of the visionary with a mission

October 17, New Delhi: The Apeejay Styia family recently commemorated the 102nd Birth Anniversary of Dr Styia Paul – a visionary, eminent industrialist, educationist, philanthropist, freedom fighter and inspiration behind the Apeejay Styia and Svrn Group, in a virtual mega celebration. It paid obeisance to the indomitable spirit of 'an ordinary man who rose to extraordinary heights' and the values he stood for.

Shri Suhas Yathiraj, IAS, District Magistrate, Gautam Budh Nagar, who has done the entire nation proud by winning the Silver Medal at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 was the esteemed Chief Guest for the occasion. Musician par excellence Shri Hariharan mesmerised the audience in a virtual music concert.

Speaking on the occasion, Mrs Sushma Paul Berlia, President, Apeejay Styia Group and Svrn Group said, "Dr Styia Paul was born a very ordinary man, but a man who rose to extraordinary heights. The reason that we want to celebrate his life is to commemorate, to remember, to be inspired by and to take forward all that he stood for and exemplified in his life," she stated. "Each one of us has the potential within us to become the grandest versions of who we are. But many of us don't allow ourselves to bloom as we get lost in day to day activities without understanding the purpose for which we are in this world," she added.

Mrs Berlia paid a rich tribute to her father, Dr Styia Paul while remembering the fascinating journey of his life from humble beginnings to the pinnacle of success and glory, despite many challenges including a physical



Mrs Sushma Paul Berlia, President, Apeejay Styia Group and Svrn Group, offers a Vinamra Shradhanjali to her father, Dr Styia Paul.



Mr Suhas L Yathiraj, IAS, District Magistrate of Gautam Budh Nagar, delivering the chief guest's address at the 102nd birth anniversary celebrations of Dr Styia Paul.

one. Dr Styia Paul's legacy of excellence is being carried forward by his daughter and only child, Mrs Sushma Paul Berlia. Mrs Sushma Paul Berlia is a leading woman entrepreneur and educationist of the country who has made outstanding contributions to industry and education. Dr Styia Paul's son-in-law, Mr Vijay Berlia and grandsons – Mr Nishant and Mr Aditya Berlia, along with granddaughter Dr Neha Berlia -- also attended the event.

Shri Suhas L. Yathiraj said, "Seeing the kind of work Dr. Styia Paul has put in, I think

he is a legend." In an inspiring address, which motivated thousands of Apeejay Students, Shri Yathiraj said, "If you really want something in your life, put your heart and soul into it, then destiny will conspire to give you that thing. If we think about the greatest scientific achiever of the 20th century after Einstein, it is Stephen Hawking.

He couldn't get up from his wheelchair, write or communicate. If he can become one of the best scientists of the century, we very well do not have any excuse for what we can't achieve in life," he added.

NEXT IAS
BIG LEARNINGS MADE EASY

OPTIONAL FOUNDATION
Course for CSE 2022 & 2023
Offline Classes & Online Classes

- Geography** by **Alok Ranjan Sir** (Founder, Digmani Education) Commencing from **18th Oct, 2021**
- Sociology** by **Raj Kumar Rai Sir** Commencing from **18th Oct, 2021**
- Mathematics** by **Maneesh Singh Sir** Commencing from **18th Oct, 2021**
- Economics** by **Vibhas Jha Sir** Commencing from **20th Nov, 2021**

Mains Courses for CSE 2021
Mains Test Series for CSE 2021
Offline & Online Test Series commencing from **17th Oct, 2021**
Common Subjects : **General Studies** ■ **Essay** | Optionals : ■ **Economics** ■ **Geography** ■ **Sociology** ■ **Maths** ■ **CE, ME, EE**

GS Mains Advance Course for CSE 2021
Offline & Online Course commencing from **20th Oct, 2021**

Optionals through Questions
Online (Recorded) Classes from **18th Oct, 2021**
Subjects : **Engineering Optionals (CE, ME, EE) & Economics**

27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar No. 118, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station, New Delhi-60
011-49858612, 8081300200 | www.nextias.com

MADE EASY Admission Open for **ESE & GATE 2023**

OFFLINE CLASSES ARE ON

CLASSROOM COURSES

- ✓ Classes by experienced & renowned faculties.
- ✓ Face to face interaction for doubts.
- ✓ Systematic subject sequence & timely completion.
- ✓ Concept practice through workbook solving.
- ✓ Comprehensive & updated books.
- ✓ Exam oriented learning ecosystem.
- ✓ Efficient teaching with comprehensive coverage.
- ✓ Proper notes making & study concentration in class.
- ✓ Regular performance assessment through class tests.

Streams: CE, ME, EE, EC, CS

New Batches from
2nd Dec, 2021: CE, ME
3rd Dec, 2021: EE, EC
23rd Dec, 2021: CS

Admission Open

Early bird discount 10%
Till 31st Oct, 2021
www.madeeasy.in

Special Discount to Ex. MADE EASY students in CLASSROOM COURSES **50% OF FEE PAID** will be discounted (any course)
(Valid till 31st Oct, 2021 • T&C Apply)

LIVE ONLINE CLASSES

- ✓ Teaching pedagogy similar to offline classes.
- ✓ Interaction and doubt chat with subject experts.
- ✓ Concept of problem solving through workbooks.
- ✓ Convenience and flexibility of 24*7 learning.
- ✓ Comprehensive & updated theory & practice books.
- ✓ Systematic subject sequence.
- ✓ Time bound syllabus completion.
- ✓ User-friendly and intuitive learner interface.
- ✓ Regular assessment through tests & quizzes.

Streams: CE, ME, EE, EC, CS, IN, CH

New Batches from
25th Nov, 2021 (Evening)
10th Jan, 2022 (Morning)

Admission Open

Early bird discount 10%
Till 31st Oct, 2021
www.madeeasyprime.com

Corporate office: 44-A/1, Kalu Sarai, Near Hauz Khas Metro Station, New Delhi-110016
9021300500 | www.madeeasy.in

CLASSIFIEDS

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

- INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL
- BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
- BRIDES WANTED
- BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

- Assamese
- Awadhi
- Bengali
- Bhojpuri
- Bihari
- Chhattisgarhi
- English
- Gujarati
- Haryanvi
- Hindi
- Kannada
- Kashmiri
- Konkani
- Malayalam
- Manipuri
- Marathi
- Marwari
- Nepali
- Oriya
- Parsi
- Punjabi
- Saurashtra
- Sindhi
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Tulu
- Urdu
- Advocate
- Defence
- Doctor
- Engineer
- Finance/ Banking
- Government/ Quasi-Govt.
- IAS/ Allied Services
- Information Technology
- MBA/ CA/ ICWA
- NRI
- Cosmopolitan
- Divorcee
- Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COSMOPOLITAN

SM FOR Delhi based, fair, Christian (CNI) girl, MBBS-MS, 5'-3", 32yrs, surgeon in a reputed hospital, issue less, divorcee (short stay) *98699771394.

UNMARRIED, 43, 5.6ft, Uthiram, MA MPhil MSc, Lecturer seeks well-settled groom. Tamil Hindu-Kerala Christian parents. wedin2021@gmail.com

DOCTOR

CSI NADAR, 25/154, MBBS, working, Medium complexion seeks CSI good looking Doctor Groom below 30. Send Details & photo: tuty1796@gmail.com

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/165 Fair pretty well mannered and cultured Chennai based well placed doctor family. Father doctor Kerala. Mother Tamil Christian. MD MS MCh boys from good families preferred. Ct: 984050381/9840985383

HINDU SC PR 25 yrs / 5.6, Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, Parents Govt. Seeks MBBS/MD/MS, ongoing PG Groom preferably Govt. below 28 yrs. Contact: 94446 53587 / 97881 54437.

Doctor Parents need MD/MS, 30-32 yrs upper Brahmin for MD Girl 5.8*29 yrs Contact: 9826175777

HINDU MUDALIAR 26/165cm Pusam Fair, BDS, Good Family Background Seeks Doctor Groom. Ct: 94401 06672.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

PQM FOR Jatt sikh post graduate girl, oct1994/ 5 ft 7 inches SBI officer, seeks good looking Canadian PR or Defense/ Govt Contact from educated family E.gill.akshdeepshi@gmail.com with photo.

MALAYALAM

HINDU THIYAA 28/156 Doctor Girl MBBS doing MD AIIMS seeks Doctors Professional, IAS, IPS, IFS. 9444114016

HINDU NAIR Aswathi aged 34 MBBS DNB working in Kerala seeks well settled Doctor or other professionals Groom. Contact: 9345450365 / Whats App: 8144140365

NAIR 27 Thiruvananthi 42 Dosham M.Phil Maths, Seek Groom around Coimbatore preferred. Ct: 8637611456

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA (G.S) girl 38/162, Avittom, Deputy Manager in MNC, Chennai. Seeks educated & Employed Groom (CNB). 9445651626 / 9790739037

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

- INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL
- BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
- BRIDES WANTED
- BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

- Assamese
- Awadhi
- Bengali
- Bhojpuri
- Bihari
- Chhattisgarhi
- English
- Gujarati
- Haryanvi
- Hindi
- Kannada
- Kashmiri
- Konkani
- Malayalam
- Manipuri
- Marathi
- Marwari
- Nepali
- Oriya
- Parsi
- Punjabi
- Saurashtra
- Sindhi
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Tulu
- Urdu
- Advocate
- Defence
- Doctor
- Engineer
- Finance/ Banking
- Government/ Quasi-Govt.
- IAS/ Allied Services
- Information Technology
- MBA/ CA/ ICWA
- NRI
- Cosmopolitan
- Divorcee
- Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COSMOPOLITAN

SM FOR Delhi based, fair, Christian (CNI) girl, MBBS-MS, 5'-3", 32yrs, surgeon in a reputed hospital, issue less, divorcee (short stay) *98699771394.

UNMARRIED, 43, 5.6ft, Uthiram, MA MPhil MSc, Lecturer seeks well-settled groom. Tamil Hindu-Kerala Christian parents. wedin2021@gmail.com

DOCTOR

CSI NADAR, 25/154, MBBS, working, Medium complexion seeks CSI good looking Doctor Groom below 30. Send Details & photo: tuty1796@gmail.com

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/165 Fair pretty well mannered and cultured Chennai based well placed doctor family. Father doctor Kerala. Mother Tamil Christian. MD MS MCh boys from good families preferred. Ct: 984050381/9840985383

HINDU SC PR 25 yrs / 5.6, Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, Parents Govt. Seeks MBBS/MD/MS, ongoing PG Groom preferably Govt. below 28 yrs. Contact: 94446 53587 / 97881 54437.

Doctor Parents need MD/MS, 30-32 yrs upper Brahmin for MD Girl 5.8*29 yrs Contact: 9826175777

HINDU MUDALIAR 26/165cm Pusam Fair, BDS, Good Family Background Seeks Doctor Groom. Ct: 94401 06672.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

PQM FOR Jatt sikh post graduate girl, oct1994/ 5 ft 7 inches SBI officer, seeks good looking Canadian PR or Defense/ Govt Contact from educated family E.gill.akshdeepshi@gmail.com with photo.

MALAYALAM

HINDU THIYAA 28/156 Doctor Girl MBBS doing MD AIIMS seeks Doctors Professional, IAS, IPS, IFS. 9444114016

HINDU NAIR Aswathi aged 34 MBBS DNB working in Kerala seeks well settled Doctor or other professionals Groom. Contact: 9345450365 / Whats App: 8144140365

NAIR 27 Thiruvananthi 42 Dosham M.Phil Maths, Seek Groom around Coimbatore preferred. Ct: 8637611456

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA (G.S) girl 38/162, Avittom, Deputy Manager in MNC, Chennai. Seeks educated & Employed Groom (CNB). 9445651626 / 9790739037

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

- INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL
- BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
- BRIDES WANTED
- BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

- Assamese
- Awadhi
- Bengali
- Bhojpuri
- Bihari
- Chhattisgarhi
- English
- Gujarati
- Haryanvi
- Hindi
- Kannada
- Kashmiri
- Konkani
- Malayalam
- Manipuri
- Marathi
- Marwari
- Nepali
- Oriya
- Parsi
- Punjabi
- Saurashtra
- Sindhi
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Tulu
- Urdu
- Advocate
- Defence
- Doctor
- Engineer
- Finance/ Banking
- Government/ Quasi-Govt.
- IAS/ Allied Services
- Information Technology
- MBA/ CA/ ICWA
- NRI
- Cosmopolitan
- Divorcee
- Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COSMOPOLITAN

SM FOR Delhi based, fair, Christian (CNI) girl, MBBS-MS, 5'-3", 32yrs, surgeon in a reputed hospital, issue less, divorcee (short stay) *98699771394.

UNMARRIED, 43, 5.6ft, Uthiram, MA MPhil MSc, Lecturer seeks well-settled groom. Tamil Hindu-Kerala Christian parents. wedin2021@gmail.com

DOCTOR

CSI NADAR, 25/154, MBBS, working, Medium complexion seeks CSI good looking Doctor Groom below 30. Send Details & photo: tuty1796@gmail.com

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/165 Fair pretty well mannered and cultured Chennai based well placed doctor family. Father doctor Kerala. Mother Tamil Christian. MD MS MCh boys from good families preferred. Ct: 984050381/9840985383

HINDU SC PR 25 yrs / 5.6, Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, Parents Govt. Seeks MBBS/MD/MS, ongoing PG Groom preferably Govt. below 28 yrs. Contact: 94446 53587 / 97881 54437.

Doctor Parents need MD/MS, 30-32 yrs upper Brahmin for MD Girl 5.8*29 yrs Contact: 9826175777

HINDU MUDALIAR 26/165cm Pusam Fair, BDS, Good Family Background Seeks Doctor Groom. Ct: 94401 06672.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

PQM FOR Jatt sikh post graduate girl, oct1994/ 5 ft 7 inches SBI officer, seeks good looking Canadian PR or Defense/ Govt Contact from educated family E.gill.akshdeepshi@gmail.com with photo.

MALAYALAM

HINDU THIYAA 28/156 Doctor Girl MBBS doing MD AIIMS seeks Doctors Professional, IAS, IPS, IFS. 9444114016

HINDU NAIR Aswathi aged 34 MBBS DNB working in Kerala seeks well settled Doctor or other professionals Groom. Contact: 9345450365 / Whats App: 8144140365

NAIR 27 Thiruvananthi 42 Dosham M.Phil Maths, Seek Groom around Coimbatore preferred. Ct: 8637611456

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA (G.S) girl 38/162, Avittom, Deputy Manager in MNC, Chennai. Seeks educated & Employed Groom (CNB). 9445651626 / 9790739037

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

- INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL
- BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
- BRIDES WANTED
- BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

- Assamese
- Awadhi
- Bengali
- Bhojpuri
- Bihari
- Chhattisgarhi
- English
- Gujarati
- Haryanvi
- Hindi
- Kannada
- Kashmiri
- Konkani
- Malayalam
- Manipuri
- Marathi
- Marwari
- Nepali
- Oriya
- Parsi
- Punjabi
- Saurashtra
- Sindhi
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Tulu
- Urdu
- Advocate
- Defence
- Doctor
- Engineer
- Finance/ Banking
- Government/ Quasi-Govt.
- IAS/ Allied Services
- Information Technology
- MBA/ CA/ ICWA
- NRI
- Cosmopolitan
- Divorcee
- Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COSMOPOLITAN

SM FOR Delhi based, fair, Christian (CNI) girl, MBBS-MS, 5'-3", 32yrs, surgeon in a reputed hospital, issue less, divorcee (short stay) *98699771394.

UNMARRIED, 43, 5.6ft, Uthiram, MA MPhil MSc, Lecturer seeks well-settled groom. Tamil Hindu-Kerala Christian parents. wedin2021@gmail.com

DOCTOR

CSI NADAR, 25/154, MBBS, working, Medium complexion seeks CSI good looking Doctor Groom below 30. Send Details & photo: tuty1796@gmail.com

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/165 Fair pretty well mannered and cultured Chennai based well placed doctor family. Father doctor Kerala. Mother Tamil Christian. MD MS MCh boys from good families preferred. Ct: 984050381/9840985383

HINDU SC PR 25 yrs / 5.6, Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, Parents Govt. Seeks MBBS/MD/MS, ongoing PG Groom preferably Govt. below 28 yrs. Contact: 94446 53587 / 97881 54437.

Doctor Parents need MD/MS, 30-32 yrs upper Brahmin for MD Girl 5.8*29 yrs Contact: 9826175777

HINDU MUDALIAR 26/165cm Pusam Fair, BDS, Good Family Background Seeks Doctor Groom. Ct: 94401 06672.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

PQM FOR Jatt sikh post graduate girl, oct1994/ 5 ft 7 inches SBI officer, seeks good looking Canadian PR or Defense/ Govt Contact from educated family E.gill.akshdeepshi@gmail.com with photo.

MALAYALAM

HINDU THIYAA 28/156 Doctor Girl MBBS doing MD AIIMS seeks Doctors Professional, IAS, IPS, IFS. 9444114016

HINDU NAIR Aswathi aged 34 MBBS DNB working in Kerala seeks well settled Doctor or other professionals Groom. Contact: 9345450365 / Whats App: 8144140365

NAIR 27 Thiruvananthi 42 Dosham M.Phil Maths, Seek Groom around Coimbatore preferred. Ct: 8637611456

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA (G.S) girl 38/162, Avittom, Deputy Manager in MNC, Chennai. Seeks educated & Employed Groom (CNB). 9445651626 / 9790739037

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

- INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL
- BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
- BRIDES WANTED
- BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

- Assamese
- Awadhi
- Bengali
- Bhojpuri
- Bihari
- Chhattisgarhi
- English
- Gujarati
- Haryanvi
- Hindi
- Kannada
- Kashmiri
- Konkani
- Malayalam
- Manipuri
- Marathi
- Marwari
- Nepali
- Oriya
- Parsi
- Punjabi
- Saurashtra
- Sindhi
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Tulu
- Urdu
- Advocate
- Defence
- Doctor
- Engineer
- Finance/ Banking
- Government/ Quasi-Govt.
- IAS/ Allied Services
- Information Technology
- MBA/ CA/ ICWA
- NRI
- Cosmopolitan
- Divorcee
- Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COSMOPOLITAN

SM FOR Delhi based, fair, Christian (CNI) girl, MBBS-MS, 5'-3", 32yrs, surgeon in a reputed hospital, issue less, divorcee (short stay) *98699771394.

UNMARRIED, 43, 5.6ft, Uthiram, MA MPhil MSc, Lecturer seeks well-settled groom. Tamil Hindu-Kerala Christian parents. wedin2021@gmail.com

DOCTOR

CSI NADAR, 25/154, MBBS, working, Medium complexion seeks CSI good looking Doctor Groom below 30. Send Details & photo: tuty1796@gmail.com

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/165 Fair pretty well mannered and cultured Chennai based well placed doctor family. Father doctor Kerala. Mother Tamil Christian. MD MS MCh boys from good families preferred. Ct: 984050381/9840985383

HINDU SC PR 25 yrs / 5.6, Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, Parents Govt. Seeks MBBS/MD/MS, ongoing PG Groom preferably Govt. below 28 yrs. Contact: 94446 53587 / 97881 54437.

Doctor Parents need MD/MS, 30-32 yrs upper Brahmin for MD Girl 5.8*29 yrs Contact: 9826175777

HINDU MUDALIAR 26/165cm Pusam Fair, BDS, Good Family Background Seeks Doctor Groom. Ct: 94401 06672.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

PQM FOR Jatt sikh post graduate girl, oct1994/ 5 ft 7 inches SBI officer, seeks good looking Canadian PR or Defense/ Govt Contact from educated family E.gill.akshdeepshi@gmail.com with photo.

MALAYALAM

HINDU THIYAA 28/156 Doctor Girl MBBS doing MD AIIMS seeks Doctors Professional, IAS, IPS, IFS. 9444114016

HINDU NAIR Aswathi aged 34 MBBS DNB working in Kerala seeks well settled Doctor or other professionals Groom. Contact: 9345450365 / Whats App: 8144140365

NAIR 27 Thiruvananthi 42 Dosham M.Phil Maths, Seek Groom around Coimbatore preferred. Ct: 8637611456

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA (G.S) girl 38/162, Avittom, Deputy Manager in MNC, Chennai. Seeks educated & Employed Groom (CNB). 9445651626 / 9790739037

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

- INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL
- BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
- BRIDES WANTED
- BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

- Assamese
- Awadhi
- Bengali
- Bhojpuri
- Bihari
- Chhattisgarhi
- English
- Gujarati
- Haryanvi
- Hindi
- Kannada
- Kashmiri
- Konkani
- Malayalam
- Manipuri
- Marathi
- Marwari
- Nepali
- Oriya
- Parsi
- Punjabi
- Saurashtra
- Sindhi
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Tulu
- Urdu
- Advocate
- Defence
- Doctor
- Engineer
- Finance/ Banking
- Government/ Quasi-Govt.
- IAS/ Allied Services
- Information Technology
- MBA/ CA/ ICWA
- NRI
- Cosmopolitan
- Divorcee
- Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COSMOPOLITAN

SM FOR Delhi based, fair, Christian (CNI) girl, MBBS-MS, 5'-3", 32yrs, surgeon in a reputed hospital, issue less, divorcee (short stay) *98699771394.

UNMARRIED, 43, 5.6ft, Uthiram, MA MPhil MSc, Lecturer seeks well-settled groom. Tamil Hindu-Kerala Christian parents. wedin2021@gmail.com

DOCTOR

CSI NADAR, 25/154, MBBS, working, Medium complexion seeks CSI good looking Doctor Groom below 30. Send Details & photo: tuty1796@gmail.com

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/165 Fair pretty well mannered and cultured Chennai based well placed doctor family. Father doctor Kerala. Mother Tamil Christian. MD MS MCh boys from good families preferred. Ct: 984050381/9840985383

HINDU SC PR 25 yrs / 5.6, Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, Parents Govt. Seeks MBBS/MD/MS, ongoing PG Groom preferably Govt. below 28 yrs. Contact: 94446 53587 / 97881 54437.

Doctor Parents need MD/MS, 30-32 yrs upper Brahmin for MD Girl 5.8*29 yrs Contact: 9826175777

HINDU MUDALIAR 26/165cm Pusam Fair, BDS, Good Family Background Seeks Doctor Groom. Ct: 94401 06672.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

PQM FOR Jatt sikh post graduate girl, oct1994/ 5 ft 7 inches SBI officer, seeks good looking Canadian PR or Defense/ Govt Contact from educated family E.gill.akshdeepshi@gmail.com with photo.

MALAYALAM

HINDU THIYAA 28/156 Doctor Girl MBBS doing MD AIIMS seeks Doctors Professional, IAS, IPS, IFS. 9444114016

HINDU NAIR Aswathi aged 34 MBBS DNB working in Kerala seeks well settled Doctor or other professionals Groom. Contact: 9345450365 / Whats App: 8144140365

NAIR 27 Thiruvananthi 42 Dosham M.Phil Maths, Seek Groom around Coimbatore preferred. Ct: 8637611456

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA (G.S) girl 38/162, Avittom, Deputy Manager in MNC, Chennai. Seeks educated & Employed Groom (CNB). 9445651626 / 9790739037

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

- INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL
- BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
- BRIDES WANTED
- BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

- Assamese
- Awadhi
- Bengali
- Bhojpuri
- Bihari
- Chhattisgarhi
- English
- Gujarati
- Haryanvi
- Hindi
- Kannada
- Kashmiri
- Konkani
- Malayalam
- Manipuri
- Marathi
- Marwari
- Nepali
- Oriya
- Parsi
- Punjabi
- Saurashtra
- Sindhi
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Tulu
- Urdu
- Advocate
- Defence
- Doctor
- Engineer
- Finance/ Banking
- Government/ Quasi-Govt.
- IAS/ Allied Services
- Information Technology
- MBA/ CA/ ICWA
- NRI
- Cosmopolitan
- Divorcee
-

MVA govt. is the most corrupt in Maharashtra's history: Fadnavis

There is only one agenda of this government and that is extortion, says ex-CM

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

A day after Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at Shiv Sena's annual Dussehra rally over the use of investigation agencies for political gains against the Opposition, BJP leader and former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said the present tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi government is the most corrupt in the history of the State.

Countering Mr. Thackeray's claim that the Centre was encroaching on the States' rights by violating the principle of federalism, the BJP leader claimed that the Shiv Sena president was taking along individuals of Left and communist ideology to change the constitution pre-



Devendra Fadnavis

pared by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

'No misuse of agencies'
"Had the ED, CBI and other agencies been misused, half of the State Cabinet would be in jail. But we believe in democracy and will not misuse these agencies," Mr. Fadnavis told reporters in Nagpur. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would never let agencies be misused.

The Leader of the Opposi-

tion in Assembly went on to say that the present State government would be recorded in the history as the most corrupt. "There is only one agenda of this government and that is extortion," he claimed.

"Dalali in this government has reached such levels that some Ministers have even got extortion software created to know how much money has been extorted. Why blame the ED and the CBI if such things are happening?" he asked, adding that the Central probe agencies were acting on the directions of the court and had no political motive.

Commenting on Mr. Thackeray's statement about the BJP not fulfilling the promise of making a Sena worker Chief Minister, Mr. Fadna-

vis said the MVA government is formed through dishonesty. "Respected Uddhavji should accept that he had ambitions of becoming a Chief Minister. In politics, having ambitions is not wrong. But if you wanted a Sena worker at the helm, then why didn't you choose senior Sena leaders like Divakar Raote, Subhash Desai or Eknath Shinde?" he asked.

Mr. Thackeray had on Friday appealed to the Sena workers to fight against the BJP the way Mamata Banerjee did in West Bengal. Mr. Fadnavis said the CM wants to turn Maharashtra into West Bengal where no industry could flourish due to union activities and extortion. "We will never let Maharashtra turn into West Bengal," he said.

The day after



Left unattended: Waste material and other puja items litter the Yamuna riverbank in New Delhi on Saturday at the end of Navratri and Durga Puja celebrations. •PTI

Sasikala visits Jaya's memorial on eve of AIADMK's 50th anniversary

I placed my heartache of past 5 yrs there, says ex-CM's close aide

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

V.K. Sasikala, close aide of Jayalithaa, visited the former Chief Minister's memorial on the Marina beach Saturday on the eve of the start of the AIADMK's 50th anniversary celebrations.

She left her T. Nagar residence around 10.30 a.m. in a car fitted with the AIADMK flag and reached the memorial an hour later. Her supporters lined the route sporting the flags of the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) and the AIADMK. This was Ms. Sasikala's first visit to the memorial after serving out her jail term in Bengaluru in the disproportionate assets case. A teary-eyed Ms. Sasikala spent some time at the memorial and paid floral tributes.

"Amma [Jayalithaa] and I were inseparable. I placed my heartache of the past five years at her memorial today. I also told her about what has happened so far and assured her that there would be better days for the party. I have confidence that Amma and MGR will save the party and the cadre," she told reporters. However, she refused to answer a question whether she would try to



This was Ms. Sasikala's first visit to the memorial since her release from prison. •RAGUR

take control of the AIADMK. Later, she visited the MGR and Anna memorials. Her nephew and AMMK leader T.T.V. Dhinakaran did not accompany her.

On the day she left Chennai to begin her prison term in 2017, she visited Jayalithaa's memorial en route and took a vow by slapping the ground multiple times. The AIADMK wrote that day on its official Twitter handle that Sasikala, who was then the party's interim general secretary, had vowed to "overcome the conspiracy, treachery and crisis against her". She was later ousted

from her position. The AIADMK is now led by former Chief Ministers O. Panneerselvam and Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

When Ms. Sasikala was freed in February this year, she could not visit the memorial because it was shut on account of COVID-19.

While she stayed away from active politics ahead of the Assembly election, her recent overtures are seen as an attempt to revive her political career.

Meanwhile, former Minister and AIADMK leader D. Jayakumar termed the visit as artificial.

High Court quashes complaint against Alagiri

Case pertained to asset details

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has quashed a private complaint preferred by the Returning Officer of Madurai Parliamentary constituency against former Union Minister M.K. Alagiri for having allegedly suppressed certain details regarding his assets while filing nominations for the 2009 Lok Sabha elections.

Justice M. Nirmal Kumar quashed the case after advocate R. Srinivas contended that the complaint was barred by limitation. The counsel pointed out that the Returning Officer (Collector of Madurai) had preferred the complaint before a Judicial Magistrate only in 2014 for an alleged offence committed in 2009.

It was brought to the notice of the judge that the allegation pertained to non disclosure of a piece of land owned by Mr. Alagiri in Tiruvavur. An individual named S. Jaganathan had reported about the discrepancy in May 2013 and therefore the Returning Officer had chosen to lodge the complaint in February 2014.

Pointing out that the complaint had been lodged



M.K. Alagiri

under Sections 177 (furnishing false information) of the Indian Penal Code and 125A (penalty for filing false affidavit) of the Representation of the People Act of 1951, the petitioner said both the legal provisions pressed against him were *pari materia* (one and the same).

Since IPC was a common law and the Representation of the People Act was a special law, the petitioner contended that it was a well settled position of law that only the provisions of a special law should be preferred by the courts whenever a person gets charged of similar offences under two different laws.

He went on to state that Section 125A of the 1951 Act provides for a maximum imprisonment for six months if a person was found guilty under it.

IPFT, TIPRA to work on tribal State demand

lodge in Arthur Road prison after he was arrested by the NCB following alleged drug seizure from a cruise ship on October 2.

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

Tripura's regional parties, including BJP's ally IPFT, and some prominent intellectuals from the indigenous community on Saturday discussed a plan to streamline a movement for a separate tribal State and implementation of the contentious National Register of Citizens. They attended a meeting convened by IPFT general secretary Mevar Kumar Jamatia to chalk out programmes for a joint movement over the two key demands. Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) chairman Pradyot Kishore Debbarman and president Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawl attended the meeting held at a government guest house. After the meeting, Mr. Debbarman said the idea of his 'Greater Tripraland' (separate state for tribal people) and 'Tiplaland' of the IPFT were almost the same.

He asserted that both parties and others who believed in 'Thansa' (unity) could work together for the sake of 'Tiprasa (indigenous people)'. "The IPFT will get back to me within a few days with some concrete proposals," he said.

Won't tarnish name, Aryan tells NCB officials in jail

lodge in Arthur Road prison after he was arrested by the NCB following alleged drug seizure from a cruise ship on October 2.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan assured the Narcotics Control Bureau officials during counselling that he would work for the welfare of the poor and never do anything that would tarnish his name in the future, an official said on Saturday.

Aryan (23) is currently

lodge in Arthur Road prison after he was arrested by the NCB following alleged drug seizure from a cruise ship on October 2. During counselling Aryan said, after his release he will work for "social and financial uplift of the poor and downtrodden" and never do anything to bring him publicity for the wrong reasons, an official said.

Mob forces girl to take off burkha, shoots video

Men seen in video let off with warning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL

A girl was forced to remove her burkha and face covering by a group of people in Bhopal on Saturday afternoon after suspecting that the man on whose scooter she was riding pillion was a Hindu, the police said.

No case has been registered in this connection with the incident that took place in Islam Nagar.

A video of the incident went viral soon after, but preventive action had been taken under

Section 151 of Indian Penal Code against two people, Intkhedhi police station in charge R.S. Verma said.

In the video, a man from the group, who is apparently shooting the video, is heard telling the girl her act was disgracing "our" community, while some women can be seen trying to force her to show her face.

"Two men seen in the video were let off with a warning to not repeat such an act," he said.

Shopkeeper killed over cigarettes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAHOL

Four people allegedly beat a shopkeeper to death after they were asked to pay for the cigarettes they had taken, the police in Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh said on Saturday. The incident occurred in Deolond on Friday, an officer said.

The accused had been identified as Monu Khan, Pankaj Singh, Virat Singh and Sandeep Singh. "Three of the four accused have been detained. Efforts are on to nab one of them," officer said.

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHING PVT. LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

PRESS NOTE
NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR ROAD/ BRIDGE/ BUILDING WORKS.
Executive Engineer, Bharwain Division, HP, PWD, Bharwain-177109 on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites on line e-tenders on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered in CPWD/ HPPWD for the following works:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Cost of the documents	Time allowed for completion (Months)	Time and date of opening of technical bids	Class of Contractor
1.	A/R & M/O link road Chururu to Dhussara km 0/0 to 6/500 (SH: P/L BC between km 5/0 to 6/500.) with paver	1349727/-	27000/-	500/-	Three months	11.30 AM on 30.10.2021	All classes

1. Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://hptenders.gov.in> from 22.10.2021 (5.00 PM) to onward. The bids can be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://hptenders.gov.in> w.e.f 23.10.2021 to 29.10.2021 up to 5.00 PM & documents submission on dated 30.10.2021 up to 10.30 AM. The bids received will be opened at 11.30 AM on 30.10.2021 in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

2. Bid document along with general terms and conditions of the work can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://hptenders.gov.in>.

3. The bidders are advised to quote rates inclusive of GST as applicable. GST shall not be paid extra.

HP / 4498/21-22 **HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR ELECTRICAL WORK
Tender No.: 05/Tender/EL/CON/SECR/BSP/2021, Date: 06.10.2021.
Name of Work: "Electrification of Kandri and Mansar Siding at Ramek (5.20TKM) by 25KV, 50HZ, A.C. Single Phase Over Head Equipment with Modification of Ramek Yard in Nagpur Division Over South East Central Railway". Tender Value: ₹ 2,74,46,987/- (₹ Two Crore Seventy Four Lakh Forty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Seven Only). Earnest Money Deposit: Nil.
Date & Time of Tender Closing: At 15.30 hours on 01.11.2021. Date of Completion: 09 (Nine) Months from the date of issue of LOA.
Website Particulars & Notice Board Location: For further details/related to e-tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in
For Chief Electrical Engineer CPRI/10/206 (Con)/Nagpur
South East Central Railway @secrail

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Salim@Ahmad S/o** Sarif Ahmad R/o H.No. 1034, Gali No. 34, Jafraabad, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 266/21, u/s 307/387/506/34 IPC PS Welcome, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Salim@Ahmad**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Salim@Ahmad**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Salim@Ahmad** of **FIR No. 266/21, u/s 307/387/506/34 IPC PS Welcome, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **23.11.2021**.

By order
Animesh Bhaskar Mani Tripathi
MM-03, Room 19,
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/1097/NE/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 30-35 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'4", Face: Oval Built: Thin, Wearing: Brown Pant only, who was found dead at Monastery Market, Civil Lines, Delhi.** In this regard a case **DD No. 83A, Dt. 01.10.2021** has been registered at **P. S. Civil Lines, Delhi**.
Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P. S: Civil Lines, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23815444

DP/1591/N/2021(UIDB)

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice
Email: dycemcon@ner.railnet.gov.in Fax No.: 0551-2282448
Internet: www.ireps.gov.in
Tender Notice No.- 04, Dated 14-10-2021
Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement System
Dy. Chief Material Manager/Construction, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. No.	Tender No. Due Date	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from	Qty. Required	Earnest Money (Rs.)
01	17195186D Dt.08-11-2021	Key lock relay with different ward combination as per Specn. No. IRS:S:46, IRS: S:34, IRS:S:23	RDSO	267 Nos.	₹ 50,410/-
02	17215048 Dt.11-11-2021	Supply, Installation, Transportation and commissioning of Block Proving by axle counter (BPAC) using block panel and UFSBI for double line operation as per RDSO specification No. IRS-S-105/2012 (Ver.0)	RDSO	26 Pairs	₹ 5,24,630/-

(1) Above tenders are available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm desirous in participating against e-tender are advised to electronically regd. themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtained) from certifying agencies authorized under govt. of India IT Act, 2000. Manual offers will not be accepted. (2) Advertised tender of Dy. Chief Material Manager/Construction, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur are being opened through EPS (E-Procurement System) only. Firms desiring to participate in Dy. Chief Material Manager/Construction North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur tenders, should obtain necessary digital certificate and get themselves registered with CRIS/New Delhi. Necessary details in this regard can be obtained from the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (3) In case of difference between English and Hindi version of the tender notice the English version shall prevail. (4) Head of allocation towards cost of Earnest Money & S.D. Money is 00844556. CPRO/S-56 Dy. Chief Material Manager/Construction, Gorakhpur
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 12 Date 14.10.2021
Email: cos@ner.railnet.gov.in Fax No.: 0551-2200721
Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in
Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system

Item No	Tender Number	Due on	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from	Qty. Required	Earnest Money(₹)
1	30211069	09.11.2021	110 V DC Mobile Phone charging etc.	ICF	25000 Nos.	191160/-
2	22200735C	09.11.2021	Revised IRS side buffer etc.	RDSO	1360 Nos.	146710/-
3	22210851	09.09.2021	Thermoplastic polyester etc./	RDSO	7600 Nos.	163090/-
4	22211705	09.11.2021	Gravity cock 1/2" chrome plated etc.	--	35000 Nos.	77600/-
5	22201448A	10.09.2021	Side panel sheet for corrosion etc.	--	1328 Nos.	54040/-
6	22201449A	10.11.2021	Side panel sheet for corrosion etc.	--	2438 Nos.	76190/-
7	22201047	11.11.2021	Coupler yoke for upgraded etc.	RDSO	876 Nos.	297670/-
8	22211060	12.11.2021	Equalising stay complete etc.	--	3400 Nos.	143550/-
9	22211378	15.11.2021	203 MM bogie mounted air brake etc.	ICF	1015 Nos.	172650/-
10	22210215	15.11.2021	Axle box housing finish etc.	ICF	3024 Nos.	753780/-
11	22211045	15.11.2021	Modified elastomeric pad etc.	RDSO	12636 Nos.	358360/-
12	22210767	15.11.2021	Air brake hose coupling etc.	RDSO	5063 Nos.	132420/-
13	26210482	16.11.2021	1-Decorative thermosetting etc. 2-Decorative thermosetting etc.	--	3100 Nos. 10200 Nos.	360960/-
14	22211350A	17.11.2021	Lower spring beam arrangement etc.	ICF/MCF RCF	905 Nos.	191570/-
15	22211293	17.11.2021	Bogie centre pivot bottom etc.	RDSO	1272 Nos.	99720/-
16	29210196	17.11.2021	Set of cover assembly etc.	--	750 sets	61500/-
17	22211142	18.11.2021	High capacity draft gear etc.	RDSO	480 Nos.	253530/-
18	22210682	18.11.2021	Knuckle for transition etc.	RDSO	1536 Nos.	247730/-
19	28210704B	25.11.2021	1-Dissolved acetylene Gas etc 2-Compressed oxygen Gas etc	--	23435 CUM 77187 CUM	217610/-
20	2821405B	26.11.2021	Paint Enamel Synthetic etc.	RDSO	28800Ltr	60360/-
21	22201457B01.12.2021	01.12.2021	Polymer buffer spring etc.	RDSO	2042 set	204920/-

CPRO/S-59 **Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur**
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955
"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

Diabolical designs on farmers, says CWC

Resolution says India no longer considered a democracy, has earned the label of 'electoral autocracy'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Saturday adopted three strongly worded resolutions on inflation, the farmers' protests and the country's political situation, especially regarding the border stand-off with China and the deteriorating security situation in Jammu and Kashmir after the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan.

The party also decided to take to the streets over runaway inflation by undertaking a Jan Jagaran Abhiyan between November 14 and 29. It also announced a series of training programmes for its leaders and workers on grassroots management, election management and the failures of the Narendra Modi Government. The first such training would take place at Sewagram in Wardha, Maharashtra, between November 12 and 15.

On the issue of the farmers' protests, the CWC said the past seven years had witnessed a "diabolical design"



In session: Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi at the CWC meeting. ■ PTI

to attack the livelihood of the *annadatas* and the landless farm labourers. The CWC said the "brutal" mowing down of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri was a manifestation of the Union Government's continuing "arrogance". It slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not removing the Union Minister whose son had been arrested in connection with the incident.

In a resolution on the political situation in the country, the CWC said the "assault on democratic institutions completes the sad and shameful narrative of the Modi Government", and claimed that India was no longer regarded as a democracy and had earned the label of an "electoral autocracy".

The Congress alleged that independent watchdog bo-

odies such as the Information Commission, the Election Commission and the Human Rights Commission had been "debased and rendered virtual ciphers".

The CWC expressed alarm over what it said was "rapid deterioration" in the security of the country, both external and internal.

"Nearly 18 months after the clashes in Ladakh in which 20 soldiers lost their

lives, Chinese troops continue to be in occupation of Indian territory," the political resolution said.

"The aggressive posture of China and the unabated infiltrations by Pakistan have resulted in a dramatic deterioration of the security of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). After the change in regime in Afghanistan and the takeover by the Taliban, the situation is even graver, but the Government remains oblivious or in deep slumber," it added.

Calling the administration of J&K incompetent, the CWC demanded the restoration of full statehood and holding of democratic elections.

Expressing grave concern over the move to grant the Border Security Force search and seizure powers up to 50 km from the border in States such as Assam, West Bengal and Punjab, the CWC said, "This is a dangerous encroachment on the exclusive power of the States and the powers of the State police."

'Why didn't the CWC react to the murder at Singhu?'

It is a *parivar bachao* working committee, says BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP criticised the Congress Working Committee (CWC) for not reacting to the ghastly murder of a Dalit man at the Singhu border, one of the sites of the farmers' protests, and questioned if the Opposition party stood with the "Talibani mindset" behind the killing.

At a press conference, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia described the CWC as a "*parivar bachao* working committee [save the dynasty committee]". Mr. Bhatia alleged that it offered no answers to the issues of the party's internal rift and its leadership's failures, and instead indulged in spreading lies.

'Deafening silence' "For the sake of petty and cheap vote bank politics, Opposition parties, especially the Congress, will maintain a deafening silence on



Gaurav Bhatia

this [Singhu border killing] key issue. They will not have courage to call spade a spade because it does not suit their political narrative," Mr. Bhatia said. He attacked farmer leader Rakesh Tikait for his reported remarks that organisers could not be blamed for such an incident.

Taking a swipe at Sonia Gandhi for her assertion that she was a "full-time and hands-on" Congress chief, he noted her status as the interim president of the organisation, and the demand of the group of disaffected party members, referred to as

the G-23, that it should have a full-time head.

'Black law in Punjab' Mr. Bhatia cited the police lathi-charge on a group of protesting farmers in the Congress-ruled States of Punjab and Rajasthan. He remarked that a law on contract farming brought in by Punjab stated that farmers could be arrested for breaking the agreement. "This is what a black law is, and the Congress president should ensure that it is withdrawn," he added.

Mr. Bhatia also took a dig at Ms. Gandhi for the part of her statement in which she noted that all CWC members were now doubly vaccinated, paving the way for its first physical meeting since the COVID-19 outbreak.

"The Congress should offer words of thanks to scientists and doctors when 100 crore doses of vaccines are completed in a few days," he added.

'Compensate kin of Singhu border victim'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Saturday asked Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi to provide a compensation of ₹50 lakh to the kin of the Dalit labourer who was found brutally murdered at the Singhu border.

Ms. Mayawati also demanded that the family of the Dalit labourer, whose body was found at the site of the farmers protest on Friday, be provided a job.

The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister referred to the Dalit background of the Punjab Chief Minister, and asked him to provide monetary compensation to the kin of the victim from the State just like he had announced a compensation for the victims in Lakhimpur Kheri, where three cars from the convoy of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra mowed down protesting farmers on October 3.

Ms. Mayawati, in a tweet, described the murder of the Dalit youth as "extremely sad and disgraceful".

SGPC comes out in support of farmers

Punjab Deputy Chief Minister demands judicial probe, blames Haryana govt., police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

While the BJP has targeted the farmers' unions over the murder of a young Dalit man at the protest site at the Singhu border in Sonapat, Haryana, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) - the body responsible for the management of all gurdwaras - on Saturday said the "unfortunate incident" was being used to tarnish the ongoing farmers' movement.

SGPC president Bibi Jagir Kaur said the unfortunate incident would not have taken place had the Government been serious about resolving the issues of the farmers. "Some people were deliberately trying to tarnish the image of the peasant struggle and, as a result, such incidents were taking place. Conspiracies are being hatched to discredit the peasant struggle, which is worrisome," she said.

Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa demanded an inquiry from a sitting judge into the incident. Hitting out at the BJP-Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) Government in Haryana, he said the State Govern-



Not backing down: Farmers protesting at the Singhu border in New Delhi on Friday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ment and the police could not shrug responsibility for the incident as they were accountable for law and order.

"This is very sensitive issue, which is related to the religious beliefs of the people and, on the other hand, is associated with the farmers who have been peacefully protesting from almost a year against the draconian farm laws of the Union Government. At this crucial juncture, it was very important to identify anti-social elements inciting religious sentiments and defaming the farmers agitation as these kinds of desperate attempts, aimed to sabotage this most peaceful and well-disciplined agitation, were

already being made by some disgruntled elements," he said.

On the other hand, BJP Punjab State president Ashwani Sharma blamed the farmer unions for the "rising violent and criminal incidents" at the protest sites at Singhu-Kundli on the Delhi border.

Mr. Sharma said the farmer unions were responsible for the safety of people as they did not let the police come near those participating in the protests. "The farmer leaders have been giving provocative speeches only to spoil the peaceful atmosphere of the country. The protest sites have become areas of hei-

nous crimes and every time a crime is committed, the union leaders immediately distance themselves from it. The recent murder of a Dalit is another example as the leaders have distanced themselves from the Ni-hangs," said Mr. Sharma here.

Complaint submitted Meanwhile, several Schedule Caste (SC) organisations submitted complaints to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) Chairman, Vijay Sampla, seeking justice for the Singhu victim.

The SC organisations included Bhartiya Bauddh Sangh, Rashtriya Bhanu Sansi Samaj Vikas Sangh, Shri Guru Ravidas Vishwa Mahapeeth (Delhi Province), Jai Baba Rama Peer Janmotsav Committee, National Scheduled Caste Alliance, Delhi Prantiya Raigar Panchayat, Valmiki Mahapanchayat, Shri Sant Kabir Janmotsav Committee, Akhil Bhartiya Bairwa Vikas Sangh, SC/ST/OBC & Minority Employees Welfare Association and Jangpura Bhogal SC/ST Resident Welfare Association.

'Global Hunger Index not based on an opinion poll'

Undernourishment misunderstood: non-profit

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

German non-profit Welthungerhilfe (WHH), which co-published the Global Hunger Index (GHI) this year, rubbished the Union Government's allegation on Saturday that its ranking of India as among the 16 worst countries was based on an opinion poll. It also said the Government was wrong to confuse "undernourishment" with "undernutrition".

Following the launch of the GHI on Thursday that ranked India 101 out of 116 countries, the Government expressed its shock and questioned the "unscientific" methodology used by its two publishers, Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, which relied on a "four-question" opinion poll to calculate one of the four indicators used to arrive at the GHI score. The Government singled out the "undernourishment" indicator, because it was the only one where India's performance deteriorated relative to previous years - undernourishment prevalence rose from 14% to 15.3% between 2017-2019 and 2018-2020.

"The GHI uses the prevalence of undernourishment indicator, which is assessed by FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization] using Food Balance Sheet data from each country," Miriam Wiemers, Advisor, Global Hun-



A mother feeding her child at a government hospital in Palghar, Maharashtra. ■ PRASHANT NAKWE

ger Index, told *The Hindu* in an email. A Food Balance Sheet presents a comprehensive picture of the pattern of a country's food supply during a specified reference period. It shows for each food item the sources of supply and its utilisation.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development on Friday said instead of relying on a poll, the index should have used the measurement of weight and height to calculate the "undernourishment" indicator.

"This represents a misunderstanding of the undernourishment indicator. Undernourishment is a measure of the proportion of the population with inadequate access to calories and is based on data regarding the food supply in the country. It is not a measure of weight and height," said Ms. Wiemers.

Senior NC leader Rather's son joins Sajad Lone's party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Senior National Conference (NC) leader and former Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Rather's son Hilal Rather joined Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference (PC) on Saturday. This is the second known face's exit from the NC in the past five days.

"There are many soothsayers who refuse to see reality as it exists and want to create reality as they want to see it... The PC has arrived and will conquer for the best interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Mr. Lone, who quit the Gupkar alliance earlier this year, said after Mr. Hilal joined him.

Mr. Hilal is facing a case of corruption in the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) over loans taken from the J&K Bank.

Mr. Lone termed Mr. Hilal "an enterprising, educated and capable young man who has the interests of the people of J&K at the core of his politics". Mr. Hilal said the conflict had destroyed the youth of J&K to a great extent. "My dream is to see the youth of J&K prosper in every field they take the plunge in and make it a hub of peace, tranquillity and progress. As I decided to join politics, I didn't think of anyone but Sajad Lone. He is a dynamic leader," he said.

Earlier this week, the NC's provincial president, Devender Rana, had quit and joined the BJP.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-tenders are invited for Supply of certain categories Paper Materials for FY 2021-2022. For Tender Notice & Details log on the web site <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in>. For further details contact: 0877-2264355 (or) 0877-2264292.

TNPCL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, KARUR Dist. Tamil Nadu
Ph. : 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines) E-mail : purchase.fuel@tnplcc.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
212213 003386	Any one grade of 4800, 5100 and 5500 NAR of steaming (Non-Coking) Imported coal of Australian Origin	30.10.2021

* Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPCL Website only. Terms & conditions, Quantity, Tender Fee, EMD, etc are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DIPR/2965/Tender/2021 TNPCL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Aranya Bhavan, 18th cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. Ph: 080-23346551

No.KFD/HOFF/B10/PUR/12/2021-ICT-KFD Date: 13.10.2021

Tender notification in Government of Karnataka's e-procurement portal for Supply & Installation of All-in-one-Desktop Computers, Laptops and LaserJet Multifunction Printers along with required software, peripherals and providing Comprehensive Warranty.

The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has published e-tender No. FD/2021-22IND 1846 dated: 12-10-2021 in the e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka for supply and installation of All-in-one-Desktop Computers, Laptops and LaserJet Multifunction Printers along with required software, peripherals and providing Comprehensive Warranty, across various offices of KFD. The e-tender No. FD/2021-22/IND1846 dated: 12-10-2021 can be accessed through <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Interested bidders may download the detailed tender notification from the e-procurement website. The last date for submission of tender is 12-11-2021 at 5.30 PM. The technical bid will be opened on 15-11-2021 at 11.00 AM and financial bid will be opened post completion of technical bid evaluation

Sd/-
Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Information Communication Technology)

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

Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

PHARMACY COUNCIL OF INDIA
(A Statutory Body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
NBCC Centre, 3rd Floor, Plot No.2, Community Centre, Maa Anandamai Marg Okhla Phase I, New Delhi-110 020

The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is a statutory body working under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi. Online applications are invited for the positions of Advisors and Accountants on contract basis details of which are available on PCI's website (<https://www.pci.nic.in>). Interested candidates may apply online only for the above positions on or before 20 days from date of publication of advertisement by uploading the requisite supporting documents.

The following categories of applications will not be accepted -

- application in hard copy.
- incomplete applications/ applications which are not in prescribed proforma.
- applications received after the due date.

File No. 1-73/2020-PCI Registrar cum Secretary

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT,
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH,
BADSHAHBAGH, LUCKNOW-226007
No.254/Seven-3/Poultry/Bundelkhand Package/Broiler Chicks-E.O.I./2021-22, Dated: 13-10-2021

E-Tender Information Corrigendum
INVITATION FOR ONLINE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST EMPANELMENT

Online previously publish E-Bid Notice No-236/Seven-3/Poultry/Bundelkhand Package/Broiler Chicks-E.O.I./2021-22, Dated 04-10-2021 is modified as per following details:-

- 1- Feed for broiler chick should supplied on the basis Bureau of Indian Standard
- 2- Payment of supplied feed will be made after Quality Testing Report
- 3- Detail of broiler feed for chick is as below-

S. No.	Feed Name	Max. % moisture	Min. % Protein	Max. % AIA	Max. % Crude Fiber	Min. % Crude Fat	Quantity of Feed per chick
1	Broiler Starter	11	23	3	6	-	1 Kg
2	Broiler Finisher	11	20	3	6	-	2 Kg

The Scheduled Date and Time for E-Bid:-

- 1- Prebid Meeting Date 18-10-2021 11.00 A.M.
- 2- Expression of Interest of Empanelment document Submission end date & Time 23-10-2021 up to 6.00 P.M.
- 3- Online opening date and time of technical & financial E-Bid of Expression of Interest of Empanelment 25-10-2021 3.00 P.M.

Rest Rules and Conditions will remain same as prior published in e-tender.

Director,
(Administration and Development)
Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow.

Ro No 168655,
Ro Date 16/10/21
website- www.upgov.nic.in

UT OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Ph: 0484 2323448/458
Web: www.ldcl.gov.in
E-mail : aminidivi@slanetindia.com
Dt: 15.10.2021

TENDER

E-tender is invited for engagement of manning agent for deployment of officers onboard vessels M.V. KODITHALA and M.V. ELIKALPANI operated by LDCL vide Tender No. LDCL/S/Vessels/Mgmt/KO-ELI/2021.

For details and E-tendering please visit website <https://tendersut.gov.in>. Tender due on 05.11.2021 at 11.00 AM. For any help in e-tendering, please contact help Desk: 0120-4001002, 4001005, 6277787

Sd/-MD (LDCL)

IN BRIEF



Manmohan's health improving: AIIMS official
NEW DELHI
Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been diagnosed with dengue, but his health condition is improving, officials from the All India Institute Of Medical Science (AIIMS) said on Saturday. The 89-year-old Congress leader was admitted to AIIMS here on Wednesday. "His platelet count is now increasing and his condition is improving," an AIIMS official said on Saturday. PTI

10 inmates escape from Bihar remand home

PATNA
At least 10 juvenile inmates escaped from a remand home in Ara in western Bihar amid chaotic events following the death of another inmate on Friday. "Taking advantage of the commotion that erupted after an inmate was found hanging in the bathroom, 10 other inmates escaped from the remand home after breaking open the main gate. Search is on to locate and bring back them to the remand home," said Ravi Shankar Verma, superintendent in charge of the remand home located at Dhanupara in Ara of Bhojpur district.

Geelani's grandson sacked from service

SRINAGAR
The grandson of pro-Pakistan separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani was terminated from government service on Saturday for allegedly aiding terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Anees-ul-Islam, son of Altaf Ahmed Shah alias Altaf Fantoosh, was sacked using special provisions under Article 311, they said. In 2016, he was appointed as a research officer in the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre. PTI

COVID-19 vaccination anthem launched

NEW DELHI
Union Ministers Mansukh Mandaviya and Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday jointly launched an anthem on the country's vaccination programme against COVID-19. The song is produced and sung by Kailash Kher. Expressing his gratitude to frontline and healthcare workers, Mr. Mandaviya said India has been able to "administer more than 97 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine" so far. He said the government and the people reposed "faith (*Sabka Vishwas*) in our scientists, researchers and medical fraternity in developing the indigenous vaccine". "Due to the efforts of all (*Sabka Paryas*), we were able to undertake the herculean task of delivering the vaccines to every nook and corner of the country, and vaccinating such a large number in a short period," the Minister said. PTI

Army Air Defence steps up procurement

Progress is being made on trials and some missile deals that were facing delays, say officials

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI
After several delays in its modernisation process, the Army Air Defence (AD) is looking at major progress in the next few months in terms of deals and trials. These include additional indigenous Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems, the under-development medium range surface-to-air missile (MRSAM) and Iгла-S very short range air defence (VSHORAD) systems from Russia, according to defence officials.



Indigenous take: More Akash surface-to-air missiles are to be procured for Air Defence. *FILE PHOTO

The Army had contracted a small number of Iгла-S systems from Russia under emergency procurement through the Vice-Chiefs emergency financial powers and deliveries were expected soon, two officials confirmed.

"The Army has two Akash regiments in service and negotiations are on for two more. Contract is expected

to be concluded by January," an official said.

Akash is the indigenously designed and developed medium-range SAM system with a range of 25 km.

In addition, the Army variant of the MRSAM, being jointly developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), is nearing induction with the final stage of trials scheduled to be held in the next few months. "It's in the penultimate state of in-

duction," the official said.

Air defence functions at three levels - gun/missile system, medium range and high range. Within this, the AD guns are of two types: AD gun missile system and the AD self-propelled guns. The Army is looking for guns in both the categories. In the medium segment, it has the indigenous Akash SAM, while MRSAM fits in the high range.

Last month, the first deliverable firing unit of the MRSAM System was handed

over to the Indian Air Force (IAF), which can engage targets up to a range of 70 km.

The repeatedly delayed Iгла-S VSHORAD deal, which has seen several controversies over the past few years, was on track and close to conclusion, the two officials said. The contract should be concluded by January, one of them said.

The Iгла-S bid from Rosoboronexport of Russia was declared the lowest bid (LI) in the tender in 2018 from among three contenders. The other contenders, MBDA of France and SAAB of Sweden, lodged a protest after Iгла-S was declared the winner. Further, SAAB lodged an official complaint detailing procedural violations in the evaluation process.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) was first issued in October 2010 for over 5,000 missiles, 258 single-launchers and 258 multi-launchers

with an estimated cost of ₹6,400 crore and trials began in 2012.

Air Defence guns

On October 14, 2021, the Army issued the Request For Proposal (RFP) for 220 air defence guns and 1,41,576 rounds of ammunition to be procured under the buy and make category of the acquisition procedure. Within this, 25 guns and 44,440 rounds of ammunition would be procured under the buy portion and the remaining under the make portion of the contract, as per the RFP. The last date for submitting bids is January 6, 2022.

In another category, while a global tender to procure Quick Reaction SAMS (QRSAMS) has been delayed, an indigenous project by the DRDO is moving ahead. "The DRDO has presented the proof of concept, and so far, three trials have been conducted," an official said.

Detention of HIV+ sex worker upheld

Court says she poses danger to society

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A Mumbai court recently upheld a magistrate court order to detain a sex worker for two years as she was HIV-positive, and setting her free was likely to "pose danger to the society".

On August 20, the lower court directed the detention of the woman for two years under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act.

The court directed the detention of the victim as she was found to be infected with HIV, observing that there was a possibility that the woman will transmit the virus through sexual intercourse.

The magistrate directed that the woman was to be rehabilitated and stopped from sex work through counselling.

The woman filed an appeal against the order be-

fore Additional Sessions Judge S.U. Baghele.

The court said, "It is undisputed that she is suffering from HIV which can be easily transmitted through sexual intercourse. The setting of the victim at large is likely to pose danger to the society. The care and protection of the victim can also be ensured, by detaining her, as directed by the learned Magistrate, so as to ensure that the victim leads a normal life in future, after getting necessary brainwash."

It added, "There is no substance in the submission that the victim is not likely to indulge in such immoral activities, being financially sound. As *prima facie* apparent from the FIR, whereby the victim is said to have agreed to indulge in prostitution at the particular moment by accepting ₹1 lakh."

Perfect synchronisation



Pride of India: Army personnel performing stunts to mark the 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' in Jalandhar on Saturday. *PTI

Industry seeks role in framing regulations for medical devices

Proposed Bill should align with MDR 2017, say stakeholders

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The proposed drugs, cosmetics and medical devices Bill should align with the Medical Devices Rules (MDR), 2017, experts have said.

They noted that an inclusive framework of industry experts and representatives was needed for a holistic understanding of all issues and perspectives while framing the new Act.

Chairman of the Medical Technology Association of India Pavan Choudhary said medical devices were governed by the MDR 2017, which were meticulously developed by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) after extensive consultations with stakeholders.

"These rules also follow

the World Health Organisation Regulatory Framework for Medical Devices (including in vitro diagnostics) and adhere to the step-wise approach to regulating medical devices based on guidance documents developed by the Global Harmonization Task Force (GHTF) and the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF)," Mr. Choudhary said.

He pointed out that the harmonised regulations also enable Indian manufacturers to get greater acceptability of their products in global markets, furthering the Make in India objective of the Government and keeping India aligned to global supply chains.

Sanjay Bhutani, country manager, Bausch and Lomb, explained that the industry

had worked extensively with the CDSCO to strengthen the regulatory framework and would continue to do so to further patients' access to quality medical devices.

Managing director of German medical and pharmaceutical device major B. Braun Medical (India) Indrani Mukherjee said that over the last decade, and especially with the pandemic, the regulatory authorities and policymakers have realised the urgent need for establishing a well-defined and comprehensive framework for medical devices, diagnostics and equipment.

"An inclusive framework of industry experts and representatives in this expert network is required and will help in a holistic understanding of all issues," he said.

Saline soil reclamation works wonders in Sundarbans

'It will provide long-term sustainable ecological and economic empowerment to farmers'

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

In the last week of May 2021, when large areas of the Sundarbans were inundated by saline water under the impact of Cyclone Yaas, farmers of the region had given up hope for fresh crop this season. Based on earlier experiences of cyclones, many farmers like Biswajit Jana thought that they might not cultivate for the next few years.

However, a unique project of reclamation of soil salinity in the Sonagaon village in Gosaba block has given hope to many farmers of the region.

Restoration project

A group of conservationists and scientists has come together in this restoration project cultivating paddy in a 10-hectare plot months after the cyclone has ravaged the landscape. "Usually, the fo-

cus in the Sundarbans after a cyclone is on short term relief but what we tried to do is to provide a long-term sustainable ecological and economic empowerment to the people," Diya Banerjee of Uttarayan Wildlife told *The Hindu*.

Ms. Banerjee said initially those behind the desalination project were not very sure about the success but the yield of paddy has surprised everyone. The novel

initiative is supported by the Uttarayan Wildlife and the Nature Mates provided logistical support to the initiative. Both the organisations have been working in the Sundarbans for quite some time.

Pradip Sen, retired additional director research, Department of Agriculture, said the only technique known for desalination is freshwater irrigation which is very difficult in the Sunderbans.

"The salinity of the plot af-

ter the cyclone was 17.4 dS/m [salinity is measured using decisiemens per metre -dS/m] but after the desalination exercise it was down to 2.04 dS/m. We also cultivated a variety of paddy which is relatively less resistant to soil salinity and the output has been very encouraging," said Dr. Sen, who is associated with the Uttarayan Wildlife and provided scientific support to the desalination exercise.

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

INTERVIEW | MIHIR SHAH

'Shift focus to demand management of water'

Head of the panel drafting new water policy calls for 'nature-based solutions' for storage, supply

JACOB KOSHY

Changing patterns and intensity of precipitation require greater emphasis on agility, resilience and flexibility in water management, says **Mihir Shah**, Distinguished Professor, Shiv Nadar University, and Chairman of the 11-member drafting committee of the country's new water policy.

We have had a National Water Policy in 1987, 2002, 2012 and now the latest one that is in the works. Why do we need a new one, or is it necessary to have a review once a decade?

■ We need to take very serious cognisance of the current context of climate change and the grave crisis of water facing the country. Recent estimates suggest that if the current pattern of demand continues, about half of the national demand

for water will remain unmet by 2030. With water tables falling and water quality deteriorating, a radical change is needed in the approach to water management.

Changing patterns and intensity of precipitation, as also rates of discharge of rivers, show that it can no longer be assumed that the water cycle operates within an invariant range of predictability. This requires greater emphasis on agility, resilience and flexibility in water management, so that there could be an adequate response to the heightened uncertainty and unpredictability of the future.

What are two major recommendations of the proposed NWP?

■ The two major recommendations are one: shift focus from endlessly increasing supply of water towards measures for demand-man-



NWP places major emphasis on supply of water through rejuvenation of catchment areas, which needs to be incentivised

agement. This means diversifying cropping pattern to include less water-intensive crops. It also needs lowering the industrial water footprint, among the highest in the world by reducing fresh water use and shifting to recycled water. Cities must mandatorily shift all non-

potable uses, such as flushing, fire protection, vehicle washing, landscaping etc. to treated wastewater.

Two: shift in focus within the supply-side also because the country is running out of sites for further construction of large dams, while water tables and groundwater quality are falling in many areas.

There is mounting evidence across the globe in favour of "nature-based solutions" for water storage and supply. Thus, the NWP places major emphasis on supply of water through rejuvenation of catchment areas, which needs to be incentivised through compensation for ecosystem services, especially to vulnerable communities in the upstream, mountainous regions.

Renewed thrust on local rainwater harvesting to catch the rain where it falls, when it falls, must be com-

I-T searches bust racket on undervaluing imports

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Searches by the Income Tax Department in and around Delhi, Haryana and West Bengal have revealed undervaluing by an importer and trader of laptops, mobile phones and peripheral parts. The goods were being imported in the name of shell entities.

While the value of imports declared at the port of entry through shell compa-

nies in the past three years was ₹20 crore, the agency has estimated that the actual value of the goods could be more than ₹2,000 crore.

The search operations were initiated on October 10, and multiple locations were covered to gather evidence, revealing the group was involved in under-invoicing and wrongful declaration of goods. Unaccounted-for investment was made in properties too.

Four CRPF personnel hurt in blast

ANUP DUTTA
RAIPUR/BHOPAL

At least four Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were injured after a box containing an igniter set fell on the floor in a compartment and caused an explosion at platform 2 of the Raipur railway station on Saturday morning.

The explosion is said to have taken place when a few CRPF personnel were shifting boxes containing igniters in a compartment on a train going from Jharsuguda to Jammu Tawi at around 6.30 a.m. The train was standing at platform 2 of the station when the explosion took place.

Senior CRPF officials visited the Raipur railway station, an official said. Government Railway Police (GRP) Superintendent of Police Rakesh Kukreja said the CRPF would investigate the case. A report would also be sent to the headquarters by the GRP, he added.

Does the policy have recommendations on having 'more people pay', or 'some people pay more' models for the use of water?

■ We propose that economic services (like industrial and commercial use) be charged at a rate where the O&M (Operation and Management) costs and part of the capital cost would be the basis for the water service fees. At the same time, concessional rates should be provided for vulnerable social sections.

(The full interview is at bit.ly/mihirshahwaterpolicy)

Prosperity steps will be long term: Xi

Campaign includes curbing the influence of e-commerce giants and cracking down on the fan culture

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China's President Xi Jinping has warned that his government's current push for "common prosperity", which is likely to see a major overhaul of many sectors of the Chinese economy in coming months, will be "long term".

The "common prosperity" campaign came into prominence after it was highlighted by Mr. Xi at a meeting of the Central Finance and Economic Affairs Committee in August. It has been seen by observers as underlining many of the major recent regulatory moves announced by the Party leadership that have alarmed foreign investors and wiped off close to \$1 trillion in market value of major Chinese private tech and education firms since February.

These include anti-trust investigations of major private sector companies, such as Alibaba and Tencent, and overhauling the booming private education industry, which may be ordered to turn non-profit.

The broad campaign has ranged from curbing the growing influence of fintech and e-commerce giants to cracking down on the gaming industry and even celebrities and fan culture in China.

On Friday, the Party's offi-



New vigour: The push for 'common prosperity' seeks to arrest the growing inequality while reinvigorating the youth and expanding the size of the middle income group. •AFP

cial journal, *Qiushi* or *Seeking Truth*, published for the first time Mr. Xi's full speech at the August meet, which provides his most detailed comments yet on the "common prosperity" campaign.

He said the campaign would be long-term and was here to stay, and would be "the focus point" to ensure both the well-being of people and the Party's "long-term ruling foundation". He flagged growing income inequality around the world as a serious threat that would lead to the collapse of the middle class as well as social and political polarisation, saying it offered "profound lessons" for China.

The campaign, he said, would be based on several core principles, starting with

encouraging innovation as a means to prosperity. This would require "more inclusive and equitable conditions for people to improve their education" in order to "prevent social stratification".

Disillusioned youth

In July, the Party essentially banned the booming private education industry from raising funds and going public, leading to a crash in the share prices of major firms, and ordered the sector to go non-profit.

These moves, Mr. Xi said, would be aimed at "avoiding 'involution' and 'lying flat'", referencing two current buzzwords among young Chinese pushing back against the education and

jobs rat-race, and an all-consuming work culture known as "996" — 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., six days a week. "Involution" refers to a feeling of stagnation, while "lying flat" has been deemed by some to be the answer, by opting out of the race and doing the bare minimum to survive.

The second principle was "adhering to the basic economic system" and "the public sector as the mainstay". Regulators will "accelerate the reform of monopolistic industries" and "support the development of small and medium enterprises", he said.

The focus of these moves, Mr. Xi said, was on "expanding the size of the middle income group". The authorities will more strictly

regulate "high income" and "excessive income", including by reforming the personal tax system.

Ambit of the policy

With fintech and e-commerce companies, including Alibaba, Tencent, and the ride-hailing app Didi Chuxing, among those currently in the sights of regulators for "monopolistic" practices, the "common prosperity" campaign is expected to be broadened in coming months to include the financial sector and the many highly leveraged real estate firms, who have been warned that they cannot expect state bailouts.

Mr. Xi is "zeroing in on the ties that China's state banks and other financial stalwarts have developed with big private-sector players," the *Wall Street Journal* reported this week, with a "sweeping round of inspections" of financial institutions expected in coming weeks as part of a broader "push to curb capitalist forces in the economy".

The campaign is expected to continue in the months ahead and in the lead-up to next year's 20th Party Congress, a once-in-five-year event expected to be held next autumn, which will see Mr. Xi, who abolished term limits, begin his third five-year-term in office.

Chinese astronauts dock with space station

BEIJING

Three astronauts successfully docked with China's new space station on Saturday on what is set to be Beijing's longest crewed mission to date and the latest landmark in its drive to become a major space power. The three blasted off shortly after midnight and are expected to spend six months at the Tiangong space station. •AFP

China's media hail Bhutan deal as 'breakthrough'

They reach a three-step roadmap to speed up border talks

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Thursday's agreement between China and Bhutan on a "three-step roadmap" to speed up border talks will "break the deadlock" in negotiations, reports in the Chinese media have said.

Bhutan and China signed the agreement at a video-conference on Thursday. China's Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Jianghao said the MoU "will make a meaningful contribution to speeding up the negotiation on demarcation and promoting the process of establishing diplomatic ties between the two countries", the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The statement also quoted Bhutan Foreign Minister as saying Bhutan "will work with China to implement the MoU, unswervingly push forward the negotiation on demarcation, and be committed to strengthening bilateral relations".

While Bhutan's Foreign Ministry issued a brief press release on the agreement, neither side has released details on the roadmap. The Chinese state media did, however, hail the MoU as the first "breakthrough" in the border talks, which began in 1984, with 20 rounds held.

Wang Shida, a South Asia scholar at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, a think-tank affiliated to the Ministry of State Security, told the Party-run *Global Times* the MoU "is a milestone and would help break the deadlock".

"The boundary issue between China and Bhutan is special because it not only relates to Bhutan but also has become a negative factor for China-India ties," he said. "If China and Bhutan make



After the Doklam standoff, China and Bhutan did not hold border talks for a long time, a Chinese expert said. •FILE PHOTO

progress in solving boundary disputes, India will have fewer chances and excuses to make troubles on border areas."

Doklam factor

Wang Se, another expert at CICIR, expressed the commonly held view in Beijing that India's concerns over the Doklam plateau, the site of the 2017 stand-off with China, was one reason for negotiations stalling in the past couple of years with New Delhi wary over a border deal that "would undermine its interests". "After the Doklam standoff, China and Bhutan did not hold a meeting for border talks for a long time, which shows India was exerting great influence on Bhutan," he said.

As the talks go forward, it remains unclear to what extent China would be willing to make territorial concessions, which a settlement would require from both sides. Earlier negotiations had dealt with territories in Bhutan's north and west, including Pasamlung and Jakarlung valleys in the north and Doklam to the west.

China had, according to reports, previously offered a package solution that would see Beijing controlling Doklam and ceding the northern valleys. The inclusion of Sak-

teng into the dispute last year was seen by some observers as a negotiating tactic to bring Bhutan back to the table.

Since the 2017 stand-off with India, Beijing has already strengthened its de facto control over much of the Doklam plateau, located strategically along the India-China-Bhutan trjunction.

Barring the face-off site where India had objected to a road being built that would push the tri-junction point further south, China has deepened its presence elsewhere on much of the plateau and faced little opposition from Bhutan in doing so. Chinese media last year even showed images of a newly built village in Doklam, in territory disputed by Bhutan and China.

While no details of the three-step roadmap have been revealed, Mr. Wang added that the roadmap might follow the three-step process of the India-China border talks. It remains to be seen, however, if the border negotiations with Bhutan would be as tortuous.

Qian Feng of Tsinghua University told the *South China Morning Post* that the steps "might include setting up a framework first, confirming the specific disputes with an exchange of maps, and then a resolution stage."

Sri Lanka eyeing green agriculture

A task force will look into the quality of organic fertilizer produced in the country

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has appointed a task force on 'green agriculture', his office said on Saturday, while Sri Lanka's farmers continue protesting his government's abrupt 'organic fertilizer only' policy shift since May this year.

The 'Presidential Task Force' will be responsible for looking into the requirement of fertilizers and improving the quality of organic fertilizer produced in the country, a statement from the Presidential Media Division said, listing the panel's 14 members, a majority of whom are private sector representatives. No farmers' organisation was part of it.

The move comes about five months after the government banned all chemical fertilizers, shifting immediately to organic fertilizers. Agriculture experts have

slammed the move as "ill-advised" and "unscientific", while farmers anticipate that the drastic policy change could slash their yield. Paddy farmers anticipate a 25% production slump, while growers of tea, which is a key foreign exchange earner for Sri Lanka, fear a likely 40-60% fall in output.

Import bill

The ruling administration sought to justify the decision by citing President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's poll pledge in 2019, and an urgent need to bring down the country's import bill as the economy reels under the impact of the pandemic. Until now, Sri Lanka spent an estimated \$300-\$400 million annually on fertilizer imports.

If the government's policy shift took the country by shock, the newly appointed panel has drawn attention for its composition. "It is

striking that even now the task force has no scientists who study and research agriculture," said Saman Dharmakeerthi, Professor of Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. The "danger" with the heavy private sector presence is that "they might promote anything they produce and insist that farmers use them," he added.

Describing the government's fertilizer ban "a blunder" that threatens food production in the country, the soil scientist told *The Hindu*: "It is a contradiction because our import of organic fertilizer [that continues] will still keep the import bill high, and if we don't have enough produce, we would be forced to import more food items from other countries, which will also be expensive." The government must instead go in for an integrat-

ed plant nutrient management scheme, combining chemical and organic fertilizers, in Prof. Dharmakeerthi's view. Sri Lankan scientists are also concerned about the limited availability of organic sources in the country, he said.

Organic fertilizers, whether produced locally or imported, are subject to quality checks by authorities. Last month, Sri Lanka halted a 96,000-tonne shipment of fertilizer from a Chinese company, citing poor quality. In a tweet on the development, the Chinese Embassy said the Sri Lankan authorities' "hasty conclusion" lacked scientific basis and was "questionable". Meanwhile, Sri Lanka is mulling importing liquid nitrogen from China and India, even as the country's second major agricultural season, the 'Maha season' began on October 15.

IS behind bombing of Shia mosque

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a deadly suicide bombing on a Shia mosque in Afghanistan that killed 47 people and wounded scores more. Relatives laid the bodies of the victims to rest on Saturday and called on the Taliban to protect them.

IS said that two of the group's members shot and killed security guards manning the entrance of the Fatimiya mosque in Kandahar province. One detonated his explosives at the entrance of the mosque and the other inside.

Two killed in religious unrest in Bangladesh

Toll at 6 after death of two Hindu men

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Two Hindu men have been killed in fresh religious violence in Bangladesh, police officials said on Saturday, taking the death toll to six from recent unrest in the Muslim-majority country.

Protests began on Wednesday after footage emerged of a Koran being placed on the knee of a Hindu god during celebrations for the Hindu festival Durga Puja. The minority community make up about 10% of the population.

Police said the latest violence occurred in the south-

ern town of Begumganj when hundreds of Muslims formed a street procession after Friday prayers on the final day of Durga Puja.

More than 200 protesters attacked a temple where members of the Hindu community were preparing to perform the last rites of the 10-day festival, local police station chief said. The attackers beat and stabbed to death an executive member of the temple committee.

On Saturday morning, another Hindu man's body was found near a pond next to the temple, district police chief Shahidul Islam said.

ASEAN shuns Myanmar junta chief

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

Myanmar's junta chief will be excluded from an upcoming ASEAN summit, the group said on Saturday, a rare rebuke as concerns rise over the military government's commitment to defusing a bloody crisis.

Foreign ministers from the Association of South-east Asian Nations agreed at an emergency meeting on late Friday that a "non-political representative" for Myanmar would be invited to the October 26-28 summit, current ASEAN chair Brunei said in a statement.

ISI chief's appointment in a week: Pak. Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said the issue of appointment of the new chief of spy agency ISI would be resolved within a week, amid widespread speculation that Prime Minister Imran Khan and the powerful Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa were not on the same page over the key posting.

The issue of appointment of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) director general has been in the news since last week after delay in the issuance of appointment notification of Lt Gen Nadeem Ahmed Anjum.

The Army in a statement on October 6 announced Lt Gen Anjum replacing Lt Gen

Faiz Hameed, but the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) withheld the official notification. After initial silence on the issue, the government this week said PM Khan was not properly consulted while making the key appointment.

According to a report published in *The Dawn* newspaper on Friday, Sheikh Rashid told a private TV channel that the issue has

been amicably settled between the civil and military leadership of the country and "now the appointment (of ISI chief) will take place before next Friday".

When asked about the reasons for the delay, the Interior Minister said though he knows the reasons, he cannot make them public as only Prime Minister Khan could apprise the people on the matter.

Jet set ready for studying abroad

Introducing



A specialised course focusing on the speaking section of IELTS.



A 3-month course that trains you with:

31 one-on-one Coach Calls

30 minutes each | Schedule at your convenience | Speaking activities | Teaching sessions | Mock tests | Personalised feedback

64 short self-learning webisodes

16 hours online learning | Covers various aspects of the test

2 full practice tests (speaking)

Detailed feedback | Suggestions to improve scores

Coaching from IELTS experts

Model questions and answers

14 vocabulary and phrases list



To ace your IELTS exam, visit <https://bit.ly/SABROAD>

SNAPSHOTS



Tobacco use
Archaeologists have uncovered evidence that hunter-gatherers in North America were using tobacco around 12,300 years ago — 9,000 years earlier than was previously documented. There is much debate on how and when tobacco plants were first domesticated. Researchers have discovered the oldest direct evidence of tobacco use at a hunter-gatherer camp in Utah's West Desert.



Advantage seagrass
Research by Dalhousie University and reported in *Science* found that seagrass meadows are much more genetically diverse and thus resilient in areas where otters are present. Otters leave their trademark pits and craters on ground while digging for clams. The rough treatment of lush seagrass meadows appears to be producing a reproductive favour.



New class of object
University of Sydney astronomers have discovered unusual signals coming from the direction of the Milky Way's centre. The radio waves fit no currently understood pattern of variable radio source and could suggest a new class of stellar object. The light from the new signal oscillates in only one direction and that direction rotates with time. The brightness also varies dramatically.



Age of moon rock
A lunar probe launched by the Chinese space agency recently brought back the first fresh samples of rock and debris from the moon in more than 40 years. Now an international team of scientists has determined the age of these moon rocks at close to 1.97 billion years old. All of the volcanic rocks collected by Apollo were older than 3 billion years.

'Virus less likely to develop resistance to molnupiravir'

R. PRASAD

On October 11, just 10 days after Merck announced via a press release the highly encouraging news of an interim analysis of a phase-3 trial using the antiviral drug molnupiravir, the company has submitted an emergency use authorisation application to the FDA. Preliminary data, which is yet to be peer-reviewed, shows molnupiravir can reduce risk of hospitalisation or death by 50% in non-hospitalised adult patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 disease. That molnupiravir is an oral drug is a major advantage in treating patients as it would not require hospitalisation. In an email, **Dr. Gagandeep Kang**, Professor of Microbiology at CMC, Vellore, explains the other advantages that the drug will have, if granted an EUA.

Since it is an oral drug unlike Remdesivir, can molnupiravir (if given an EUA) substantially change the way COVID-19 disease is managed?

Yes, molnupiravir has significant promise. But there are some concerns about how early and how mild the disease has to be for molnupiravir to work. It seems important to treat within the first few days of diagnosis or symptoms and the drug does not work towards the more severe end of the spectrum,

including what is considered moderate disease.

Why was the drug tested only in people older than 60 years and those with at least one risk factor associated with poor outcomes?

The study was designed to include people with at least one risk factor for severe disease, because the goal was to study progression to severe disease. Had completely healthy people been included the study size would have needed to be much larger to get clear outcomes. Merck's selection strategy of people at risk of severe disease led to a clear answer on efficacy in mild disease, such that the study was stopped for efficacy with data on 775 people.

What is the precise mechanism by which the drug prevents the SARS-CoV-2 virus RNA replication process through "error catastrophe"? Besides blocking replication, can the drug also reduce the viral load in humans? Like in ferrets, can the drug also block virus transmission in humans?

Molnupiravir is a pro-drug, which means that it needs to undergo processing in the body to become active. It is metabolised to a ribonucleoside analog, which is essentially a sugar molecule linked to a nucleic acid. Nucleic acids



Gagandeep Kang ■ C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

are needed to make RNA, and if molnupiravir is used, the viral enzyme instead of using real cytidine or uridine uses a molecule that is generated by metabolism of molnupiravir called NHC-TP. The virus has a proof-reading mechanism but the viral exonuclease which is responsible for removing mistakes does not recognize NHC-TP as an error, so that when the viral RNA polymerase is making copies of RNA that contains molnupiravir, then it randomly replaces cytidine or uridine. This causes more mutations that can be survived by the virus or it becomes unable to replicate — this is called lethal mutagenesis or error catastrophe. A Phase IIa study conducted earlier this year showed a reduction in viral load in the

upper respiratory tract, which will indirectly reduce transmission.

How has the drug performed against other viruses, including influenza, tested in the past?

The drug has performed well against influenza in animal studies and was set to go into phase-1 trials in 2020. It has also worked well against Ebola and Chikungunya.

Can the virus develop resistance to molnupiravir considering that the drug can induce several point mutations in the virus at random locations?

It is always possible for a virus to develop mutations that will render an antiviral

ineffective, but molnupiravir's mode of action makes it a little less likely than for many other antivirals. If multiple antivirals are available then using a combination that targets different steps in the replication of the virus is the best way to delay the development of resistance. Both remdesivir and molnupiravir target the same enzyme but in different ways, so while ideal to have the same target, it may be worthwhile to test a combination therapy, with the caveat that giving IV infusions as required for remdesivir negates the ease and reach of an oral drug such as molnupiravir.

Is there a possibility that the nucleoside analog can turn out to be mutagenic? Though none were seen in the trial, what are the chances that the drug might cause serious adverse events?

There are opinions that molnupiravir may potentially drive mutagenesis in viral RNA and mammalian DNA. Scientists from Emory who developed the drug say they have not seen any evidence of mutagenicity. In April 2021, Merck reported results of preclinical research using assays that should identify the ability of drugs to induce mutations — animals were given molnupiravir at high doses and for longer times than in human clinical trials, and no evidence of mutagen-

icity or genotoxicity was found. But the clinical trials excluded pregnant and breastfeeding women and required men to not donate sperm and required either abstinence or contraception for all genders.

Since Merck has signed non-exclusive agreements with generic manufacturers in India to produce the drug for low- and middle-income countries, will we see the drug becoming accessible to people in these countries unlike the vaccines?

With eight Indian companies manufacturing the drug, I assume it will become accessible, but indiscriminate use should be prevented. The last thing we want is for a promising drug to become useless if it is inappropriately used, as happens all too often with antibiotics in India. Since the virus replication blocking mechanism may not be affected by variants that might emerge in future, can the drug be seen as a substitute for vaccines especially in countries deprived of vaccines?

The drug is not yet in the market and vaccine supply is increasing so this is not an either/or situation. An antiviral to be used in early treatment of an infected person with 50% efficacy in those with conditions predisposing to severity has a role that is very different from vaccines that are intended to protect

prior to exposure.

As in the trial, will the drug be restricted for use only in unvaccinated people belonging to the approved categories?

Restricting the drug to unvaccinated individuals makes no sense whatsoever, but using it for people at risk does. The reason for not giving it to vaccinated individuals in the trial was because vaccination reduces the risk of progression to severe disease, which is what the trial wanted to measure. But once the trial is done, we want to prevent progression to severe disease in all infected individuals, vaccinated or unvaccinated. Vaccinated individuals who are older and have co-morbidities continue to have a higher risk of severe disease and certainly should be given the drug if they develop symptoms,

A Merck spokesperson has said what is regarded as a "moderate" case in India is considered severe in the U.S. How does one define "moderate" disease?

The Indian definition was 90-93% oxygen saturation for moderate disease, while anything lower than 93% would be considered severe in the US. The important thing about definitions in trials is that they should be the same measured using the same protocol.

IIT Kanpur team identifies a novel target to treat prostate cancer

In mice, BET inhibitors used alone or in combination with anti-androgen drugs was found effective

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, have discovered that a particular gene (DLX1) which plays an important role in the development of jaws, skeleton, and interneurons in the brain has an important role to play in the growth and development of prostate cancer.

The DLX1 protein is found at elevated levels in prostate cancer patients, the reason why the DLX1 protein has been used as a urine-based biomarker. Now the team of researchers led by Dr. Bushra Ateeq, Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, IIT Kanpur has found that the DLX1 protein, which is expressed at higher levels in the prostate cancer cells, has a huge role in the growth and development of the tumour and the spread of the cancer to other organs in the

body (metastasis).

Using small molecules as inhibitors, the researchers have shown in mice a new therapeutic strategy to treat people with DLX1-positive prostate cancer.

First, the researchers found around 60% of the prostate cancer tissues have higher levels of DLX1 protein. And when the team genetically ablated the DLX1 gene that produces the protein, the ability of cancer cells to grow, develop and spread to other parts of the body was compromised.

"We used mice models to further ascertain the role of DLX1 protein in prostate cancer growth and metastasis," says Sakshi Goel from IIT Kanpur and first author of a paper published in *Nature Communications*.

To carry out the experiments in mice, the researchers first genetically engineered prostate cancer cells that expressed higher levels

of DLX1 protein to generate the cells which cannot produce the DLX1 protein. Both types of cancer cells were then implanted in two groups of mice. While mice that had received cancer cell implants expressing higher levels of the protein developed huge tumour, the mice that were implanted with DLX1-ablated cancer cells developed only small tumours, and had fewer cancer cells migrating to other organs.

The second experiment on mice was to examine the ability of cancer cells to metastasise and grow in bones. "Prostate cancer cells have a tendency to metastasise in bones. So, we checked the role of DLX1 protein in cancer metastasis," says Goel. For this, they used cancer cells that were either DLX1-ablated or those expressing higher levels of the protein, and implanted the cancer cells into the tibia (bone) of the mice. A month after im-



Vital discovery: Bushra Ateeq's team found that the DLX1 protein, expressed at higher levels in the prostate cancer cells, has a huge role in the growth of the tumour, and metastasis.

plant, the tumour growing in the tibia was monitored using CT scan. Mice implanted with cancer cells with elevated levels of DLX1 exhibited more bone damage than the cells that were DLX1-ablated. "These findings proved the role of DLX1 in prostate tumour growth and bone metastases," Goel says.

Androgen receptor is responsible for promoting the development of prostate cancer. Also, about 50% of prostate cancer harbour an aberrant gene which is a product of two genes (TMPRSS2 and ERG) being fused together and results in production of higher levels of ERG protein.

"Interestingly, exploring the association between these important factors revealed that about 96% of TMPRSS2-ERG fusion-positive prostate cancer patients show high levels of DLX1 protein as well. In concert with this, about 70% of the patients with high androgen receptor signaling also have elevated DLX1 protein levels," says Prof. Ateeq.

The researchers have further shown that both androgen receptor and fusion gene product, ERG are responsible for increased level of DLX1 in prostate cancer cells. Having understood the mechanism responsible for prostate cancer growth and development, and its spread to distant organs, the researchers turned their attention to finding a way to reduce the expression of DLX1 protein in the cancer cells. They found that a particular protein (Bromodomain and extra terminal or BET) assists

the function of both androgen receptor and ERG. "We found that if the BET protein is inhibited using small molecules, the function of both the androgen receptor and the ERG protein to upregulate DLX1 gets inhibited. As a result, the expression of the DLX1 protein and its tumorigenic potential is reduced," says Goel.

Preclinical mice studies showed that administering BET inhibitors alone or in combination with anti-androgen drugs resulted in about 70% reduction in tumour burden along with diminished distant metastases. "Those prostate cancer patients with higher levels of DLX1 may benefit by this treatment strategy. There are several commercially available diagnostics tests for detecting DLX1 levels, therefore it is relatively easy to categorize the patients who could respond to BET inhibitors," says Prof. Ateeq.

Zeolite oxygen concentrators: chemistry in three dimensions

At the heart of this technology are synthetic frameworks of silica and alumina with nanometer-sized pores that are rigid and inflexible



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Chemists, when they are designing or building new molecules, can be thought of as architects and builders. An organic chemist can plan a blueprint for a new molecule, and synthesize it with precision out of atoms of carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and so on. After centuries of fine-tuning this skill, chemists in the early 20th century moved up to synthesizing long, thread-like one-dimensional polymers. The polyethylene of plastic bags is made from repeating units of the ethylene molecule, (importantly, the units are linked by the same firm chemical bonds as are seen within an organic molecule. This provides the stability that ensures that a shirt made from polyester-mixed yarn is long lasting). In biological systems, proteins are

1-dimensional polymers of amino acids.

Adding new dimensions
In recent years, this has been taken to a new level by the creation of extended 2- or 3-dimensional structures from linking together molecular units just as was done for polymers, but in two or three dimensions. The basic units go on fitting together to form large networks, like a wire mesh fence. The network is constructed by repeated additions of a molecule with symmetry. A few such networked sheets, when stacked one over another, form a functional 2-D entity. Because words like polymer do not do justice to this complex arrangement of atoms, such molecular networks are called frameworks.

Uses for these Covalent



Preferentially adsorbed: Zeolite beads separate oxygen from nitrogen in air by tightly binding to hydrogen, while oxygen remains free. ■ T. KRISHNA REDDY AND REC JOHNSON

Organic Frameworks (COFs) take advantage of their stability, large surface area, controlled pore sizes, and tunable chemical environments. Just as you choose the size of the 'pore'/hole in a wire mesh, frameworks can be designed to act as sieves in separating out molecules of a specified size. The smallest whiff of a toxic gas could be sensed - in an industrial environment, or in airline baggage.

They are also suitable for both storing energy (as capacitors) and for conducting it (along membranes in fuel cells). Metal Organic Frameworks (MOFs) are structured like COFs but have metals in complexes with organic entities. The choice of metals is wide, from Beryllium to Zinc, though relatively abundant metals are preferred for economic and environmental

reasons. They offer great advantages: for gas storage, as in the case of hydrogen storage in fuel cells; in catalysis, where they replace very expensive metals; in sensors; and in drug-delivery - anti-cancer and other drugs with severe side effects can be trapped in the porous confines of MOFs, to be released in small and steady doses.

Use of zeolites

Zeolites are highly porous, 3-D meshes of silica and alumina. In nature, they occur where volcanic outflows have met water. Synthetic zeolites have proven to be a big and low-cost boon. One biomedical device that has entered our lexicon during the pandemic is the oxygen concentrator. This device has brought down the scale of oxygen purification from industrial-size plants to the volumes needed for a single person. At the heart of this technology are synthetic frameworks of silica and alumina with nanometer-size pores that are rigid and inflexible. Beads of one such material, zeolite 13X, about a millimeter in diameter, are packed into two cylindrical columns in an oxygen concentrator.

The chemistry here is tailored to the task of separat-

ing oxygen from nitrogen in air. Being highly porous, zeolite beads have a surface area of about 500 square meters per gram. At high pressures in the column, nitrogen is in a tight embrace, chemically speaking, with the zeolite. Interaction between the negatively charged zeolite and the asymmetric nucleus (quadrupole moment) of nitrogen causes it to be preferentially adsorbed on the surface of the zeolite.

Oxygen remains free, and is thus enriched. Air has 78% nitrogen, 20.9% oxygen and smaller quantities of argon, carbon dioxide, etc. Once nitrogen is under arrest, what flows out from the column is 90%-plus oxygen. After this, lowering the pressure in the column releases the nitrogen, which is flushed out, and the cycle is repeated with fresh air.

Global volunteer efforts have made available very detailed instructions on building your own oxygen concentrator, with locally available resources. In India, IISc has transferred the technology of making oxygen concentrators to over 20 companies.

(Co-authored with molecular modeler Dr. Sushil Chandani) dbala@vipei.org and sushilchandani@gmail.com



Question Corner

Climate stimulated

Did Venus ever have oceans?

While previous studies have suggested that Venus may have been a much more hospitable place in the past, with its own liquid water oceans, a recent study by astrophysicists led by the University of Geneva found that Venus is unlikely to have harboured any ocean anytime in the past.

The researchers simulated the climate of the Earth and Venus at the very beginning of their evolution, when the surface of the planets was still molten. The high temperatures seen in Venus meant that any water would have been present in the form of steam. Using sophisticated three-dimensional models of the atmosphere, similar to those scientists use to

simulate the Earth's current climate and future evolution, the team studied how the atmospheres of the two planets would evolve over time and whether oceans could form in the process, a release says.

"Thanks to our simulations, we were able to show that the climatic conditions did not allow water vapour to condense in the atmosphere of Venus," says Martin Turbet of the University of Geneva and the first author of a paper published in *Nature*. This means the temperatures never got low enough for the water in its atmosphere to form raindrops that could fall on its surface. Instead, water remained as a gas in the atmosphere, and oceans never formed. "One of the main reasons for this is the clouds that form preferentially on the night side of the planet. These clouds cause a very powerful greenhouse effect that prevented Venus from cooling as quickly as previously thought," he says in a release.

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

BSF

In the line of defence, with growing powers

The 56-year-old force, deployed along the Bangladesh and Pakistan borders, is currently at the centre of a political storm after the MHA enhanced its operational limits in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam

VUJAITA SINGH

During the Kargil war in 1999, the Army and other intelligence agencies faced a peculiar problem. Their interception centres in the high-altitude region were unable to intercept the wireless communication of the Pakistani intruders. The Pakistanis spoke in Dardi, Balti, Pushto and Farsi as they occupied key heights along the Line of Control (LoC).

In Focus

■ The BSF was formed on December 1, 1965 after the India-Pakistan war. Till then, the border with Pakistan was guarded by the armed battalions of State police departments

■ It was raised by drawing personnel from the State armed police, the armed forces and from 25 battalions. The BSF has now expanded to around 200 battalions

■ The force has also faced allegations of civilian killings and rights violations. In 1993, BSF personnel opened fire at a procession at Bijbehara in South Kashmir, killing 43 people

A small unit of the Border Security Force (BSF), posted at Channigund, was asked to interpret and analyse the conversations taped by the agencies on a cassette. BSF Inspector Habibullah, a local from Drass, assisted the Army in translating the wireless conversations in Dardi and Balti. According to a book, *BSF: India's First Line of Defence*, edited by Anirudh Deshpande, associate professor, History, Delhi University, the BSF Inspector "also helped in motivating local youths for working as porters" as large number of population had fled the area in panic due to shelling from across the border.

Though the BSF played a key role in the Kargil war – it was the first to send five specific intelligence inputs about a Pakistani build-up, months before the war commenced in May 1999 – the achievements of the central armed police force (CAPF) that reports to the Ministry of Home Affairs, were lost in footnotes of government reports.

The BSF was raised on December 1, 1965 after the India-Pakistan war. Till then, the border with Pakistan was

guarded by the armed battalions of State police who were ill-equipped to stop trans-border crimes and infiltration. The then Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri, constituted a commission of secretaries and based on its report the BSF was raised. Its first director general (DG)

The BSF does not have policing powers and after detaining a suspect, it can only conduct 'preliminary questioning' and the suspect has to be handed over to the local police

was police officer K.F. Rustamji.

Former police officer P.V. Rajagopal, who authored an autobiographical narrative on the founding DG, quotes Rustamji: "After handing over charge as IGP Madhya Pradesh, I reached Delhi and wrote my joining report on 21 July 1965...I became the head of a one-man organization. I was the sole Borderman; nobody below me, nobody above me..."

Pivotal role

It was raised by drawing personnel from the State armed police, the armed forces and from 25 battalions (a battalion is 1,000 personnel approximately). The BSF has now expanded to around 200 battalions.

The BSF played a pivotal role in the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war. The BSF and its counterpart – the Border Guards Bangladesh – are

now commemorating 50 years of Bangladesh's liberation (formerly East Pakistan) through year-long events. The 56-year-old force, deployed along the Bangladesh (4,096.7 km) and Pakistan (3,323 km) borders, is currently at the centre of a political storm after the MHA enhanced its operational limits in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam.

The MHA, through a notification in the Gazette of India on October 11, enhanced the "arrest, search and seize" powers of BSF up to 50 km from the international boundary in the States of Punjab, West Bengal and Assam. In Gujarat, the limit was reduced from the existing 80 km to 50 km and in Rajasthan, the 50 km limit has remained unchanged.

Opposition parties have questioned the move, terming the order an attack on federalism. According to the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, policing is a State subject. However, according to the BSF Act, 1968, passed by Parliament and the rules framed in 1969, the BSF has been assigned three primary tasks while deployed along the borders – promote a sense of security among the people living in the border area; prevent trans-border crimes/unauthorised entry into or exit from the territory of India and prevent smuggling and any other illegal activity.

In border areas, the BSF can "arrest, search and seize" in cases pertaining to smuggling of narcotics, prohibited items, illegal entry of foreigners and offences punishable under any other Central Act and select provisions



ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

The BSF does not have policing powers and after apprehending a suspect, it can only conduct "preliminary questioning" and the seized consignment or a suspect have to be handed over to the local police within 24 hours. Such powers under CrPC are already available to other central forces such as the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). The ITBP (raised to protect the China border) and the SSB (for Bhutan and Nepal border) are also border guarding forces but can be deployed in the hinterland at the request of State governments.

In 2011, the Congress-led UPA government proposed legislation to grant similar powers to the BSF across the country, but the Bill was not passed. In 2012, Narendra Modi as Gujarat's Chief Minister had written to the then Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, opposing the Centre's proposed move.

Over the years, the BSF's role expanded and it was also deployed in areas affected

by Left-wing extremism (LWE), for law and order situation and on election duty. The October 11 notification replaces a 2014 notification under the BSF Act, 1968, which also empowered the BSF to conduct counter-insurgency operations in the States of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Territorial limit

"The BSF does not have any investigating powers. Say, if a drone has been spotted near the Punjab border and has to be tracked beyond the 15 km limit, the present notification gives us a legal teeth to conduct the searches in nearby areas and not be constrained by territorial limit. We anyway alert all the agencies and the local police," said a senior BSF official.

The recent order only enhances the BSF's "territorial jurisdiction", said the official, giving the force an opportunity to also conduct independent searches. "But the FIR and investigation has to be done by the local police and concerned agency only, we have no such powers. The 50-km limit is being imple-

mented to enforce uniformity," the official added.

Further explaining the order, the official said it would remove any confusion as the territorial limit was 15 km, 50 km and 80 km in different States. "In case of northeast States, except Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, the BSF's jurisdiction was already there in the whole of the other five States. Even the Central Acts and CrPC, where the BSF is empowered to act, there are certain specified sections. There is no change in the sections and the Act, this notification has only increased the territorial jurisdiction."

After the Kargil war, a committee on internal security headed by retired IAS officer N.N. Vohra recommended that all internal security duties should be dealt by one force, which led to the gradual withdrawal of the BSF from Kashmir Valley. The BSF has a thin presence in the interiors of J&K now. Its primary responsibility is guarding the 192-km international border in Jammu and a few kilometres along the LoC that is protected by the Army. The force's rise has not come without controversies.

It has faced allegations of civilian killings and human rights violations. In 1993, BSF personnel opened fire at a procession at Bijbehara in South Kashmir, killing 43 people.

In 2011, Felani Khatun, a 15-year-old girl from Bangladesh, was shot dead by BSF soldiers while she was entering Bangladesh from Cooch Behar district of West Bengal. Photographs of the teenager's body that remained hanging on the barbed wire fence for several hours before being brought down created a huge public outcry in Bangladesh. This led to a policy change and the BSF was asked to use non-lethal weapons along the densely populated Bangladesh border. BSF officials later complained that they often came under violent attack by cattle smugglers active along the West Bengal border and the non-lethal weapon policy was an impediment to their operational capabilities. That issue remains unsettled. But now, with enhanced territorial limits in States, the border agency is set to expand its operations, especially at a time when the borders remain tumultuous.

NAJIB MIKATI

The billionaire Prime Minister

With sectarian clashes returning to Beirut, Lebanon PM has one more problem

STANLEY JOHNS

On October 14, Hezbollah, the powerful Shia political party-cum-militia, took out a demonstration in the Lebanese capital against the judge leading the probe into the August 2020 Beirut blast. Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader, had termed the probe "political" that has "nothing to do with justice and truth". The rally, Hezbollah later claimed, came under sniper attack from the city's Christian quarters. In the ensuing clashes, which revived the memories of the country's brutal civil war of the 1980s, six people were killed and more than 30 others were injured.

Prime Minister Najib Mikati, who formed his government just weeks earlier, apologised to the public for the clashes and said the security situation had improved after the Army had been deployed. But the incident also showed the challenges he is facing as Prime Minister at a time when his focus is on addressing Lebanon's economic woes.

Mr. Mikati was invited by the President to form the government in July after two PMs-designate failed to win enough support in Parliament. The country had plunged into a political crisis after Prime Minister Hassan Diab announced his resignation in August last year following the blast. The Lebanese had to wait for more than a year to get another



government, thanks to the country's confessional political system in which sectarian blocs and leaders hold political sway. According to the Lebanese Constitution, the PM should be a Sunni, the President a Christian and the Speaker a Shia.

Deep connections

Mr. Mikati, a self-made billionaire, was a two-time Prime Minister with deep connections with Lebanon's political elite as well as the Assad regime in neighbouring Syria. According to *Forbes*, he has a net worth of \$2.9 billion. In 1982, Mikati co-founded Investcom with his billionaire brother Taha Mikati, which was selling satellite phones at the height of Lebanon's civil war. Later, Investcom made billions from its businesses in Africa where the company built cellphone towers. In 2005, South Africa's MTN bought the Mikati brothers' stake in Investcom for \$3.6 billion. By that time, Najib Mikati

had become an influential member of Lebanon's political elite. His political career started in 1998 when he was appointed the Public Works and Transport Minister. Two years later, he would be elected to the Lebanese Parliament for the first time from Tripoli, a seat he has held continuously except from 2005 to 2009.

In 2005, when the country was still struggling to come out of the political crisis triggered by the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, Mr. Mikati emerged as a consensus candidate as Acting Prime Minister, after Omar Karami's resignation. He would hold that post for a few months. But his real stint at the top of the Government would come six years later. In January 2011, Mikati formed his Cabinet as the candidate of the March 8 alliance of Hezbollah, Christian politician Michel Aoun (currently Lebanon's President) and Druze leader Wa-

lid Kamal Jumblatt. The alliance wanted to keep the bloc of Saad Hariri, Rafiq Hariri's son who was backed by Saudi Arabia, out of power. Mr. Mikati emerged the favourite of the Shia-Sunni-Christian-Druze coalition. But the government would unravel within two years as he would fall out with his Hezbollah allies.

This time, Mr. Mikati says he has formed a technocratic government and his focus would be on addressing Lebanon's economic crisis. The Mediterranean country, which was once called 'the Paris of the East', is facing a once in a generation crisis. Even before the blast, the Lebanese economy was facing a steep contraction. It dates back to the 2019 financial meltdown, which saw the country defaulting on its bonds for the first time since its Independence in 1943. According to the World Bank, Lebanon's GDP contracted by 40% between 2018 and 2020, pulling the country into one of the top three economic crises in the world in the past 150 years. Foreign reserves have plunged from \$38 billion in 2019 to \$15 billion this year. At home, many Lebanese receive just two hours of electricity, and the country is also facing an acute fuel shortage.

Resolving these issues itself would take years and Mr. Mikati would like at least to start the process. But then comes sectarian violence, which has made his task even more difficult.

AJAY KUMAR MISHRA

Father, son and a protest

The Minister is under pressure after his son was arrested over U.P. violence

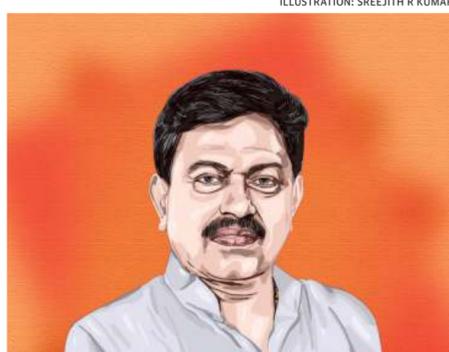
OMAR RASHID

When Ajay Kumar Mishra 'Teni', MP for the Kheri constituency in Uttar Pradesh, was inducted into the Union Council of Ministers in July, he was relatively unknown outside his close political circles.

A Brahmin, Mr. Mishra was the only MP from the non-OBC and non-Dalit communities to feature among the seven inductees into the government from Uttar Pradesh. The Assembly elections are due in the State in early 2022, and the surprise induction of Mr. Mishra was seen as attempt by the BJP to reach out to the disgruntled Brahmins, the core support and ideological base of the party. In three months, however, Mr. Mishra would be at the centre of a political storm in the State.

Mr. Mishra's clout runs deep in parts of Lakhimpur Kheri, the largest district in U.P., located in the green belt of Terai close to the India-Nepal border, also known as the sugar bowl. On October 3, three cars from Mr. Mishra's convoy ran over a group of farmers peacefully protesting against the visit of Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya in Tikonka.

The protest was fuelled by Mr. Mishra's provocative remarks a few days earlier, when he threatened to evict the farmers from the district. Four farmers and a local journalist were killed



and several others injured. Three BJP workers, including a driver, were also killed in the clashes that followed. Ashish Mishra, alias Monu, Minister Mishra's son, was accused of being in the car leading the carnage and was arrested later. Before the media, father and son have claimed innocence in the murder case, and said Monu was not even at the site of the incident. They said he was in their ancestral village Banveerpur, supervising the annual wrestling event held in the memory of Mr. Mishra's father Ambika Prasad.

Power-lifting and wrestling are among Mr. Mishra's hobbies. According to a local source who was associated with the RSS, Ambika Prasad, who had moved to Lakhimpur from Kanpur, earned goodwill in the village initially by lending money and utensils for marriages and other events.

Born in 1960, Mr. Mishra has an LL.B. degree from

Kanpur and, apart from owning farming land, runs a rice mill. People of Tikonka alleged that during his early years, his family was associated with illegal smuggling of the Khair tree, which was once found in abundance in the region, sandalwood and foodgrains. Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait had recently referred to these allegations.

Political career

Mr. Mishra's political career has seen a constant upward trajectory, though his early days in public life were shadowed by allegations of a murder of a political rival. Mr. Mishra first won the Lok Sabha election in 2014 when the BJP under Narendra Modi's leadership won a landslide. He ended the long streak of Kurmi (OBC) domination in Kheri, becoming the first Brahmin to win the constituency.

Before contesting for Parliament, he was an MLA

from Nighasan (2012). He was mentored by former MLA Ram Kumar Verma. In 2019, Mr. Mishra improved his margin, defeating the SP-BSP combine by almost 20% votes. From 2000 to 2005, Mr. Mishra served as the vice-president of the district cooperative bank. It was during this time that he was accused of shooting dead a Samajwadi Party youth worker, Prabhat Gupta, in 2000.

A local sessions court, in March 2004, acquitted Mr. Mishra and three others in the case, but a criminal appeal filed by Prabhat's brother Rajeew Gupta is pending before the Allahabad High Court. The last hearing was in February 2019. From 2005 to 2010, Mr. Mishra was a member of the Kheri Zilla Panchayat.

On September 25, while warning protesting farmers to "mend themselves" or else he would not take more than two minutes to mend them himself, Mr. Mishra had also reminded them of his past record before he was elected a public representative. He asserted that he did "not run away from any challenge".

However, the Tikonka incident, which has led to demands for his dismissal from the Union government, has mounted pressure on the Minister. On October 5, he dismissed all allegations, regarding his past. "All cases against me had concluded in my favour," he said, describing the cases as "fake".

Fuel-efficient cars to gain traction: report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

With fuel prices going up by 35% over the past 15 months thereby impacting overall vehicle running costs, cars that have higher fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs are expected to gain higher traction among buyers in India, especially in the sub-₹10 lakh category, according to a report.

Considering the fact that 70% of the passenger-vehicle market in India is still accounted for by vehicles costing less than ₹10 lakh, the development augurs well for market leader Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL), said the report by HSBC Global Research.

MSIL has about 65% market share in the less-than-₹10 lakh price category, it added.

D-Mart Q2 net surges twofold to ₹418 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Avenue Supermarts Ltd., which owns and operates the retail chain D-Mart, on Saturday reported a twofold increase in consolidated net profit to ₹417.76 crore for the second quarter ended September.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹198.53 crore in the July-September quarter a year earlier, Avenue Supermarts said in a filing. Revenue from operations rose 46.8% to ₹7,788.94 crore during the quarter under review.

"Total revenue for HIFY22 stood at ₹12,972 crore, as compared with ₹9,189 crore in the same period last year," it said.

As of September 30, D-Mart had 246 stores.

HDFC Bank Q2 net profit increases 18%, provisions climb

'Disruptions post outbreak hit loan origination, collections; client defaults rise'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

HDFC Bank on Saturday reported an 18% increase in consolidated net profit at ₹9,096 crore for the second quarter ended September, even as there is a marginal increase in bad loans.

Total consolidated income rose to ₹41,436.36 crore from ₹38,438.47 crore, HDFC Bank said in a statement.

Consolidated advances grew 14.7% to ₹12,49,331 crore. Net interest income grew 12.1% to ₹17,684.4 crore.

Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) rose to 1.35% of gross advances compared with 1.08% a year earlier.

In absolute value, gross NPAs or bad loans increased



Casting shadow: Fear, as well as curbs, led to financial market volatility and hit economic activity, says the bank. • VIJAY SOJELI

to ₹16,346.07 crore from ₹11,304.60 crore at the end of the corresponding period of the last financial year due to the impact of the pandemic.

Net NPAs rose to 0.4% (₹4,755.09 crore) from 0.17% (₹1,756.08 crore). Provision-

ing for bad loans and contingencies rose to ₹3,924.66 crore ₹3,703.50 crore).

The fear of the pandemic as well as restrictions on business and individual activities had led to significant volatility in global and Indian financial markets and a sig-

nificant decrease in global and local economic activities, the bank said in the statement.

'Uncertainty continues'

Disruptions following the outbreak have impacted loan originations, the sale of third-party products, the use of credit and debit cards by customers and the efficiency in collection efforts, leading to an increase in customer defaults and consequent increase in provisions, it added.

"The extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact the bank's results will depend on ongoing as well as future developments, which are uncertain," it said.

Export of gems, jewellery rose 30% in Sept.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Gems and jewellery exports rose by 29.67% to ₹23,259.55 crore in September compared with ₹17,936.86 crore in the year-earlier month, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

In September 2019, the shipments were worth ₹23,491.20 crore.

For April-September, the shipments surged by 134.55% to ₹1,40,412.94 crore compared with the same period in 2020, GJEPC said.

"With ₹140,412.94 crore (\$18.98 billion) exports [in] April-September, the sector has... achieved nearly half (46%) of the \$41.66 billion exports target set by the government for the sector" chairman Colin Shah said.

Climate finance, tech transfer norms not defined: FM

'Unable to track rich nations' payouts'

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Questions around how the \$100 billion per year commitment towards climate finance will be measured, and related technology transfer accounted for, remain unanswered, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said at the conclusion of the Washington DC leg of her U.S. visit.

The Minister - who is in the city for the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings, bilateral dialogues with the U.S. and meetings with other countries, as well as the private sector - has repeatedly raised or discussed the issue of climate finance obligations in several meetings, as per statements and readouts.

"We actually don't know if there were any measures given to measure if money spent on a particular project by somebody will be part of that \$100 billion, or what," she said in response to a question from *The Hindu* on climate finance during a press conference on Friday evening.

"So what constitutes the \$100 billion? How do we measure if actually \$100 billion has been given or only some amount has been given?" she said.

Developed countries have committed under the Paris Agreement to allocate \$100 billion per year from 2020 onwards to facilitate emission cuts in poorer countries and also to effect technology transfer in this context.

Ms. Sitharaman said a similar issue existed with technology - what constituted designated technology for these purposes and how the transfer is to mea-



Nirmala Sitharaman

sured. "So funding is continuing to be a question of worry for many countries, as much as even the transfer of technology," she said.

In the run up to the month-end U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, India has come under pressure, especially from the U.S. and U.K. to announce more ambitious emission cuts, beyond what came out of its Paris commitments and to provide a deadline by which it will reach 'Net Zero' emissions. India had said, in 2016, that by 2030 it would cut its emissions by a third relative to 2005 levels.

In return, it has argued that developing countries needed space to grow and developed countries must move to a 'Net Minus' paradigm and meet climate finance obligations.

Debt sustainability issue
In response to a question on whether China was discussed in the context of debt sustainability and transparency, Ms. Sitharaman said the topic was discussed but stopped short of mentioning China by name.

"I've definitely raised this issue of looking at sustainable debt funding and it has been in the minds of many countries. So discussions have happened," she said.

Time taken for 5G will raise preparedness: Dell

'India's telecom infra underestimated'

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

India may be taking time to roll out 5G networks, but that would only enhance the country's preparedness for the 5G play, said Saurabh Tewari, director and chief technology officer (telecom), Dell Technologies, India.

"As 5G technology itself evolves very rapidly, this extra time will prepare telecom service providers, technology and equipment players in the country for the launch of mature technologies for a smoother transition, improved subscriber experience and an efficient network strategy and architecture," Mr. Tewari told *The Hindu*.

However, he added, In-



Saurabh Tewari

dia's networks were well prepared for 5G roll-outs.

"India's telecom infrastructure has often been underestimated, the reality is that our networks are world class," Mr. Tewari said.

"The scale that we handle compares with countries such as China whose networks also cater to huge subscriber bases," he added.

Small growers edging out big players, says Tea Association

'Welfare steps making organised sector's output costlier'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Small tea growers are threatening to push estates in the organised sector out of the competition as they are not burdened with welfare responsibilities, the Tea Association of India (TAI) said.

In its paper titled 'Sustainability of tea industry in India,' the TAI said small tea growers, or STGs, are no longer a minority as they produce more than 50% of India's green-leaf output.

An STG is a person who cultivates tea in an area up to 25 acres. There are more than two lakh STGs in Assam and West Bengal.

STGs are not burdened by welfare activities that the or-



ganised estates provide to their labour force, the TAI said.

"This creates a dichotomy in the tea industry, with the estates and the small growers having significantly different costs of production, with different welfare responsibilities; yet they compete with each other."

"The low-cost tea available from small growers un-

dercuts the teas from the organised estates that have a much higher cost of production and more stringent regulations to follow. The organised sector cannot remain sustainable in such a scenario," the TAI said.

The paper said tea production in India increased from 945 million kg in 2005 to 1,255 million kg in 2020, a 33% rise in 15 years.

The production outstripped consumption of tea, leading to stagnant selling prices for tea plantations, the TAI said. Labour costs, that account for 60% of the cost of production for the organised tea estates, has put the estates at a disadvantage, the TAI said.

SPORT

Keymer beats Mendonca

CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Leon Mendonca could not maintain his early lead over second-seeded German Vincent Keymer and eventually fell in the second blitz tie-break game of the quarterfinals of the online \$40,000 Challengers Chess Tour Finals on Friday.

Keymer, who lost the second game and won the third before the four rapid games ended 2-2, went on to carve out a 3.5-2.5 victory over the fighting Indian.

In the semifinals, Keymer faces third seed R. Praggnanandhaa.

The other semifinal will be an all-USA affair when Liang Awonder takes on Christopher Yoo.

Semifinal line-up: Vincent Keymer (Ger) vs R. Praggnanandhaa; Liang Awonder (USA) vs Christopher Yoo (USA).

India triumphs in style

Chhetri draws level with Messi in goals for country

SAFF C'SHIPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MALE (MALDIVES)

India crushed Nepal 3-0 to win its eighth SAFF Championship title after second-half goals from Sunil Chhetri, Suresh Singh and Sahal Abdul Samad in the final here on Saturday.

Chhetri scored in the 49th minute of the match, which put him level with Lionel Messi on 80 international goals, while Suresh Singh doubled the lead in the 50th to pave the way for India's title triumph. Sahal Abdul Samad made it 3-0 when he dribbled past a few defenders in the 90th minute.

Relief for Stimac

This is the Indian football team's first title triumph under head coach Igor Stimac, who has faced criticism in recent times for his side's inability to win enough games.



Mid-field action: Md. Yasir fends off Nepal's Suman Lama during the final on Saturday. • TWITTER/INDIANFOOTBALL

However, when it mattered the most in this edition of the regional tournament, Stimac's players delivered the results the team's fans had been waiting for.

Stimac also became the third foreign coach after Jiri

Pesek (1993) and Stephen Constantine (2015) to clinch the title with the Indian team.

The result: Final: India 3 (Chhetri 49, Suresh Singh 50, Sahal Abdul Samad 90) bt Nepal 0.

Liverpool sizzles against a clueless Watford

Leicester upstages United in a frantic second-half to heap pressure on Solskjaer

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES
WATFORD

Manchester United succumbed to a first away league defeat for 30 games by losing 4-2 at Leicester as Liverpool stormed to the top of the Premier League with a 5-0 demolition of Watford on Saturday.

Manchester City moved into second with a 2-0 win over Burnley.

But the focus will fall on United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after his side failed to win for the third consecutive Premier League game.

United led at the King Power thanks to Mason Greenwood's spectacular strike, but was quickly pegged back by Youri Tielemans' dinked finish beyond David de Gea.

A flurry of four goals in the final 12 minutes then condemned Solskjaer's men to a first defeat on the road since January 2020.

Caglar Soyuncu put Leicester in front before Marcus Rashford equalised.

Straight from kick-off, United's leaky defence was breached once more as Jamie Vardy smashed home and Patson Daka's first Leicester goal in stoppage time sealed a much-needed win for Brendan Rodgers' men.

Roberto Firmino scored his first hat-trick since 2018 as Liverpool ran riot at Vicarage Road in Claudio Ranieri's first match as Watford boss.

But it was Mohamed Salah, who again took most of the plaudits for another stunning solo goal to take his tally for the season to 10 in as many games.

Wolves produced a miraculous comeback from 2-0 down with 10 minutes remaining to win 3-2 at Aston Villa.

The results: Premier League: Watford 0 lost to Liverpool 5 (Mane 9, Firmino 37, 52, 90, Salah 54); Aston Villa 2 (Ings 48, McGinn 68) lost to Wolves 3 (Saiss 80, Coody 85, Neves 90+5); Leicester 4 (Tielemans 31, Soyuncu 78, Vardy 83, Daka 90) bt Manchester United 2 (Greenwood 19, Rashford 82); Manchester City 2 (Silva 12, De Bruyne 70) bt Burnley 0; Norwich 0 drew with Brighton 0; Southampton 1 (Broja 53) bt Leeds 0.

Serie A: Spezia 2 (Strelec 51, Kovalenko 76) bt Salernitana 1 (Simy 39).

Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 3 (Reus 3, Haaland 54-pen, 90+4) bt Mainz 1 (Burdardt 87); Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Paciencia 78-pen) lost to Hertha Berlin 2 (Richter 7, Ekkelenkamp 63); Union Berlin 2 (Awo-niyi 49, Becker 83) bt Wolfsburg 0; Freiburg 1 (Jeong 64) drew with RB Leipzig 1 (Forsberg 32); Greuther Fuerth 0 lost to Bochum 1 (Losilla 80).

On Friday: Bundesliga: Hoffenheim 5 (Bebou 31, 49, Baumgartner 51, Geiger 74, Posch 87) bt Cologne 0.



Gung ho: Caglar Soyuncu celebrates after putting Leicester in front against Manchester United. • REUTERS

Xfinity should score in feature event

HYDERABAD: Trinity Anant Vatsalya's Xfinity should score over his rivals in the S. Malakonda Reddy Memorial Cup, the feature event of Sunday's (Oct. 17) races.

1 GOODWOOD PLATE (Div. I) (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) - 12:45 p.m.: 1. Arrowtown (1) Md. Ismail 56, 2. Grand Duke (4) C.P. Bopanna 56, 3. Magic Mark (2) B. Nikhil 56, 4. Syc Ra (9) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 5. Amalfitana (8) Nakhat Singh 54.5, 6. Archangels (7) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 7. Golden Amaris (10) Kuldeep 54.5, 8. Goldrun (6) Aneel 54.5, 9. N R I Sugar (11) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 10. Racing Rani (3) Afroz Khan 54.5 and 11. Siri (5) B.R. Kumar 54.5.

1. N R I SUGAR, 2. ARCHANGELS, 3. AMALFITANA

2 INDIAN NAVY ROLLING CHALLENGE TROPHY (1,400m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) - 1:15: 1. Strategist (4) Nakhat Singh 60, 2. British Express (11) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 3. Dandy Man (5) Ashad Asbar 57, 4. Full Volume (8) Ajit Singh 56.5, 5. N R I Elegance

(3) Gaurav Singh 56, 6. Private Empire (2) Koushik 56, 7. Lockhart (9) Ajeeth Kumar 54, 8. City Of Wisdom (7) Mukesh Kumar 53, 9. The Special One (12) Abhay Singh 52.5, 10. Once More (1) B.R. Kumar 52, 11. Angel Tesoro (6) G. Narath 51 and 12. Rapid Fire (10) Surya Prakash 51.

1. STRATEGIST, 2. BRITISH EXPRESS, 3. DANDY MAN

3 HALLMARK PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) - 1:45: 1. Due Diligence (4) Surya Prakash 60, 2. Good Connection (7) Gaurav Singh 60, 3. N R I Sport (5) Mukesh Kumar 58.5, 4. Flying Jet (8) Afroz Khan 57, 5. Moonlight Ruby (10) Kuldeep Singh 57, 6. Top Diamond (9) Akshay Kumar 56, 7. Top In Class (1) A.A. Vikrant 54, 8. N R I Blue (3) B. Nikhil 53, 9. Exponent (6) B.R. Kumar 51 and 10. Hurricane (2) Abhay Singh 51.

1. DUE DILIGENCE, 2. GOOD CONNECTION, 3. TOP DIAMOND

4 BLUE MAX PLATE (1,600m) 20 to 45 (Cat. III) - 2:15: 1. Star Dancer (5) Kiran Naidu 60, 2.

Grand Finale (9) Deepak Singh 57, 3. N R I Touch (7) Akshay Kumar 57, 4. Nightmare (2) Mukesh Kumar 57, 5. Ashwa Sultan (6) Ajit Singh 56.5, 6. Special Effort (1) Nakhat Singh 56.5, 7. Reining Queen (8) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 8. Paladino (4) N.B. Kuldeep 55.5 and 9. Starwalt (3) Khurshad Alam 54.5.

1. N R I TOUCH, 2. STAR DANCER, 3. SPECIAL EFFORT

5 FLORINA PLATE (1,600m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) - 2:45: 1. Star Racer (7) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. N R I Heights (4) Rohit Kumar 59, 3. Blicckfang (5) Afroz Khan 57.5, 4. Miss Marvellous (9) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 5. Dunkirk (6) Nakhat Singh 56.5, 6. Sun Dancer (2) N.B. Kuldeep 56.5, 7. Call Of The Blue (3) Gaurav Singh 56, 8. Sheldon (8) G. Narath 54 and 9. Story Teller (1) R.S. Jodha 53.5.

1. MISS MARVELLOUS, 2. SHELDON, 3. STAR RACER

6 S. MALAKONDA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) - 3:15: 1. Sporting Smile (6) C.P. Bopanna 60, 2. Xfinity (9) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Cos-

mic Run (5) Kiran Naidu 59, 4. Mystery (2) G. Narath 58.5, 5. N R I Vision (10) Koushik 58, 6. City Of Bliss (3) Mukesh Kumar 57.5, 7. Kingston (7) Nakhat Singh 56.5, 8. Amyra (8) Ashad Asbar 56, 9. Shaquille (4) Gaurav Singh 56 and 10. Jean Lafette (1) R. Ajinkya 55.5.

1. XFINITY, 2. KINGSTON, 3. AMYRA

7 GOODWOOD PLATE (Div. II) (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) - 3:45: 1. Cash Register (3) Ashad Asbar 56, 2. I Am Superman (1) Rafique Sk. 56, 3. Pacific Command (9) Akshay Kumar 56, 4. Tales Of A Legend (2) A.A. Vikrant 56, 6. Good Tidings (7) Md. Ismail 54.5, 7. Isra (6) Aneel 54.5, 8. Kimberley (10) S.S. Tanwar 54.5, 9. Ostantations (8) Afroz Khan 54.5 and 10. Silk (5) Mukesh Kumar 54.5.

1. CASH REGISTER, 2. PACIFIC COMMAND, 3. KIMBERLEY

Day's Best: MISS MARVELLOUS
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7
Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Trebble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 5, 6 & 7.
Tanala: All races.



Wonder goal: Mohamed Salah caps off a goalless run past Watford's defence for Liverpool's fourth. • REUTERS

Super Kings' redemption and the new heroes

The team had a man for every occasion; Venkatesh, with his bold methods, made a huge impression for Knight Riders

IPL 2021

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI
Great teams have a sense of occasion. Chennai Super Kings has that.

The manner in which CSK effortlessly lifted its game in the IPL final against Kolkata Knight Riders underlined its killer instinct.

These are glory days for CSK, with its talismanic skipper M.S. Dhoni orchestrating a remarkable recovery from last season's debacle.

Finger on the pulse

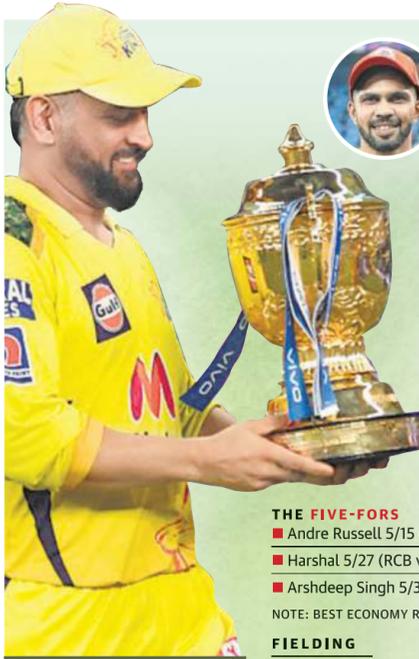
Few cricketers understand the dynamics of T20 cricket like Dhoni does. He has his finger on the pulse of the game, comprehends the ebb and the flow, and gives cricketers the freedom to express themselves.

'Captain Cool' should be available for CSK for at least one more season. The BCCI is likely to allow two Indians and two foreigners or three Indians and an overseas player per franchise as its retention policy.

With the mega auction consisting of two additional teams coming up in January, CSK will also rebuild for the future as Dhoni hinted.

CSK was not short of champions in this edition. The ethereal Rituraj Gaikwad, so light on his feet, tormented the bowlers at the top of the order with strokes of rare beauty, charm and timing to bag the Orange Cap with 635 runs.

His opening partner du Plessis, ageless and versatile, disrupted the attack with bold strokeplay, to finish just two runs short of Rituraj with 633.



TOP RUN-SCORERS

BATTING	M	R	HS	SR	50s/100s
Rituraj Gaikwad (CSK)	16	635	101 n.o.	136.26	4/1
Faf du Plessis (CSK)	16	633	95 n.o.	138.20	6/0
K.L. Rahul (PBKS)	13	626	98 n.o.	138.80	6/0

THE 100-CLUB

- Jos Buttler 124 (RR vs SRH, Delhi)
- Sanju Samson 119 (RR vs PBKS, Mumbai)
- Devdutt Padikkal 101 n.o. (RCB vs RR, Mumbai)
- Rituraj 101 n.o. (CSK vs RR, Abu Dhabi)

Best strike rate:

Prithvi Shaw (159.13 - 479 runs, 301 balls, 15 inns), DC

Most sixes:

K.L. Rahul (30)

Longest six:

Rituraj (108m)

NOTE: BEST STRIKE RATE (MIN. 200 BALLS)

TOP WICKET-TAKERS

BOWLING	M	W	BBI	Econ	4W/5W
Harshal Patel (RCB)	15	32	5/27	8.14	1/1
Avesh Khan (DC)	16	24	3/13	7.37	0/0
Jasprit Bumrah (MI)	14	21	3/36	7.45	0/0
Shardul Thakur (CSK)	16	21	3/28	8.80	0/0

THE FIVE-FORS

- Andre Russell 5/15 (KKR vs MI, Chennai)
- Harshal 5/27 (RCB vs MI, Chennai)
- Arshdeep Singh 5/32 (PBKS vs RR, Dubai)

Best economy rate:

Ravi Bishnoi (6.38 - 36 overs, 230 runs conceded, 9 innings), PBKS

Hat-trick:

Harshal (RCB vs MI, Dubai)

Fastest ball:

Lockie Ferguson (153.63 kmph), KKR

FIELDING



Most catches (fielder):

Ravindra Jadeja (13), CSK

Most dismissals (wicketkeeper):

M.S. Dhoni (13 - Ct 13), CSK



Rishabh Pant

(13 - Ct 10, St 3), DC

DOT BALL CHART

	Balls delivered	Dot balls	Dot ball %	Economy rate
Avesh Khan (DC)	366	156	42.62	7.37
Varun Chakravarty (KKR)	408	149	36.51	6.58
Mohammed Siraj (RCB)	312	147	47.11	6.78
Mohammed Shami (PBKS)	316	145	45.88	7.50

2 Uthappa

(KKR, 2014) and Rituraj (CSK, 2021) have the distinction of winning the Orange Cap and the IPL crown in the same edition

4 Fleming's titles

as CSK coach. MI's Jayawardene has 3

24 Rituraj

is the youngest player to bag the Orange Cap. Rituraj was 24y 257d when he won the Cap. Shaun Marsh (KXIP) was 24y 328d when he bagged the Cap in 2008

32 Harshal

equals Bravo's record for most wickets in a season. The RCB bowler played 15 matches while

40 Dhoni

is the oldest skipper to lift the IPL trophy. Warne was 38 when he won in 2008 with RR

SOURCE:

ESPNCRICKINFO AND IPL20.COM

COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD | GRAPHIC: KARTHICK S.T.

It's rewind time

The highlights of IPL 2021 which took place in India and the UAE

HIGHEST TOTAL

MI 235/9

vs SRH, ABU DHABI

Result: MI won by 42 runs.

LOWEST TOTAL

RR 85

vs KKR, SHARJAH.

Result: KKR won by 86 runs

Solid platform

Well begun is half done they say, and Rituraj and du Plessis built a solid platform for

CSK. A stage from which others could fire.

Robin Uthappa's blitzkriegs in Qualifier 1 and the

final were game-changing efforts.

Uthappa added muscle to the CSK line-up, batted with

refreshing freedom, hit sixes at will.

Same with the smooth-stroking Moeen Ali. The left-

hander, such a sweet timer of the ball, hit long balls.

The CSK bowling attack, boasting of the accuracy and

'Venkatesh a big catalyst for our turnaround'

ASHWIN ACHAL

Kolkata Knight Riders head coach Brendon McCullum credited opening batter Venkatesh Iyer for being the catalyst for the side's turnaround from a poor start to its IPL campaign.

"Venkatesh is an intelligent man with an enormous future. He was a big catalyst for our turnaround this season," McCullum stated in the post-match media conference.

"It was a matter of bringing the Venkatesh Iyer game plan to the table - which is aggressive intent. He plays the game with a cavalier streak. It's very important that he sticks to this method. He will be challenged to change, because he might not be the most consistent batter due to his flamboyance. But I hope he remains the Venkatesh Iyer we've seen so far," McCullum said.

On not picking Andre Russell in the playing XI, McCullum said, "Andre had a hamstring tear earlier in the competition. He worked unbelievably hard to try and



Venkatesh. ■ SPORTSPICS/IPL

get himself available. But there was still a risk there; a risk I felt we couldn't afford to take in a final."

He sympathised with KKR skipper Eoin Morgan, who struggled for form with the bat. "It was a unique situation. Morgan captained KKR as well as any captain I've seen. We tried to slot him in a batting position where he has been so successful - in the last five overs of the innings. Unfortunately, the runs weren't there for him."

Our ultimate goal is to win the World Cup: Kohli

'What we have been able to create in the last five-six years is beyond titles and tournaments'

AMOL KARHADKAR

Ravi Shastri is moving on as the India head coach. Rahul Dravid could come in his place. And Virat Kohli has announced he will give up T20I captaincy at the end of the T20 World Cup. India couldn't have asked for more transition from the Indian Premier League going into the prestigious global event.

Ticking the empty box

Feigning ignorance about the developments on the coaching staff front, captain Kohli minced no words about the desire to tick the empty box of an ICC Trophy that's missing from his otherwise enviable combination with Shastri as the head coach.

"Look, our ultimate goal is to win the World Cup. Honestly, I have no idea exactly what's happening on that front yet. We haven't had any detailed discussions with anyone yet. But winning the World Cup is definitely our goal is like any other team. But what we have been able to create in the last five-six years is beyond titles and tournaments, to be honest,"



Extra motivation: Virat Kohli will be desperate to win the T20 World Cup before stepping down as India captain in the shortest format. ■ SPORTSPICS/BCCI

Kohli said on Saturday, a day before the T20 World Cup qualifiers begin in Muscat.

"We've been able to create a culture which is going to be lasting a long time... And

we've driven that culture with utmost passion and honesty, which we hope will continue to be the case in years to come. Winning an ICC tournament will definite-

We are quite confident heading into the World Cup knowing that we have a strong side

ly be a wonderful moment for all of us, for him as coach, for me as captain. It'll be an amazing achievement and something that we're obviously motivated for and we'll give everything we have."

Stressing that India made it to the final and the semifinals in the last two T20 World Cup editions in 2014 and 2016, respectively, Kohli hoped India can go one step further next month.

"We have beaten prominent teams in T20 series in the recent past in very close contests, so we are quite confident heading into the World Cup knowing that we have a strong side," Kohli said. "Potentially we could go deep in the tournament and if we end up being in the knockout stage, maybe go one step further this time."

Kohli added M.S. Dhoni's new role as mentor will be of a lot of help "especially for

the younger guys". Terming Dhoni as someone "who has always been a mentor for all of us", Kohli hoped the younger generation can pick up cues from Dhoni's wealth of experience.

"Conversations with him around the game, such practical inputs, such intricate details of where the game's going and how we can improve our game by that 1 or 2 per cent which always makes the difference when he is in the leadership role in any team," Kohli said.

Ashwin's return

The T20 World Cup will also mark R. Ashwin's return to India's limited-overs side after four years. "Ashwin has been rewarded for reviving his skills altogether. He was a regular for us back in the day, then he fell off a little bit because the wrist spinners were in demand mostly in that middle period," Kohli said.

"But now the finger spinners with accuracy have come back into the game, so we also have to evolve as a team with the evolving trend."

Bangladesh starts favourite

T20 WC QUALIFIERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AL AMERAT (OMAN)

Bangladesh will start favourite as it opens its T20 World Cup campaign against Scotland here on Sunday.

Bangladesh has been drawn alongside Scotland, Oman and Papua New Guinea in the first round, and going by recent form is expected to top Group B and qualify for the Super 12 stage.

Bangladesh comes into the tournament on the back of nine T20I wins, only behind South Africa which has 12.

Skipper Mahmudullah is a seasoned campaigner, while the likes of all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, coming off some good performances for Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL, Mushfiqur Rahim, Soumya Sarkar and pacer Mustafizur Rahman are the key players for Bangladesh.

Mustafizur will lead the bowling attack that also has Shamim Hossain, Shoriful Islam and spinner Nasum Ahmed apart from Shakib.

Dravid favourite to take over from Shastri as India head coach

AMOL KARHADKAR MUMBAI

Former India captain Rahul Dravid has emerged as frontrunner to replace Ravi Shastri as India men's head coach after the latter's tenure expires at the end of the T20 World Cup next month.

The Hindu understands that Dravid, who is at the helm of cricket activities at the National Cricket Academy in his hometown Bengaluru, has agreed to throw his hat in the ring once the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) initiates the process to appoint the head coach.

Various BCCI dispensations over the last six years have tried in vain to per-

suaude Dravid into taking charge of the senior team. However, Dravid has preferred to concentrate on the developmental aspect, looking after the NCA, India-A and Under-19 boys.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah seem to have managed to make it happen this time around. It is understood that during the course of multiple discussions over the last week - telephonic, video-conferencing followed by a meeting in person in Dubai on Friday - the BCCI hierarchy managed to convince Dravid to take over as the head coach at least till the 2023 World Cup.

While Dravid is under-



In the hot seat: Dravid is the front-runner for the top job.

stood to have ended the long meeting on Friday on an affirmative note, the BCCI hopes Dravid will eventually formally apply once it invites

applications for the four coaching staff positions that will fall vacant next month. The BCCI bosses have hence heaved a sigh of relief

after several top coaches - Indian and overseas - had turned down recent approaches. The BCCI is expected to initiate the process next week for appointing the head coach, batting coach, bowling coach and fielding coach. While the Cricket Advisory Committee, which also has a vacancy with Madan Lal having crossed the prescribed age-limit of 70 years, is supposed to appoint the head coach, the national selection committee has to finalise the support staff members.

Should Dravid actually enter the fray, Paras Mhambrey - who has been his trusted ally with the Under-19 boys and India-A outfits over the

last four years - will be the favourite to take over as bowling coach from B. Arun.

The duo had accompanied India's limited-overs squad on its tour of Sri Lanka in July. Vikram Rathour, who came in place of Sanjay Bangar in 2019 as batting coach, is likely to retain his position.

Need for reboot

Interestingly, Dravid and Mhambrey, after their recent reappointments at the NCA, were expected to groom the boys' and girls' squads for next year's Under-19 World Cups. Should both of them be elevated to the senior men's squad, the NCA coaching system will also need to be rebooted.

Saurashtra cricketer Barot passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AHMEDABAD

Saurashtra batter Avi Barot, a former India Under-19 captain and a member of the Ranji Trophy winning team in the 2019-20 season, has died after suffering a cardiac arrest at the young age of 29.

Barot, who also represented Haryana and Gujarat in his career, died on Friday while being taken to hospital after he felt unwell at his home in Ahmedabad. He is survived by his mother and wife, who is expecting their first child.

Barot, a wicketkeeper-batsman, played 38 First



Avi Barot. ■ FILE PHOTO

Class matches (1,547 runs), 38 List-A matches (1,030) and 20 domestic T20 games (717).

Kashish wins, joins Binny's Brigade

Runner-up Prerna will represent Chennai Stallions

TPL

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Kashish Bhatia won the women's event at the Talent Day and will join Yuki Bhambri, Manish Sureshkumar and Peangtarn Plipuech in Delhi Binny's Brigade for the third edition of the Tennis Premier League to be staged at the Celebration Club, Andheri, from Dec. 9 to 14.

The runner-up of the event, Prerna Bhambri, will join Chennai Stallions which has Samantha Murray Sharan as the other woman player.

Live TV coverage

All the leading Indian men's and women's players will be part of the eight-team league which is scheduled to have live television coverage.

More players will be added through the Talent Day competition to ensure five men's and women's players in each team.

"We are excited to have international players this year. The intention is to make tennis win and we are extreme-



Acting the event: Aditya Khanna, Yuki Bhambri, Nandan Bal, Ankita Bhambri and Zeeshan Ali, members of the Tennis Premier League. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ly grateful to the AITA and the MSLTA for their unconditional support," said the founder of the event, Kunal Thakkar, in a press conference here on Saturday.

"We are thankful to all our owners and sponsors. We intend to make the league one of its kind in India. The live telecast of all matches will be something very exciting for Indian tennis players and fans, said Mrunal Jain, co-

founder of the league.

Yuki, Ankita Bhambri, Nandan Bal, Zeeshan Ali, Rohit Rajpal and Aditya Khanna were also present in the media interaction.

The teams: Mumbai Leon Army: Ramkumar Ramanathan, Niki Poonacha, Sofia Shapatava.

Delhi Binny's Brigade: Yuki Bhambri, Manish Sureshkumar, Peangtarn Plipuech.

Chennai Stallions: Purav Raja, Sidharth Rawat, Samantha

Murray Sharan.

Bengaluru Spartans: Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, Sriram Balaji, Sabina Sharipova.

Hyderabad Strikers: Arjun Kadhe, Vishnu Vardhan, Ankita Raina.

Rajasthan Tigers: Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Aryan Goveas, Diana Marcinkevica.

Gujarat Panthers: Divij Sharan, Vijay Sundar Prashant, Valeriya Strakhova.

Pune Jaguars: Saketh Myneni, Ishaque Iqbal, Rutuja Bhosale.

IN BRIEF



Medvedev to miss Kremlin Cup

PARIS
US Open champion Daniil Medvedev joined fellow New York Grand Slam title winner Emma Raducanu in withdrawing from the Kremlin Cup in Moscow on Friday. Medvedev said: "My body is not 100% ready". The World No. 2 Russian lost in the fourth round of the Indian Wells Masters to Grigor Dimitrov this week. AFP

Saketh loses in doubles semifinals

DOHA
Saketh Myneni and Patrik Niklas-Salminen of Finland, the No. 1 seed, was beaten 6-3, 7-5 by Julian Cash and Christian Sigsgaard in the doubles semifinals of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament here.

Nazir Hoosein Memorial drive launched

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Team Firefox on Saturday officially launched the Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive (NHMD), a non-competitive event that will track the original route of the Himalayan Rally (1981 edition) from November 8.

The drive is organised in memory of Nazir Hoosein, founder of the Indian Automotive Racing Club (IARC) and former president of the Federation of MotorSport Clubs of India (FMSCI) (1984-85).

While his pioneering administrative work paved the way for many motorsport enthusiasts in the country, Hoosein is perhaps most fondly remembered for founding the Himalayan Rally.

NHMD will follow the original route from the 1981 edition, with a 100-car field kicking off from Greater Noi-



Nazir Hoosein.

da on November 8. The first stop will be Lansdowne (8th), followed by Mussoorie (9th) and Kufri (10th). On the 11th, drivers will tackle the iconic route of the original rally – the Jalori Pass before halting in Manali. The final day will see participants cross over the Roh-tang pass before concluding the drive in Manali.

"Once we saw things opening up, some of us decided that we should do a drive, something to hark back the good times," said former secretary-general of FMSCI Rajan Syal.

TV PICKS

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m. & 9 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Double for Yashaswini

SPORTS BUREAU
MUSCAT

India won four of the five titles at stake in the girls' section of the WTT Youth Contender Muscat here. Yashaswini Deepak Ghorpade (u-19 & u-17), Suhana Saini (u-15), and M. R. Hansini (u-13) emerged triumphant.

The results (finals):
Girls: u-19: Yashaswini Deepak Ghorpade bt Markhabo Magdieva (Uzb) 11-6, 11-8, 11-4; **u-17:** Yashaswini Deepak Ghorpade bt Markhabo Magdieva (Uzb) 12-10, 11-3, 11-4; **u-15:** Suhana Saini bt M.R. Hansini 11-6, 7-11, 11-6, 11-8; **u-13:** M. R. Hansini bt Setayesh Iloukhani (Iri) 11-4, 11-7, 7-11, 11-9.

We back Gayle to do well: Pollard

The former is 97 runs short of becoming the highest run-scorer in T20 World Cup

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

West Indies' big-hitting skipper Kieron Pollard is looking forward to join forces with veteran swashbuckler Chris Gayle and lead the team to glory in the T20 World Cup.

The tournament will be held in Oman and United Arab Emirates from Sunday and defending champion West Indies begin its campaign against England on October 23 at the Dubai International Stadium.

Heading into the show-piece, Gayle is just 97 runs short of becoming the highest run-scorer in T20 World Cup, and Pollard said that there are no words to describe what the 'Universe Boss' has done for the country.

Media session

"Again, no words to describe what he has done for us in World Cups, and T20 cricket around the world as an individual," Pollard said during a captains' media session here on Saturday.

"For him, 97 runs away, but I don't think he will be looking at that. I think the main goal for us and him, is trying to win a World Cup and defend the title. He is looking forward to that. Hopefully, he can come and deliver for us. We back him to do well," Pollard added.



Encomium: No words to describe what Gayle has done for the West Indies in World Cups, says Pollard. *FILE PHOTO

The IPL was "a good experience" despite his franchise Mumbai Indians' failure to make the playoffs, according to Pollard.

"I am sure some interesting sort of stats, comparisons, different sort of trends might have come out of the recently-concluded IPL," Pollard said during the interaction organised by the ICC.

"For us, most of our guys got an opportunity to recently play in the IPL in the UAE and we are looking forward to hit the ground running

and start on that sort of positive note and get that first two points and see what happens after that," added Pollard.

West Indies won the 2016 edition of the T20 World Cup after Carlos Braithwaite hammered four successive sixes off Ben Stokes at the iconic Eden Gardens.

"We are excited and looking forward for another opportunity to try to defend this trophy," the 34-year-old said, adding they have lots of powerful players in their line-up.

Nordic group opposes biennial WC plan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GENEVA

The six-nation Nordic group of European soccer federations has detailed its opposition to FIFA's push to stage the World Cup every two years.

Increasing the number of World Cups would "cannibalise" existing competitions, make European Championships "obsolete" and marginalise women's tournaments, the federations wrote in a co-signed statement.

"It (the FIFA proposal) can fundamentally make it impossible to continue with our current model of national tournaments and national team matches," said the statement, which was released after a meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Nordic opposition wasn't unexpected with influential officials from the region working at European governing body UEFA, which has called for "proper consultation" before a decision is made. Karl-Erik Nilsson of Sweden is UEFA's first vice-president and Danish soccer president Jesper Moller is a UEFA executive committee member.

Outside Europe, the biennial plan has been publicly supported by soccer bodies most loyal to FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

Saranjeet Singh passes away

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT
HYDERABAD

Former hockey international Saranjeet Singh passed away here on Thursday. He was 59 and is survived by wife, daughter and a son.

He had been unwell for

the past three months.

The former State Bank of India hockey player who played for Coronation Club in local league, represented Hyderabad juniors and seniors in the late 70s and 80s and also played for the In-

dian team that toured Germany in 1983.

Olympians Alloysius Edwards, N. Mukesh Kumar, former India junior coach Narinderpal Singh, and others expressed their condolences.



Saranjeet Singh.

Karan outguns Aman, takes title

Shruti rallies to beat Suhitha for girls' crown

TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Karan Singh established himself as the best junior in the country outgunning second seed Aman Dahiya 6-4, 6-2 in the boys' final of the National junior tennis championship at the DLTA Complex on Saturday.

Thunderbolts

The last time he played a junior tournament, Karan was beaten in the ITF grade-4 final by Aman in Kathmandu, in February. Thereafter, Karan has been focusing on the men's circuit, and stepped up his game to meet the demands.

There is no doubt that Karan will soon trigger a debate about the fastest server in Indian tennis, as he served thunderbolts to exasperate Aman.

His groundstrokes were razor sharp as he hit clean to race through the match.

Very confident

"I was very confident. I had lost to him last time by the same score in Kathmandu.

"This title is very important for me and the National Tennis Centre. We have been working very hard," said Karan, who trains under Zeeshan Ali in the Capital.

"He played very good," conceded 17-year-old



Top of the heap: Shruti Ahlawat and Karan Singh, the National junior champions.

*KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Aman, who trains with Jignesh Rawal at the Altevol Academy in Ahmedabad.

Even though he started the match with a double-fault and Aman in contrast, with an ace, there was no doubt that Karan was the better player this day.

He gave glimpses of his tremendous potential with an all-court entertaining game.

"Karan has a big game. He is playing the men's level," said coach Zeeshan Ali.

In the girls' final, Shruti Ahlawat rallied from a slow start to beat second seed Suhitha Maruri 4-6, 6-0, 6-4 in a long-drawn baseline battle of wits.

Sound temperament

The 15-year-old Shruti, the best-ranked Indian girl on

the international circuit, stressed her sound temperament as much as a strong game.

Coach Pundreek Chaturvedi is ready with plans to sharpen Shruti's game for the tough grind ahead.

The results (finals):
Under-18 boys: Karan Singh bt Aman Dahiya 6-4, 6-2.

Under-18 girls: Shruti Ahlawat bt Suhitha Maruri 4-6, 6-0, 6-4.

PATANJALI®
Kesh Kanti

7 Days Challenge*
Improve Hair Health

100% Herbal Solution[^] to prevent Hair Loss and promote Hair Growth

Up to 100% Dandruff Free Scalp

Scientifically and Clinically Tested

Safe & Non-irritant

Shop Online: www.patanjaliayurved.net | Order Me app & www.patanjaliayurved.net

Available at your nearest Patanjali store and all major stores

Customer Care Number - 18001804108 | Email ID - feedback@patanjaliayurved.org | Website - www.patanjaliayurved.org

*Based on internal study. ^ No added chemicals.