



India-Israel trade talks to resume; Jaishankar meets counterpart  
page 10



BJP worker, three others held for killings in Lakhimpur Kheri  
page 10



Colin Powell, first Black U.S. Secretary of State, dies of COVID-19  
page 13

Ishan, Rahul shine as India beats England in T20 WC warm-up game  
page 15



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## IN BRIEF



### SP rebel MLA elected Deputy Speaker in U.P.

Lucknow Nitin Agarwal, a rebel MLA of the Samajwadi Party backed by the ruling BJP, was elected the Deputy Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Monday. With 304 votes, Mr. Agarwal, a former Minister in the Akhilesh Yadav government, defeated Narendra Singh Verma of the SP.

NEWS PAGE 11

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## Tracked, attacked Army patrol: new terror outfit

In video, it claims responsibility for Poonch encounter

VIJAYA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

A new terrorist group on Monday released an eight-minute video about the ongoing encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch region along the Line of Control, in which nine soldiers have been killed so far.

In the video, the group, calling itself the PAFF (People's Anti Fascists Front), claimed responsibility for the attack.

Shared on multiple channels on the Telegram app, the video features a man narrating events around October 11, the day the encounter



A jawan near the encounter site in Nar Khas area in Poonch on Monday. ■PTI

started. It claims two unidentified terrorists tracked an Army patrol for around 10 hours before ambushing their tent around dawn the next day (October 11).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Shah reviews security threats

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a conference on Monday that "deliberated on various internal security challenges and discussed ways to tackle them firmly".

The National Security Strategies Conference was attended by the Directors General of Police of all States and the Directors General of the Central Armed Police Forces.

The recent killing of civilians and exodus of migrant labourers from J&K were discussed in detail.

## Recent attacks in J&K reveal terror outfits' new strategy: NIA

Blog post outlines plans to derail Government's development thrust: agency

DEVESH K. PANDEY  
NEW DELHI

The latest spate of attacks in Jammu and Kashmir is a part of the terror outfits' new strategy to derail the measures being taken by the Government to promote industrial development and extend domicile status to various categories of people, making them eligible for jobs and other benefits, according to the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) findings.

A blog post uploaded in the last week of September spelt out the strategy to be adopted by terrorists in view of several measures taken by the Government after the dilution of J&K's special status



Tense future: Non-local labourers waiting at a railway station in Srinagar to return to their native place. ■NISSAR AHMAD

in August 2019 and its subsequent bifurcation into Union Territories (UTs).

The blog has now been blocked on the orders of the Ministry of Electronics and

Information Technology. "The blog's content was circulated among the terror outfits, following which 11 civilians have been murdered in J&K so far. The victims in-

clude migrant workers," said an official. On Sunday, the terrorists entered a rented accommodation and gunned down two migrant workers in Kulgam. Another labourer was injured in the attack.

In counter-terror operations, the security forces eliminated 13 terrorists in the past 10 days. The NIA also arrested nine persons having alleged links with various banned outfits. It is learnt that the blog post exhorted terror outfits to target non-local employees and individuals who had been issued domicile certificates.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10  
RELATED REPORTS PAGE 11

## With Kerala dams brimming, panel to regulate water release

KERALA BUREAU  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amid havoc caused by the torrential rain over the past week leading to floods and landslides, the Kerala Government has constituted an expert committee to regulate the release of water from 81 dams across swollen rivers.

Officials said water level in the Pampa, Manimala,

and Achencoil rivers remained well over the danger level. While floodwaters have begun to slowly recede from Mallappally, the run-off water from Achencoil river flooded areas such as Thumpamon, Kadakkad, and Cherikkal. Several parts of Thiruvalla taluk, particularly the Upper Kuttanad villages, continued to remain under water, causing traffic disruptions

along the Main Central Road and the Thiruvalla-Ambalappuzha road.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the committee would gauge the quantum of water in dams and formulate long-term management plans.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10  
EDITORIAL PAGE 8  
ANOTHER REPORT PAGE 7

## Dera chief, 4 others get life term for murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and four others were sentenced to life imprisonment by a special CBI court on Monday for the murder of sect manager Ranjit Singh in 2002.

Ram Rahim Singh, who was in 2017 sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for raping two disciples, is now lodged in a Rohtak jail.

Ranjit was shot dead on July 10, 2002. The Dera chief believed that Ranjit was behind the circulation of an anonymous letter that spoke of how women were allegedly being sexually exploited by the sect head at the Dera headquarters, says the CBI chargesheet. He then hatched a conspiracy to kill Ranjit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## CBSE issues exam date sheets

First term Board papers for Class XII students from Dec. 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education will hold its first term Board examination for major subjects for Class XII students from December 1 to 22. For Class X students, the major subject examinations will begin on November 30 and run till December 11.

In a format change spurred by the uncertainty of the COVID-19 situation, the CBSE has divided the academic year 2021-22 into two terms with 50% of the syllabus to be covered in each term and Board exams to be held at the end of each term. This first term examination will be a 90-minute paper with multiple choice questions only.

Keeping in mind the comfort of students during the pandemic and in order to re-

duce their travel distances, a large number of schools will be fixed as self-centres, meaning that students will write their examinations in their own schools, CBSE Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj told media-persons after the date sheet was released.

**External observers**  
For other students, the CBSE will ensure that they are not forced to travel too far from their home schools. External observers will be assigned to all centres to ensure that the exam is conducted "safely, fairly and without any untoward incidents", he added.

These are the arrangements being made for 19 major subjects in Class XII and nine major subjects in Class X which are offered by a majority of schools. For the 95

minor subjects offered in Class XII and 66 minor subjects offered in Class X, exams will be conducted by the schools themselves, though question papers will be provided by the Board. Date sheets will be sent directly to schools, and minor subject exams will begin from November 16 for Class XII and November 17 for Class X.

This year, if there are no further interruptions caused by the pandemic, a second term Board examination will be held in March-April 2022, with a three-hour subjective and objective-type question paper. Final scores will be based on marks from both exams. Internal assessment marks are also being uploaded in real time onto each student's profile being maintained by the CBSE so that they can be used, if needed.

## Farmers' protest hits coal train movement

25 passenger trains cancelled; protesters demand arrest of Minister Ajay Mishra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

At least 10 goods trains carrying coal to power plants were stuck, and nearly 25 passenger trains cancelled, as farm unions under the banner of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha held a nationwide rail roko agitation on Monday.

Protesters squatted on railway tracks and hindered train movement to demand the immediate dismissal and arrest of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra for his alleged involvement in the deaths of four farmers at Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh this month.

"About 10 rakes were affected due to untimely rain and rail roko," Power Ministry officials told *The Hindu*. They noted that despite the blockage, 290 coal rakes were loaded on Monday in comparison to 279 on the previous day. This comes at a



Act of defiance: Farmers blocking tracks as part of the 'rail roko' protest in Bahadurgarh on Monday. ■PTI

time when the country is on the verge of a power crisis, with some power plants holding critically low reserve stocks of coal and some States already experiencing partial load-shedding.

**Northern Zone worst hit**  
Most rail disruptions were experienced in the Northern Zone, which saw about 150 locations affected by protests

during the day. According to a Northern Railway spokesperson, the operations of 60 trains were affected and 25 short-haul passenger trains were cancelled. By 5 p.m., train services were resumed.

In other parts of the country, protesters blocked train movement for less than an hour or were prevented from squatting on tracks and held their protests on platforms or

in front of stations instead. According to the Press Trust of India, an Eastern Railway spokesperson said four trains in West Bengal were delayed for about an hour, while 12 trains were delayed for about half an hour in Odisha.

According to farm unions, protesters blocked tracks at locations in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Karnataka and Telangana.

Protesters were detained at multiple locations in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, an SKM statement said. There was heavy deployment of armed police personnel at a number of railway stations in Uttar Pradesh and several farmer leaders were also put under preventive house arrest, according to the All India Kisan Sabha.

(With inputs from PTI)

## Delhi reports this year's first dengue death

MUNEEF KHAN  
NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

The Capital reported 243 new dengue cases and one death - the first this year - over the past week.

The deceased was a 35-year-old woman from south Delhi's Sarita Vihar, who succumbed to dengue in late September at a private hospital, stated a civic report on Monday.

The caseload for the current month stands at 382, including 139 cases reported till October 9. A total of 723 cases have been recorded this season (until October 16), the highest for the same period since 2018, which saw 1,020 cases. In September, the city reported 217 cases, which was also the highest case count for the month since 2018.

DETAILS PAGE 2

## Army trains officers posted along LAC in Tibetology

Lamas from Bomdila Monastery engaged for teaching; first batch of 15 soldiers finished course in May

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

With a view to orienting its officers and men posted along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Tibetan culture and also preparing them to better understand the information warfare, the Army has begun a course in Tibetology in a tie-up with the Central Institute of Himalayan Cultural Studies in Arunachal Pradesh.

The first batch of 15 participants was trained from March to May this year. "Understanding Tibetan traditions, cultural peculiarities, democracy and political influence and so on empowers our men and officers to understand where we are going and

where we are operating," said a senior Army officer at the 5 Mountain Division at Tenga in Arunachal Pradesh. Officers posted in the area would be considered for the course.

The Army's Training Command, ARTRAC, has identified seven institutes for Tibetology across the country, two of which are in the northeast. The other one is the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology in Sikkim.

**Second course soon**  
Such training was happening earlier too but now it has been formalised. On a trial basis, the first batch was held from March to May, and the Army has entered into a Memorandum



Ground work: Army personnel near the India-China border in Arunachal Pradesh. ■FILE PHOTO

of Understanding with the institute. The second course is scheduled to begin next month. Currently, two courses a year are planned with about 15-20

participants in each course. Around 150 officers have been trained so far across the country at various centres, the officer stated. A longer course was being

planned and a proposal for a three-month course had been sent to ARTRAC, another officer noted.

"The officers who are trained will function as trainers in their battalions and in a few years, we will have a sizable number of personnel with understanding of Tibetan issues," the officer explained.

During the 42 days of the preliminary course, Tibetan history, geopolitics and current political dynamics were covered in the form of lectures and case studies, the officer added. Lamas who were proficient in Tibetan issues were hired from the Bomdila Monastery to teach the course.

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# As cases surge, city reports this year's first dengue death

A total of 723 cases reported till Oct. 16, the highest for the season since 2018

MUNEER KHAN  
NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

The Capital reported 243 dengue cases over the past week, and one death – the first this year. As per a civic report on Monday, the deceased was a 35-year-old woman from south Delhi's Sarita Vihar, who succumbed to the vector-borne disease in late September at a private hospital.

The caseload for the current month stands at 382, including 139 cases reported till October 9. A total of 723 cases have been recorded this season (till October 16), the highest for the same period since 2018 – which saw 1,020 cases. In September, the city reported 217 cases, which was also the highest case count for the month since 2018. Delhi recorded 1,072 cases and one death in 2020, 2,036 cases and two deaths in 2019, and 2,798 cases and four deaths in 2018.

South Delhi recorded the highest cases this week at 61, followed by north Delhi with 52 cases. South Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor Mukesh Suryan said maximum



**Smoking them out:** A municipal worker fumigating a colony at Jahangirpuri in Delhi on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

efforts are being made to combat vector-borne diseases. However, residents said that the steps taken by the civic authorities are insufficient.

A resident of Sant Nagar said she has not had any fogging or fumigation done in her vicinity.

Another resident of Jamia Nagar said that the fogging and fumigation are not carried out on a regular basis.

He added, "This monsoon, municipal authorities have come once or twice in the last few months. There are nar-

row by-lanes which are not fumigated and most of the fogging is done only on main roads."

At LNJP Hospital, the largest Delhi government-run facility, there has been an increase in patients coming with fever and dengue, doctors said.

"Nineteen patients have been admitted with dengue in the last four days. All of them are stable or recovering. We have opened two new wards for fever cases," Dr. Suresh Kumar, medical director of LNJP Hospital,

said. Dr. Ritu Saxena, deputy medical superintendent of the hospital, said the separate wards were set up about a week ago.

"We get about 50-60 fever patients every day. Yesterday, of all the samples of admitted patients that were sent for testing, nine came positive for dengue and some results are awaited," Dr. Saxena said.

She added that COVID-19 tests are being done for patients coming to the hospital with fever, but very few people are testing positive for the virus and that "many dengue cases are coming very late to us".

Dr. R.S. Mishra, director of internal medicine, Max Hospital, said currently, there is a significant rise in patients with fever and many of them have dengue.

"Most of these patients are being managed at OPD while some require hospitalisation; a few need ICU care due to the severity of illness. Last year, we had had a very few patients but if we compare with the last five years, the situation is not alarmingly bad," Dr. Mishra said.

# Govt. floats tender for new job portal

It will offer AI-based job matching among other features

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has floated a tender for developing its "Rojgar Bazaar 2.0" portal, which will be the "first-of-its-kind job matching" digital platform, authorities said.

Over 14 lakh job seekers and 10 lakh jobs have already been advertised on the existing portal, as per the government and the new portal will have options for skill training, career guidance, and job matching.

However, the government did not share data on how many people got jobs till now through the portal, which was launched last year.

"The Rojgar Bazaar 1.0

portal was launched in August 2020 by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and turned out to be a lifeline for the unemployed youth as well as small businesses in Delhi. It will provide not just AI-based job matching but also end-to-end employment-related services to the youth of Delhi," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

The government said that based on the experiences with Rojgar Bazaar 1.0 portal and to drive employment linkages across Delhi, they decided to upgrade the portal to bring in best-in-class practices from national and international job portals.

"The platform will also provide other critical services. This will range from skilling to career guidance to skill credentialing to automated analytics services, all of which will help enhance the job seekers' ability to gain meaningful livelihoods. Also, a strong analytics platform will provide the government with rich insights to frame policies and drive on-ground positive impact," an official statement said.

When the portal was launched last year, the government had said that in the first six hours, 51,403 job seekers registered on the portal and 1,071 employers posted 18,585 vacancies.

# Three minors detained for shooting

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Three minor boys were detained by the Delhi police for allegedly shooting at a 26-year-old tea seller in Safdarjung Enclave on Sunday. The teenagers came to Ramkishan's shop at 4 a.m. and asked for refreshments. The tea seller told them that he had not started his kitchen.

After this, they went for a smoke but soon the tea seller reached there to answer nature's call. A heated argument broke out.

"Later, they called one of their friends and shot the tea seller in the leg," DCP (South-West) Gaurav Sharma said.

# HC allows medical termination of 24-week pregnancy

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has permitted a 24-year-old woman to undergo the procedure of medical termination of her over 24-week pregnancy, noting that the chances of survival of the unborn child are very remote due to serious deformities in the foetus.

Justice Rekha Palli gave the decision after taking into consideration the report sent by the medical board of Lady Hardinge Hospital.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act stipulates a ceiling of 20 weeks, for termination of pregnancy, beyond which abortion of a foetus is statutorily impermissible. In January last year, the Union Cabinet had approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which provides for enhancing the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women, including survivors of rape, victim of incest, and other vulnerable women.

"Once the medical board has clearly opined that the deformities in the petitioner's foetus are likely to be in-

compatible with life and in case the pregnancy is carried to term, the chances of survival of the unborn child are very remote, as also the fact that the petitioner is found to be both physically and psychologically fit to undergo medical termination of her pregnancy, I am of the considered view that the petition deserves to be allowed," Justice Palli said.

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# Rain lifts city's air quality to 'good' category

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The air quality of the city improved substantially to "good" category on Monday from "poor" levels on Saturday and Sunday, following rain over the last two days, as per official data.

The contribution of stub-

ble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5 – a chief pollutant – in Delhi was estimated to have fallen to 1% on Monday, down from 14% on Saturday, according to government-run monitoring agency – System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

Also, the number of fire counts in the region fell to 170 on Monday from 1,572 on Saturday, as per SAFAR.

"Local land surfaces are wet and so dust re-suspension is minimum, which leads to low PM10. Presence of western disturbance has led to scattered rainfall over

north India, leading to low biomass burning. This condition improved AQI with low PM2.5. Moist surfaces inhibit re-suspension of dust which will keep AQI in good for next 24 hours and after that AQI will degrade to satisfactory for Delhi," SAFAR said.

# Shots fired at undertrial's car, one hurt

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Monday said shots were fired at an undertrial's car allegedly by his rivals, injuring his driver, near Kishangarh in south-west Delhi.

While the injured, Shafiq alias Lucky, has been taken to Fortis Hospital, the undertrial has been identified as one Somraj alias Dhama.

Four rounds were fired, and one live round has been seized. "Somraj was on the co-driver seat and his personal PSO Krishan was sitting in the rear," DCP (south-west) Gaurav Sharma said.

The three were returning from Patiala House Court after attending a hearing of a case related to murder of one Ashok Maan, in which Somraj along with his brothers is an accused.

# Wettest Oct. in Delhi since 1960

PWD gets 34 calls related to waterlogging from across city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Capital received heavy overnight showers on Monday, taking the amount of rainfall received so far this October to the highest recorded since 1960.

The Met department said the Capital received 89.7 mm of rainfall in a 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m. on Monday and 0.4 mm of rainfall thereafter.

This takes the total rainfall for the month to 95 mm, breaking the record set in October 1960, that reported 93.4 mm of rain.

The rain led to waterlogging with the Public Works Department (PWD) receiving 34 calls throughout Monday generated mainly from the city's underpasses, flyovers and major junctions.

A PWD official said though the complaints pertained to all the locations categorised as vulnerable by



A tree got uprooted in Dilshad Garden after the heavy rain in the city on Monday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

the agency, vehicular movement was not thrown out of gear since the magnitude of waterlogging was not severe. Complaints were mainly generated from locations such as the Pul Prahladpur underpass, Minto Bridge, ITO, WHO Building, Azadpur Mandi and its vicinity, Dhaura Kuan, NH-8, Mathura Road and some points located on Ring Road.

The rain brought down temperatures with the maximum temperature settling at 23.9 degrees Celsius, which was nine degrees cooler than normal and a sharp fall from the 30.4 degrees Celsius recorded the previous day.

The minimum settled at 20.1 degrees Celsius, which was two degrees above normal.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Chetna Bisht D/o Sh. Brijendra Singh Bisht R/o H.No. 15L, Pocket-4, MIX Housing Complex, Mayur Vihar, Phase - III, Delhi has been missing since 29.09.2021 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 104A dated 30.09.2021 has been lodged at Police Station New Ashok Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Age:** 18 Years 4 Months, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Medium, **Identification:** Mantally Disturb, **Wearing:** Blue Colour T-Shirt and Red & Black Colour Jacket & White Colour Lower and Hawai Chappal in feet. Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi at E-mail [icic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:icic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
**Phone:** SHO 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi  
**Fax No. 011-24368639 East Distt., Delhi**  
**DP/739/ED/2021 Ph. No. 011-22610954, 22542500**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Renu W/o Lal Bahadur R/o H.No. 5, Gali No. 18, Dass Garden, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 21.09.2021 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 130A dated 24.09.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Ranhola, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Age:** 36 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Unknown Colour Saare & Chappal in feet. Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing/kidnapped female, may inform SHO, Ranhola, Delhi at E-mail [icic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:icic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
**Phone:** SHO 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Ranhola, Delhi  
**Fax No. 011-24368639 Outer Distt., Delhi**  
**DP/1208/OD/2021 Ph. No. 011-28363001, 28363003**

**Office of Executive Engineer  
Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribag**

**Very Short Tender e-Procurement Notice, (1<sup>st</sup> Call)**

**Tender reference:-HZB/JJM/SVS Cluster/23/2021-22(1<sup>st</sup> call) Date :- 16.10.2021**

**1. Name of Work-**Construction of Cluster wise Single Village Water Supply Schemes based on Solar Energy Based Mini Rural Pipe Water Supply Schemes in different blocks of Hazaribag District which are not included in MVS/Other Schemes to supply water and house connection with 05 Years Operation and Maintenance works on "Turn Key Basis" Under D.W.&S. Division, Hazaribag for the Year 2021 -22 (Head-JJM)

Sl. No.	Group No	No of Panchayat	No of FHTC	Estimated Cost (in Lakhs)	E. M. Required (in Lakhs)	Cost Of BOQ (in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Bishnugarh-06AE	02	2010	686.81	06.87	10,000.00	12 Months
2	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Bishnugarh-06BA	03	2309	838.67	08.39	10,000.00	12 Months
3	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Bishnugarh-06BB	04	1820	653.83	06.54	10,000.00	12 Months
4	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Bishnugarh-06BC	04	2057	753.96	07.54	10,000.00	12 Months
5	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Katkamsandi-07AA	02	2019	680.72	06.81	10,000.00	12 Months
6	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Katkamsandi-07AB	02	2793	975.05	09.76	10,000.00	12 Months
7	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Katkamsandi-07AC	02	1952	693.88	06.94	10,000.00	12 Months
8	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Katkamsandi-07AD	03	2483	909.50	09.10	10,000.00	12 Months
9	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Katkamsandi-07BA	02	1639	634.37	06.35	10,000.00	12 Months
10	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Katkamsandi-07BB	03	2090	741.66	07.42	10,000.00	12 Months
11	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Katkamsandi-07BC	02	1499	514.77	05.15	10,000.00	12 Months
12	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Ichak-08AA	03	2169	745.50	07.46	10,000.00	12 Months
13	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Ichak-08AB	03	2030	714.48	07.15	10,000.00	12 Months
14	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Ichak-08AC	02	1866	670.91	06.71	10,000.00	12 Months
15	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Ichak-08AD	02	1770	629.36	06.30	10,000.00	12 Months
16	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Ichak-08BA	04	2100	740.06	07.41	10,000.00	12 Months
17	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Ichak-08BB	02	2766	918.75	09.19	10,000.00	12 Months
18	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Ichak-08BC	02	1955	689.05	06.90	10,000.00	12 Months
19	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Ichak-09A	03	1951	749.25	07.50	10,000.00	12 Months
20	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Ichak-09B	04	2006	783.97	07.84	10,000.00	12 Months
21	HZB/SVS_Cluster/Ichak-09C	02	1594	569.62	05.70	10,000.00	12 Months

2. Date of Tender uploading in website Date:- 25.10.2021 up to 02:00 PM

3. Date of Pre-bid Meeting Date:- 01.11.2021 at 12:30 PM in the office of Engineer-in-Chief, D. W. & S. Department Jharkhand Ranchi

4. Last date receipt of Bid Date:- 13.11.2021 upto 05.00 PM

5. Last date submission cost of BOQ and EMD (in hard copy) Date:- 16.11.2021 upto 04.00 PM in the office of the  
1. Executive Engineer, D. W. & S. Division, Hazaribag  
2. Superintending Engineer, D.W.& S. Circle, Hazaribag  
3. Regional Chief Engineer, D.W. & S. Department Ranchi Zone, Ranchi

6. Date of opening tender Date:- 17.11.2021 upto 03.00 PM

7. Name and address of office inviting tender Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribag

8. Name and address of tender opening officer Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Hazaribag

9. Contact no of e-procurement office 06546-262291

10. Helpline No. of e-procurement cell 0651-2480345

i) Estimated Cost & EMD Cost may be changed.  
ii) Only Registered contractor in this department participate in said tender.  
iii) Further details can be seen on website- <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

**Executive Engineer  
D.W. & S. Division, Hazaribag**

PR 255006 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22)#D

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP. / AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP. / AUTH	NODAL OFFICER /CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	UHBVN	LT PVC UN- ARMOURD CABLE OF SIZE 2X10 SQ MM AS PER NIGAM'S TECH. SPECIFICATION NO. - CSC-193/DH/UP/P&D/2/2020-21 AND AS PER RELEVANT IS ALONGWITH ITS AMENDMENT	14.10.2021 26.10.2021	EMD 2 LACS	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	9023360200 <a href="mailto:com@uhbvn.org.in">com@uhbvn.org.in</a>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) Samvad 13/2022/40/5249/119/17

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures

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

**JAPIT**  
Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology & e-Governance, Govt of Jharkhand

An Autonomous body under Department of Information Technology & e-Governance, Govt of Jharkhand) Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel – I, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand Phone. 0651-2401044, 2401047 email: [japit\\_doit@rediffmail.com](mailto:japit_doit@rediffmail.com)

**Ref PR No. 254684**

**Cancellation Notice**

It is hereby inform that the Expression of Interest (EoI) having Ref No. JAPIT/CCTV/PS/EoI/02 for selection of Agency/ Firm for providing the service for complete site survey, preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), RFP Preparation, Bid Process Management and project monitoring for installation of IP CCTV and Complete System in 497 Police Stations Buildings across the State of Jharkhand due to unavoidable reason stands cancelled.

**Sd/-  
Chief Executive Officer  
JAP-IT**

PR 254981(Information Technology)21-22\* D

# Govt. starts campaign to reduce air pollution

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Monday started the "Red Light On, Gaadi Off" campaign in the Capital. Environment Minister Gopal Rai appealed to the citizens to turn their cars off at red lights to help reduce air pollution.

"Research data show that vehicular pollution plays a very prominent role in polluting the air. The Delhi government is running a campaign against dust pollution and similarly, the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign has been started to reduce vehicular pollution," Mr. Rai said. Under the campaign, volunteers at traffic signals are requesting people to switch off their vehicles when the signal is red.

The Minister said the government can't do anything to stop stubble burning in neighbouring States and that is why it is important to reduce air pollution in Delhi.

"The number of vehicles



Minister Gopal Rai at the launch of the campaign in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

running inside Delhi in September is still the same. But at that time, the level of pollution was normal. The pollution levels are increasing in winter due to changing weather and stubble burning. As the incidents of stubble burning are increasing, the pollution levels in Delhi are rising rapidly. We cannot do anything to stop the stubble burning that is going on in other States. That's why our effort is to reduce vehicular pollution in Delhi for some relief. For this, the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign has been started," Mr. Rai said.

# Active cases fall below 300

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The city reported no new COVID-19 deaths in 24 hours for the eighth day and the total number of deaths stood at 25,089, as per a bulletin re-

leased by the Delhi government on Monday.

Fifteen new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14,39,405. A total of 44,739 tests were done. There are only 298 active cases.

**Timings**  
**DELHI**

**TUESDAY, OCT. 19**  
RISE 06:24 SET 17:48  
RISE 17:22 SET 05:00

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20**  
RISE 06:25 SET 17:47  
RISE 17:51 SET 05:55

**THURSDAY, OCT. 21**  
RISE 06:26 SET 17:46  
RISE 18:21 SET 06:50

**Delhi Weather**

	max	min
Delhi City	24	20
Safdarjang	24	20
Palam	24	21

**Delhi Palam Today**  
30°C A pleasant morning with mist/haze and comfortable day with partly cloudy sky and light winds likely.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
31°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be slight cool and hazy. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

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## Meghalaya Governor offers to mediate with farmers

Govt. should listen to their demands, guarantee MSP: Malik

ANUJ KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

On a day when the Samyukt Kisan Morcha issued a 'rail roko' call against the three contentious farm laws, a statement by the Meghalaya Governor, Satya Pal Malik, saying BJP leaders could not enter villages in Meerut, Baghpat and Muzaffarnagar, went viral. The Governor also said if the farmers' demands were not met, BJP could not return to power.

Once again offering to mediate, Mr. Malik said farmers would call off the agitation if the government accepted to guarantee Minimum Support Price for crops.

Speaking to the reporters in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, on Monday, Mr. Malik said the government had been unreasonable with the farmers. "They have been languishing at the borders for 10 months. The government should listen to their demands. I am with them and if required I will

## 'Rail roko' symbolic in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

The SKM's 'rail roko' call disrupted rail traffic at a few places in western U.P. on Monday. At least nine trains were affected. Bharatiya Kisan Union members sat on the tracks in Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Bulandshahr, and Ghaziabad and at the Hapur railway station. The protest largely remained symbolic. At the Ghazipur border, BKU national spokesperson Rakesh Tikait said, "It's a people's protest... was not to cause discomfort to the public but to make them aware of our demands. We have added the arrest of Ajay Tani to our demands."

leave the post," he said. He added he had fought with the Prime Minister and the Home Minister and had advised them "not to do this". "But it seems they are surrounded by people who are giving them wrong advice," he said.

"Sarkaron ka mijaz aasman pe ho jata hai [Governments tend to become bereft of ground realities]. They don't realise the pain [of the public]. But time forces them to listen and see. This go-

vernment will also have to listen. If it fails to meet the demands, it will not return to power...in Meerut, Baghpat and Muzaffarnagar, the BJP leaders can't enter the villages," said Mr. Malik. "I am ready to mediate. You guarantee the MSP, I will persuade farmers. I will tell them the SC is seized of the matter, leave it," he said.

Sources said Mr. Malik was looking to return to active politics, using the farmers' protest as a platform.

## Serosurvey in Haryana pegs positivity at 76.3%

This is comforting as people are protected from the virus, says Health Minister

ASHOK KUMAR  
GURUGRAM

The seropositivity rate in the third survey across Haryana has been found to be 76.3% - 78.1% in urban and 75.1% in rural areas. The positivity rate was 8% and 14.8% in the first and second rounds respectively.

Releasing the report for the third round, Health Minister Anil Vij said the positivity rate among the children in the six to nine and 10-17 age groups was 69.8% and 73.2% respectively. Similarly, 75.3% men and 77.1% women were found to have

developed antibodies against the infection. The positivity rate of 81.6% has been found in vaccinated people and 75.5% in those not vaccinated.

### Kurukshetra highest

Mr. Vij said the survey was done to ascertain whether the COVID-19 antibodies had developed due to vaccination or naturally. The antibodies developed after vaccination were identified by the Spike Protein Antibody Test, he added.

Kurukshetra witnessed the highest 85% seropositivity

rate and Faridabad the lowest at 64.2%.

However, 14% samples in Faridabad were found inconclusive and the survey will be conducted again in the district.

Mr. Vij said the positivity rate of 76% was comforting as majority of people were protected from coronavirus. He informed that around 2.47 crore beneficiaries were vaccinated in the State of whom 1.74 crore were administered the first dose and 73 lakh both doses.

Rajeev Arora, additional Chief Secretary, Health, said

the major challenges before department during the third survey were the enlarged sample size of 36,520, which posed a huge burden for district authorities, and the testing of all these samples at District Civil Hospital Laboratory at Panchkula.

The reason behind testing at Panchkula laboratory was the shifting of testing technique to find out antibodies against spike proteins of SARS-CoV-2, he said.

The sample size for the first and second round was 18,700 and 15,840 respectively.



**NOTICE**  
RFQ\_Cum\_RFP 03/WBIDC/2021-22



## DEVELOPMENT OF TAJPUR PORT

No.WBIDC/Tajpur Port/2021-22/887 dt. 18.10.2021

Government of West Bengal proposes to develop a greenfield port at Tajpur in Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal and invites requests for proposals from experienced and qualified bidders for the development of a greenfield port at Tajpur.



Actual image



Actual image

### Highlights:

- Development on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis
- Flexibility of design plan for Concessionaire
- Complete flexibility of tariff for Concessionaire
- Availability of 1000 acres of encumbrance-free land
- Concession period of 99 years
- State commitment to provide road connectivity to nearest highway
- State support in rail linkage to port



Map not to scale

### Important dates and times:

Sl.	Particulars	Date & Time
1.	Date of Publication of RFQ_Cum_RFP	18.10.2021
2.	Pre-bid Meeting	12.11.2021, from 1530 hours IST
3.	Start date & time for submission of RFQ_Cum_RFP	22.11.2021, from 1530 hours IST
4.	End date & time for submission of RFQ_Cum_RFP	20.12.2021, 1530 hours IST

ICA-1539(1)/2021

RFQ\_Cum\_RFP documents, along with draft concession agreement, are available at <https://wbenders.gov.in>  
All other details, including any date extensions, clarifications, amendments etc., will be uploaded on [www.wbidc.com](http://www.wbidc.com) and <https://wbenders.gov.in>

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**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**



General Public is hereby informed that a person **Jagannath Rai S/o Sh. Babban Rai R/o H. No. A-401, Durga Gali No.7, Mandawali, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 02.10.2021 at 8.30 AM from his house. In this regard a **DD No. 79-A, dated 02.10.2021** has been registered at PS, Mandawali, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped person is as under:

**Name:** Jagannath Rai, **Father's Name:** Sh. Babban Rai, **Age:** 67 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Blue Colour T-Shirt & Blue Colour Lungi, & Plastic Sleeper in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.  
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
e-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph. : 011-24368639, 24368641  
DP/736/ED/2021

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Tel. No. 01704222373, e-mail. [ee-pao-hp@nic.in](mailto:ee-pao-hp@nic.in)

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer HP PWD Paonta Sahib, Distt. Simour HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the Item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP PWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Periodical Renewal under Addl. Annual Maintenance Plan for the year 2021-22 on Badpur Jamiwala Parduni road km 0/0 to 15/0 (SH-Providing and Laying 30mm thick compacted bituminous concrete including repair of pot holes and profile correction in km 11/0 to 13/0), Under AMP.	Rs. 2581900/-	01.11.2021 16:30 HRS	Rs. 46300/-	09.11.2021 17:00 HRS
2.	Repair & Maintenance of Paonta Puruwalla Singhpura Bhagani Gojjar Dakpathar road km.0/0 to 26/500 (SH-Providing and laying ISI mark 80mm.thick interlocking paver block tiles at different RD's), (Under R & MO).	Rs. 504800/-	01.11.2021 16:30 HRS	Rs. 10100/-	09.11.2021 17:00 HRS
3.	Repair & Maintenance of Paonta Puruwalla Singhpura Bhagani Gojjar Dakpathar road km.0/0 to 26/500 (SH-Providing and laying 25mm.thick bituminous concrete between km 15/0 to 16/0), (Under R & MO).	Rs. 1473700/-	01.11.2021 16:30 HRS	Rs. 29500/-	09.11.2021 17:00 HRS
4.	Periodical renewal to Paonta Puruwalla Singhpura Bhagani Gojjar Dakpathar road (MDR-94) km 0/0 to 26/500, (SH-Providing And Laying 50mm thick penetration macadam in essential reaches & 30mm thick bituminous concrete in km 4/0 to 5/0), under Addl. Annual Maintenance plan (AMP) for the year (2021-22).	Rs. 2397700/-	01.11.2021 16:30 HRS	Rs. 43500/-	09.11.2021 17:00 HRS
5.	Periodical renewal to link road from Heerpur to Taruwalla km 0/0 to 26/500. (SH-Providing And Laying 50mm thick penetration macadam in essential reaches & 30mm thick bituminous concrete in km 17/00 to 2/600), under Addl. Annual Maintenance plan (AMP) for the year (2021-22).	Rs. 1486200/-	01.11.2021 16:30 HRS	Rs. 30000/-	09.11.2021 17:00 HRS

The bidders are advised to note other details of Tenders from the department website [www.hpnders.gov.in](http://www.hpnders.gov.in).  
Executive Engineer Paonta B&R Division, HP PWD, Paonta Sahib, Distt. Simour, HP. On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh  
Tel/Fax: 01704-222373, E-mail: [ee-pao-hp@nic.in](mailto:ee-pao-hp@nic.in)  
HP / 4507/21-22

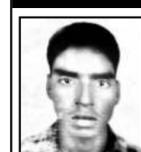
**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**



General public is here by informed that this girl **Namely: Sayra, D/o: Javed, R/o: H. No. G-11, Gazipur Village, Near MCD Primary School, Delhi. Age: 18 Years, Height: 5 feet, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Black Suit & Black Pant and Sandal in feet**, has been missing since 21.09.2021 from her house in the area of P.S. Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 63A dated 30.09.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.  
E-Mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Ph. : 011-24368639, 24368641  
DP/732/ED/2021

**SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON**



General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Deepak Shah S/o Bittu Shah R/o Gali No. 2, Baljeet Nagar, Delhi. Age about 21 years, Height 5'5", Complexion** yellow, Built medium, Face oval wearing Khaki colour T-shirt, Black colour Jeans pant and hawai chappal in feet has been missing since 30.09.2021 from 16/23 WEA Karol Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this boy, but no clue has come to light so far.

In this regard a D.D. No. 86-A dated 08.10.2021 has been lodged at PS Karol Bagh, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following:-  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph: 011-23011334  
PS Karol Bagh, Delhi  
DP/1047/CD/2021

**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

**DEATH**



**Mr. Ramesh Durai**  
23/11/1974 - 17/10/2021

We regret to announce the untimely passing of our beloved teammate and good friend. He played a significant role in the growth of our company.

M2P Fintech extends its deepest and sincerest condolences to the bereaved family and friends and we stand with them during this difficult times.

**DEATH**

We are deeply pained to let you know that



**Prof. P. Swaminathan**  
Retd. Dean, Anna University  
passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021

His positive spirit, intelligent wit, compassion and energy continue to inspire us and give us strength. He was a humble human, an eminent architect, an exemplary mentor to thousands of budding professionals, a devoted administrator and the world's best loving, caring dad and grandpa who has been a steadfast rock pillar through all our highs and lows.  
**R.I.P. dearest,**  
we know that you are always looking upon us from above.  
Wife: Vasanthi Swaminathan,  
Daughters: Vasudha Swaminathan Nandali & Krittika Swaminathan Ganesh

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**Mundra drug haul: NIA gets custody of 3**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AHMEDABAD**  
A special court here on Monday granted the National Investigation Agency (NIA) 10-day remand of three persons initially arrested in a case related to seizure of 2,988 kg of heroin at Gujarat's Mundra Port last month.

The court of special judge P.C. Joshi remanded the accused, M. Sudhakaran and Durga Vaishali - who allegedly ran M/S Aashi Trading Company that had imported a consignment of 'talc stones' (which turned out to be drug) - and Rajkumar P., to 10-day NIA custody as sought by the Central agency.

The accused, also booked under anti-terror act UAPA, were arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence before the case was transferred earlier this month to the NIA. The case relates to the seizure of heroin originating from Afghanistan, which had arrived at Mundra Port from Iran's Bandar Abbas Port.

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a female **Namely Unknown, D/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age: about 35 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue coloured saree.** She was found dead on 17.10.2021 at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 15-A, dated 17.10.2021** has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.



If any one having any clue about deceased female may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.  
SHO P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi  
Ph.: 011-24106346, 24106345  
Mob.: 7065036231  
DP/886/SW/2021

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely Jyoti Meena, D/o Rambhajan Meena, R/o C-34, 2nd Floor, Ashoka Niketan, Anand Vihar, Delhi. Age: About 24 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, ID Mark: Scar mark on chest, Wearing: Brown colour kurta, green colour lower and slipper in her feet**, has been missing since **dated 16.10.2021** from the area of PS Anand Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 340/21 U/s 365 IPC dated 16.10.2021** has been lodged at P.S. Anand Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail Id : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
P.S. Anand Vihar, Delhi  
DP/600/SHD/2021 Tel.No. 011-21210296, 7065036022

**SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON**



General public is hereby informed that this person **Namely Omprakash S/o Dhanraj R/o H.No. 403, Gali No. 12, Nathu Colony, Nathupura, Delhi Age : 32 years Height : 5'5", Complexion : Shallow, Face : Long, Build : Thin, wearing blue colour pant-shirt and chappal in feet**, has been missing since 22.08.2021 at about 06:30 P.M. from his house. In this regard DD No. 0042/21 dated 29.08.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following.  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO : P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. : 011-27811416, 27811415  
Tel.: 24368638/24368641  
DP/1324/ON/21

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(8 Sectional & 2 Complete Syllabus Tests)  
All Tests would be of 3 hours duration;  
Total Seats: 50  
Evaluation by Sir along with Personal Feedback  
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M.V.O.P. 06/2020  
Between: Koila Konda Lakshmana & Koilaindra Lakshmana. ...Petitioner  
And Hanuman Prasad and others ...Respondents  
**NOTICE TO RESPONDENT No:1**  
R1: Hanuman Prasad S/o Ganesh Ram, R/at Nandri Kishangarh, Renewal, Nandri, Jaipur, Rajasthan State.  
Where as the petitioner has filed a claim petition against you and the same is posted 02-11-2021 for your appearance, you are hereby directed to appear before the hon'ble court either in person or through an advocate duly instructed on 02-11-2021 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the matter will be heard and decided ex parte.  
(By order of the court)  
T.DHANUNJAYA, advocate, Gooty, Anantapuramu Dist, Andhra Pradesh State, Cell: 9885896307.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
In the court of the Vth Addl. District Judge, Gooty.  
M.V.O.P. 05/2020  
Between: Koila Konda Lakshmi Devi ...Petitioner  
And Hanuman Prasad and others ...Respondents  
**NOTICE TO RESPONDENT No:1**  
R1: Hanuman Prasad S/o Ganesh Ram, R/at Nandri Kishangarh, Renewal, Nandri, Jaipur, Rajasthan State.  
Where as the petitioner has filed a claim petition against you and the same is posted 16-11-2021 for your appearance, you are hereby directed to appear before the hon'ble court either in person or through an advocate duly instructed on 16-11-2021 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the matter will be heard and decided ex parte.  
(By order of the court)  
T.DHANUNJAYA, advocate, Gooty, Anantapuramu Dist, Andhra Pradesh State, Cell: 9885896307.

**PERSONAL**  
**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I HITHERTO known as Prakash Kumar S/O Suresh Upadhyay employed as SNO in the Indian Air Force residing at RZ-B-52 Gali No 14 Raghu Nagar New Delhi-45 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRAKASH UPADHYAY  
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We need your help to win the war against pollution in Delhi. If you're waiting at a red light, switch your vehicle's engine off. Imagine the amount of pollution we can reduce if we all start switching off our vehicles at red lights.

"Delhi's pollution levels are likely to go up in the coming days. However, I have full faith that all of us will come together and defeat pollution. Stay healthy, stay safe."

-Arvind Kejriwal  
Chief Minister, Delhi

दिल्ली सरकार  
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Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT of Delhi



## कुशीनगर : नई उड़ान - नई पहचान

### भगवान बुद्ध की महापरिनिर्वाण स्थली में ₹260 करोड़ से निर्मित और 589 एकड़ में विस्तृत कुशीनगर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट

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- अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पर्यटकों की संख्या में 20 प्रतिशत तक की होगी वृद्धि
- पूर्वांचल में पर्यटन विकास के साथ रोजगार के बढ़ेंगे अवसर, स्थानीय उद्योगों एवं उत्पादों को मिलेगी वैश्विक पहचान
- प्रदेश का सबसे बड़ा रनवे, लंबाई 3,200 मीटर व चौड़ाई 45 मीटर

का

### लोकार्पण

समय : पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे | स्थान : कुशीनगर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट

भारत सरकार सहायतित योजना फेज-3 के अन्तर्गत

### राजकीय मेडिकल कॉलेज, कुशीनगर

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- परियोजना लागत रु. 281.45 करोड़
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- 40 लाख लोग होंगे लाभान्वित
- पड़ोसी जनपदों एवं बिहार के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों के मरीजों को भी मिलेगी सुविधा

का

### शिलान्यास

एवं

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- स्वदेश दर्शन स्कीम के बौद्ध सर्किट योजनान्तर्गत पर्यटन विकास
- राजकीय महाविद्यालय सुकरौली का निर्माण
- नवीन संकेत मूक बधिर राजकीय बालिका विद्यालय (आवासीय) का निर्माण
- कसया-रामकोला व रामपुर खुर्द-कोटवा घुघली मार्ग का चौड़ीकरण एवं सुदृढीकरण

का

सोच  
ईमानदार  
काम  
दमदार

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किरण रिजजू  
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भारत सरकार

ज्योतिरादित्य एम. सिंधिया  
मंत्री, नागरिक विमानन  
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जी. किशन रेड्डी  
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पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र विकास, भारत सरकार

श्रीपद येस्सो नाइक  
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तथा पर्यटन (एम.ओ.एस.), भारत सरकार

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राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य तथा संस्कृति  
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राज्य मंत्री, रक्षा तथा पर्यटन  
भारत सरकार

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मंत्री, कृषि, कृषि शिक्षा एवं कृषि अनुसंधान  
उत्तर प्रदेश

स्वामी प्रसाद मोर्य  
मंत्री, श्रम एवं सेवायोजन तथा  
समन्वय, उत्तर प्रदेश

स्वतंत्र देव सिंह  
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डॉ. रमापति राम त्रिपाठी  
सांसद  
देवरिया

विजय कुमार दुबे  
सांसद  
कुशीनगर

एवं अन्य गणमान्य महानुभाव

समय : अपराह्न 1:00 बजे | स्थान : बरवा जंगल, निकट एन.एच.-28, कुशीनगर

दिनांक : 20 अक्टूबर, 2021



# Kerala CM chairs high-level meet on rain havoc

He asks officials to identify mud-slip prone areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday asked officials to enlist the services of civil defence volunteers, neighbourhood self-help groups and civic-minded citizens for flood relief and rehabilitation efforts.

At a high-level meeting he chaired, Mr. Vijayan asked District Collectors to identify mud-slip prone areas and evacuate residents from there urgently. Chief Secretary V.P. Joy, Power Minister K. Krishnakutty, Revenue Minister K. Rajan and other top officials also attended.

Central and State forces continued their search for people feared swept away by



**In the same boat:** Akash Kunjumon and A. Aishwarya returning from their wedding venue in a vessel through a flooded road in Kuttanad, Alappuzha, on Monday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

floodwaters or caught under mud-slips. Residents, too, were helping the uniformed forces. The Government is currently operating 184 relief camps in the State in the wake of the disaster caused by the torrential rain.

Waterlogging continued unabated in Kuttanad and other low-lying areas in the district on Monday. Although rain had subsided, floodwaters flowing from the eastern side had inundated most of the upper Kuttanad

region. The water level in major rivers in the district also continued to remain high. The body of a four-year-old child was recovered from the debris in the landslip-hit Makochi at Kokkayar on Monday.

# Sailing away to a happy married life in a vessel

STAFF REPORTER  
ALAPPUZHA

For Akash Kunjumon and A. Aishwarya, their lives as man and wife could not have begun on a more adventurous note. The couple braved the floods to tie the knot in an inundated hall at Thalavady in Kuttanad on Monday.

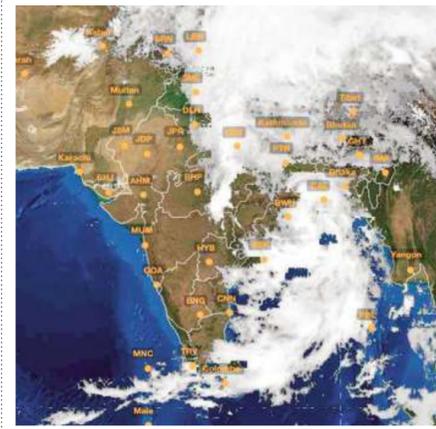
Though the weather was not on their side, Mr. Kunjumon and Ms. Aishwarya, determined to get married, reached the venue, adjacent to the Panayannurkavu Devi temple at Thalavady, in a large copper cooking vessel as all roads in the region remained waterlogged. “The wedding was originally scheduled at the Pa-

nayannurkavu Devi temple. As the temple remained submerged, we shifted the ceremony to a nearby hall, where floodwaters had not entered the stage. Although we tried to arrange a small boat to reach the venue, none was available. We sailed in a cooking vessel provided by the temple authorities to reach there in time for the *muhurtham*,” said Mr. Kunjumon.

The couple was helped by a group of locals, led by Champakulam block panchayat member Ajith Kumar Pisharath. “As the road leading to the temple was waterlogged, we arranged the cooking vessel,” said Mr. Pisharath.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	36	32.0	24.9	Kozhikode	6	28.8	24.4
Ahmedabad	—	35.6	24.0	Kurnool	—	33.4	25.0
Aizawl	0.3	27.1	21.2	Lucknow	3	32.2	24.7
Allahabad	—	34.0	25.8	Madurai	—	38.0	24.6
Bangaluru	0.8	27.6	20.8	Mangaluru	2.9	30.0	24.2
Bhopal	41.4	28.1	22.0	Mumbai	—	32.7	25.8
Bhubaneswar	0.1	30.3	24.5	Mysuru	2	27.0	22.1
Chandigarh	4	25.1	22.0	New Delhi	88	23.9	20.1
Chennai	0.5	34.0	27.5	Patna	0.2	31.4	26.3
Coimbatore	0.1	30.1	23.2	Port Blair	1	31.5	25.6
Dehradun	17	20.4	19.2	Puducherry	—	33.3	26.2
Gangtok	8.2	19.2	16.5	Pune	—	31.0	20.0
Goa	0.4	32.2	26.0	Raipur	9	32.9	24.6
Guwahati	—	34.9	26.5	Ranchi	43	24.2	21.1
Hubbli	—	31.0	22.0	Shillong	0.5	24.6	17.5
Hyderabad	—	31.6	22.2	Shimla	—	17.3	11.8
Imphal	—	28.2	20.8	Srinagar	15	17.0	11.0
Jaipur	1.7	27.0	22.0	Thiruvananthapuram	4	31.2	23.8
Kochi	11	30.0	25.8	Tiruchi	—	34.2	25.2
Kohima	—	29.8	15.0	Vijayawada	—	34.2	26.4
Kolkata	54	26.7	24.6	Visakhapatnam	—	33.4	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	69	60	17	153	161	■
Bangaluru	6	35	56	47	85	■
Chennai	5	—	96	59	69	■
Delhi	3	34	67	55	49	■
Hyderabad	4	46	27	108	96	■
Kolkata	18	16	26	34	35	■
Lucknow	8	31	53	57	72	■
Mumbai	5	42	11	182	109	■
Pune	11	41	110	62	53	■
Visakhapatnam	16	36	29	44	65	■

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing** Yesterday

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.  
**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.  
**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.  
**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

## IN BRIEF



### A.P. CM visits Avadhoota Datta Peetham

VIJAYAWADA  
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday offered darshan to Goddess Sri Marakata Rajeswari and other deities at the Avadhoota Datta Peetham at Patamata here and met Ganapathi Sachchidananda Swami.

### Classes I to V to reopen from Oct. 25: Karnataka

BENGALURU  
The Karnataka Government on Monday announced that physical classes for students of Class I to V would begin on October 25, with half-day classes for the first week and full-day classes from November 2.

## Minister defends officers who posed in saffron attire

‘Wearing it during festivals is common’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Defending the personnel of the Vijayapura Rural and Kaup police stations who posed in saffron attire during Dasara festivities, Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra on Monday accused Congress leader Siddaramaiah of raising such issues to gain political mileage among minorities.

“Is the saffron colour banned in the country?... Saffron is a symbol of sacrifice and is part of our national flag. For political mileage, Mr. Siddaramaiah comments on such things to make the minorities happy,” he said. “Why does he fear the saffron colour? He does not comment on wearing

white [skull] caps or white kurtas. Many police personnel offer namaz during duty hours... We respect it.”

The Congress leader had on Sunday objected to police personnel at the two stations wearing saffron attire during Dasara festivities. While the personnel in Vijayapura wore saffron shawls, personnel at the Kaup police station wore saffron shirts.

Stating that wearing saffron robes during religious festivals was a common practice, the Home Minister said, “We also have to respect the private lives of police personnel.” Mr. Jnanendra ruled out taking any action against the police personnel in question.

## Minor behind death of four in Karnataka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HASSAN

The police have unravelled the mystery behind the death of four persons at Isamudra Gollarahatti near Chitradurga taluk in Karnataka, which was reported on July 12. The accused is a minor girl of the family and she has been sent to an observation home. She allegedly mixed pesticide in ragi flour while preparing *mudde* (ragi balls) as she was feeling isolated and neglected in the family.

Her father, Thippa Naika, 45; mother Sudha Bai, 40; grandmother Gundibai, 80; and sister Ramya, 16, died after having dinner that day. Her elder brother, Chandrashekar, who also ate the food, survived.

## Surender Reddy grilled again by SC committee

Panel is probing killings in Disha case

ABHINAV DESHPANDE  
HYDERABAD

of the incident at Chatanpalay on December 6, 2019.

“How can the witness be so dumb,” asked members of the Supreme Court-appointed commission to inquire into the Cyberabad police’s alleged encounter killings of the four accused in the rape and murder of Disha, a 27-year-old veterinarian, after listening to investigating officer (IO) and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda Special Operations Team, J. Surender Reddy’s answers during his deposition on Monday.

The IO was asked again about the duration of the submitted video clippings, photographs and the procedure followed while recording the videos of the scene

the officer maintained that there were no photos or videos of the articles recovered and the place from where the accused tried to flee. “If the IO is clueless about the clues, what can we do? Leave it for the influence of the commission,” the members said.

Earlier, when Mr. Reddy did not respond to their questions, chairman of the commission, former judge Justice V.S. Sirpurkar, said the IO was trying to “run away” from questions.

“That would be disastrous for you. You are deliberately trying to avoid my questions. I will write about it,” he said.

## ‘Youth, tribal people being used to transport ganja’

Smugglers luring them in A.P.: officials

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS  
VIJAYAWADA

Tribal people and the youth are being lured into ganja peddling in Andhra Pradesh, Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) officials said, adding that smugglers from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and other States are running their trade by establishing contacts with the local ganja cultivators.

The SEB and police had seized about 2.70 lakh kg of ganja worth more than ₹150 crore after the bureau was formed in the State. Smugglers were roping in tribal people and the youth for transporting the contraband to other States by paying paltry amounts, the officials said.

“As many as 2,039 lakh cases have been registered

against ganja smugglers and 5,411 persons have been arrested. The police have seized 1,404 vehicles used for transportation of the contraband,” SEB Commissioner Vineet Brijlal said.

“A joint operation has been planned with the police in the Andhra-Odisha Border [AOB] region and the agency areas in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari district. We will conduct raids and destroy the stocks at the cultivation points,” he said.

Krishna district Superintendent of Police (SP) Siddharth Kaushal said vigil had been stepped up on the National Highways and at the border checkposts.

In many cases, kingpins from other States were using tribal people and the youth to transport the stocks. Police were trying to arrest the kingpins, said an SEB official.

## Black and white



**Flying high:** A glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) flying past a flock of spot-billed pelicans (*Pelecanus philippensis*) at a tank in Coimbatore on Monday. ■M. PERIASAMY

## War of words between Cong., BJP in Karnataka

Bypolls are due in two constituencies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

In the heat of the byelections to the Hangal and Sindgi Assembly constituencies in Karnataka, the Congress and the BJP are involved in a spat on Twitter after the former called Prime Minister Narendra Modi “illiterate”.

“The Congress had built schools. Despite this, Mr. Modi did not study... The country is suffering because of illiterate Modi,” the Karnataka Congress said in a series of tweets in Kannada.

Claiming that petrol and diesel would have been made available for ₹66 and ₹55, respectively, if the Congress was in power, the party’s Twitter handle wrote, “The country is struggling because illiterate Modi does not understand people’s problems.” Suggesting that Mr. Modi change his name,

it said, “The Prime Minister who does not speak on ground realities can change his name to Mounendra Modi.”

Hitting out at the Congress, the BJP said, “Though there were enough schools, a 50-year-old and a senior youth leader [Congress leader Rahul Gandhi] did not study in India at all... He is wandering like a beggar [thinking] that he will become Prime Minister because his great-grandfather and father were Prime Ministers.”

Meanwhile, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar expressed regret over the tweet by his party. “An uncivil tweet made by a novice social media manager through the Karnataka Congress official Twitter handle is regretted and stands withdrawn,” he said in a tweet.

## ‘Mumbai lost 40% green cover between 1991 and 2018’

City lost 81% of its open land, says survey

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

Mumbai lost 81% of its open land (barren spaces without any vegetation), 40% green cover (forests & scrublands) and approximately 30% of its water bodies (lakes, ponds, floodplains) between 1991 and 2018, while the built-up area (areas developed upon) rose by 66% in the same period, says a recent study. It concludes that the city witnessed a 2-degree Celsius average temperature rise across 27 years.

Researchers from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi; Osmania University



The extreme heat that one experiences when strolling through any urban landscape is caused by the Urban Heat Island effect, according to experts. ■FILE PHOTO

in Hyderabad; and Aligarh Muslim University in Uttar Pradesh through their study - Urban Heat Island Dynamics in Response to Land-Use/Land-Cover Change in the Coastal City of Mumbai - published in the peer-reviewed *Springer Journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing* found that with this

pace of urbanisation and landscape transformation, it is expected that the Urban Heat Island intensity will further increase in the city. Using satellite imagery (USA-NASA Landsat datasets freely available), the authors studied an area of 603 sq km of Mumbai region (both city and suburbs) to understand

the land-use and land-cover changes, difference in maximum, minimum and average temperatures (for Urban Heat Island intensity), land surface temperatures, changes in vegetation cover versus urban built-up density between 1991 and 2018. The extreme heat that one experiences while

strolling through any urban landscape is caused by the Urban Heat Island effect, a micro-climatic phenomenon. This is due to a number of causes, the most prominent being the usage of materials such as concrete, according to Atiqur Rahman from the Department of Geography, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia.

### Health risks

“This will not only deteriorate the urban thermal environment but also increase the serious risks to health for city dwellers. This rise in heat intensity in Mumbai is linked to the declining green cover in the city, which is the result of the large-scale transformation of the green cover into built-up land for the infrastructural development in the city,” he said.

## Rajasthan tightens screws to curb unfair means in exams

Move follows ‘irregularities’ in teachers’ test held recently

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

After allegations of irregularities in the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET) held recently, the State Government has decided to take stringent measures to prevent use of unfair means in the competitive exams. An ordinance will be brought to strengthen the law to prevent malpractices in tests for recruitment to government services.

As many as 10 people, including some police constables, have been arrested and 20 government employees suspended in connection with the alleged cheating and irregularities in

REET-2021 conducted last month. Candidates have staged protests in several towns demanding cancellation of the exam and a re-exam, while the Opposition BJP has demanded a CBI inquiry into the matter.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who discussed the issue with the Home Department officials at a high-level meeting here on Sunday, said the ordinance would have provisions for strict action against those involved in cheating, paper leaks and irregularities in the competitive examinations.

The use of unfair means will be included in the category of cognisable and non-

bailable offences and a provision made to increase the punishment for the crime from the present three years to seven years.

Government officials found involved in the instances of paper leak, appearance of dummy candidates and copying will be terminated from service.

Mr. Gehlot said the recognition of private educational institutions, where the exams were conducted, would be withdrawn if their office-bearers or employees were found involved in any irregularity or malpractices. More than 16 lakh candidates had appeared in REET-2021 on September 26.



## Slippery slopes

To face heavy monsoons, States must preserve the integrity of rivers and mountains

Even as the Southwest monsoon retreats along parts of northern Karnataka, Telangana, Odisha, Bengal and the northeastern States in October, it is leaving a trail of destruction in several districts. Significant loss of life has occurred in Kerala. While the heaviest recent downpour has been reported from west Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, east Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, with as much as 31 cm in Sheopur on Monday, there has been very heavy rain in Kerala and Gangetic West Bengal. The Indian monsoon is an invaluable resource that sustains hundreds of millions of people, but variations in its patterns and intensity pose a rising challenge. Kerala, which hosts a vast stretch of the Western Ghats, is having to contend with these changes with almost no respite between severe spells. The recurrent bursts show that anomalies in precipitation over the State, spectacularly demonstrated by the inundation of idyllic towns in 2018 and by mudslides that killed many a year later, require a comprehensive adaptation plan. This year's torrential rain in the State, which has killed at least 35 people so far, is causing alarm as large reservoirs in mountainous reaches start filling up fast, while the Northeast monsoon lies ahead. The Government has responded by issuing alerts for several dams, including Idukki, and put in place plans to release water to avoid a repeat of the flooding witnessed three years ago. Significantly, the IMD has issued an alert for more heavy rainfall in Kerala from October 20.

The precarity of living conditions in much of the country make the annual monsoon a persistent threat for millions, and governments should do more to reduce the risk to life and property. Nurturing the health of rivers and keeping them free of encroachments, protecting the integrity of mountain slopes by ending mining, deforestation and incompatible construction hold the key. The ecological imperative should be clear to Kerala with successive years of devastation, echoing the warnings in the Madhav Gadgil committee report on the Western Ghats. Land may be an extremely scarce resource, but expanding extractive economic activity to montane forests is certain to cause incalculable losses. One estimate by researchers in 2017 put quarrying area in Kerala at over 7,157 hectares, much of it in central districts that were hit later by mudslides. It should be evident to governments that it is unconscionable to allow the pursuit of short-term profits at the cost of helpless communities. A more benign development policy should treat nature as an asset, and not an impediment. Accurately mapped hazard zones should inform all decisions. There is a similar threat from extreme weather, breaking glaciers and cloudbursts to Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Several States face climate change impacts and extreme weather, and the response must be to strengthen natural defences.

## Greenfield hopes

The rebound in investments past pre-pandemic levels must be nurtured

The ebbing of the second wave of the pandemic, accompanied by the gradual lifting of restrictions across States, have not only spurred an improvement in several economic indicators but also led to a much-awaited investment revival. Data from investment monitoring firm Projects Today reveal that investment commitments and indicators of actual capital expenditure on the ground recorded a more than robust sequential growth in the July-September quarter after an insipid Q1. Even though enhanced central government infrastructure spending is partly responsible, this uptick is surprising for another reason – the first half of 2021-22 has now seen fresh investments higher than the pre-COVID year of 2019-20, with private capital outlays up nearly 49% to ₹4.87-lakh crore. Whether or not this growth rate is sustained, the implementation of the "PLI" scheme to promote manufacturing investments in India is expected to spur more investments in textiles, pharma, electronics over the second half of this year and 2022-23. Critics may call it a retro-style import substitution push, but if it manages to nudge a few investments away from Vietnam, Cambodia and now, Bangladesh, at a time the world is looking to reduce its China dependence, this is worth the effort. Initial evidence suggests some investors have been converted.

Speedy implementation is, however, essential to ensure the expected gains accrue – of the 13 sectors for which PLIs have been announced, nine have been notified so far, and the others must be spelt out quickly lest global investors pick another destination. The handing over of Air India to the Tata group – the first outright sale of a public sector firm in almost two decades – will ring in some much-needed confidence in the Government's much-reiterated stance that it has no business to be in business. With its efforts to repair some of the damage to the long-bleeding telecom sector and finally fix the festering folly of pursuing retrospective tax cases that it had termed as 'tax terrorism' while in the Opposition, the Government has been making the right noises. These decisions still have to be taken to their respective logical conclusions swiftly, for an enduring shift in perceptions, and outcomes on the ground. Moreover, as it seeks to seal economic partnership pacts or scale up ties with key markets like the EU, the U.S. and the U.K., India needs to also invest some of this energy into improving its image on key socio-economic parameters and the adherence to the 'rule of law' while refraining from fresh mistakes and heavy-handed regulations like the much-opposed draft norms for e-commerce. In a world where capital is increasingly influenced by environmental, social and governance standards, these factors merit more policy attention as well.

# Over-simplified models, complex social systems

Along with fundamental epistemic limitations, western scientific methods are showing up ethical weaknesses too



ARUN MAIRA

The 2021 Nobel Prize for Physics has been shared by three physicists (with one half jointly to Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann) "for the physical modelling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming" and (and the other half to Giorgio Parisi) "for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales", according to the citation by the Nobel selection committee.

### Nod for modelling methods

The 2021 Nobel Prize in Economics (or the The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2021) was awarded to David Card, for proving that rises in minimum wages increase employment levels (and improve overall societal well-being), contrary to the views of most mainstream economists that because higher wages increase firms' costs, the well-being of firms (and societies) will be harmed. The other half of the Economics Nobel went to Joshua D. Angrist and Guido W. Imbens for improving economists' tools for understanding complex systems, which were tools David Card had also used. Thus, the Physics and Economics Nobel prizes were for contributions to methods of modelling complex systems (apart from the half in economics for insights into wages and labour markets using new methods in economics).

A quarter century ago, Nobel laureates in economics, Kenneth J. Arrow and Brian Arthur, had arranged a meeting, at the Santa Fe

Institute, of economists with physicists including Nobel Laureates, Murray Gell-Mann and Philip Anderson, to understand what economists can learn from physicists about the formulation of theories and models. The economists presented their models.

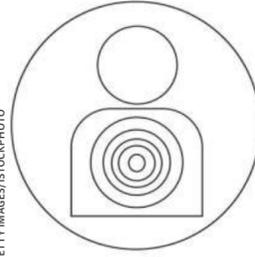
M. Mitchell Waldrop gives an account of the meeting in his book, *Complexity: The Emerging Science at the Edge of Order and Chaos*.

"And indeed, as the axioms and theorems and proofs marched across the overhead projector screen, the physicists could only be awe-struck at their counterparts' mathematical prowess – awe-struck and appalled. It seemed as if though they were dazzling themselves with fancy mathematics, until they couldn't see the forest for the trees. They weren't looking at what the models were for, and whether the underlying assumptions were any good. In a lot of cases, what was required was just common sense."

### Realised a long while ago

Physicists had realised the limitations of human minds to understand how the world really works a century ago. The Nobel Prizes in Physics were awarded to Max Planck (1918), Albert Einstein (1921), Niels Bohr (1922), Louis de Broglie (1929) and Werner Heisenberg (1932). They displaced the Newtonian paradigm of physics, which had reigned for three centuries, which saw Nature as a machine that could be described with linear theories of cause-and-effect. The essence of the new physics was that reality is not what it seems to be to the rational mind. More startling was the conclusion that the human mind can never know what reality is because it is limited to models that can satisfy only its internal logic.

The science of economics lags physics by a century. Economists continue to model economies as machines whose efficiency can be increased by managing inputs to



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

produce more outputs, thus also increasing the overall sizes of economies. The saving grace for physicists is that they attempt to model only the physics of the universe, as the winners of the 2021 Prize have done. Whereas economists try to develop rigorous mathematical proofs of social phenomena. Now, some economists are reluctantly accepting that economies are affected by fuzzy human and societal irrationalities. Recently, some have won Nobel Prizes for (finally) including emotions and concepts of 'identity' into their models. Which common sense alone should have revealed to them long ago.

### Nature's workings, humans

Systems' sciences have advanced since the seminal meeting at the Santa Fe Institute in 1987. Engineers design machines, applying the laws of mechanics, to produce greater outputs with lesser inputs. Similarly, 20th century economists have been attempting to design more efficient economies, looking for levers to pull within them, such as prices of money and carbon, to improve their performance. Now they are beginning to look at Nature with greater respect, to understand how Nature designs itself. Nature is an adaptive system that produces innovations from within itself, such as new species. And species too adapt their abilities as Nature around them changes. *Homo sapiens* is the most complicated of all

species because, unlike other species, it has intentions to master Nature, not just adapt to it. With human agency come complications of egos and ethics. Humans want to have power over Nature and over other humans too. Even when their actions are well-intended, they are ill-informed because they do not comprehend the power of the system of which they are only small parts, which the paradigm-changing physicists of the 20th century had realised.

### A flawed construct

The harm that measurements derived from over-simplified models can cause to the health of complex self-adaptive social systems has become evident with the recent imbroglio of the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Framework. The intentions of the measurer will determine what is measured. Stock market indices, ease of doing business, and profits of firms are measures of what financial investors are looking for. Whereas levels of incomes at the bottom of the pyramid, and equity in ease of living for all human beings are better indicators of the health of a society and its economy. GDP is an indicator of the material performance of an economy; not its social and environmental health.

According to the paradigm-changing physicists of the early 20th century, the "logical", linear, way of thinking is only a construct of the human mind. Nevertheless, economists (and even some physicists) persist in thinking that there must be causal, linear relationships amongst all variables in a system. New statistical methods (like Angrist and Imbens') apparently enable causation to be separated from mere correlation. Jordan Ellenberg explains, in *How Not to Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking*, how mathematical methods can reveal hidden structures beneath the messy and chaotic structures of our daily lives. He warns: "Mathematics is a

way not to be wrong. There is a real danger that, by strengthening our abilities to analyse some questions mathematically, we acquire a general confidence in our beliefs, which extends unjustifiably to those things we're still wrong about."

### Too little listening now

Along with fundamental epistemic limitations, western scientific methods are revealing ethical weaknesses too. The dignity of human beings is squeezed out to convert humans into quantities to fit into economists and social scientists' mathematical equations. Scientists arrogantly claim they know best what is good for everybody; and that their views must prevail because they are more 'rational'. There is too much mathematical calculation in the world of modern scientists; too little listening to people not like themselves.

We have the dialogue series, *The Limits of Thought* (1998), by David Bohm (who was nominated for the Nobel Prize in physics) and Jiddu Krishnamurthy, the Indian philosopher. Scientific models of the climate as a physical system only in which economists can determine a price of carbon that will make the world alright again are fundamentally flawed. Bohm had said that the end of science means the coming of western civilisation, in its own time and in its own way, into the higher dimensions of human experience. Those higher dimensions include humility within the world that has created the human mind, and which humans cannot logically explain.

The time has come for more equity in global governance, and for an "Eastern" philosophical way of thinking to save the world from a scientific apocalypse.

Arun Maira is the author of "Transforming Systems: Why the World Needs a New Ethical Toolkit". He is also a former Member of the Planning Commission

# The nuclear proliferator who was never indicted

America's shielding of A.Q. Khan paralleled its policy of not penalising the Pakistani military's nexus with terror groups



BRAHMA CHELLANEY

One key question is unlikely to go away despite the passing of A.Q. Khan, the world's biggest nuclear proliferator, who developed COVID-19 complications. Why did the United States never indict this Dutch-trained Pakistani metallurgist for stealing western nuclear secrets and operating an illicit international nuclear-smuggling network for more than a quarter of a century? After all, the U.S. has indicted lesser known individuals, including as recently as last year, for conspiring to smuggle nuclear goods to Pakistan.

### The beginnings

Khan began his nuclear smuggling in the mid-1970s while working in the Netherlands as an engineer at Urenco, a European consortium, where he furtively accessed blueprints of centrifuges for enriching uranium. With the help of the designs he stole and the nuclear components and materials he procured illicitly from Europe and North America, Khan played a central role in Pakistan's nuclear-weapons development, although China's covert assistance was critical to its ultimate success.

Until Pakistan's 1998 nuclear tests, Khan focused on smuggling western nuclear goods to his country. Thereafter, Pakistan's nuclear czar established a nuclear super-market, selling starter kits and components to countries the U.S.

considered rogue states – Iran, Libya and North Korea.

Yet, the U.S. never indicted Khan. Why the world's nuclear non-proliferation leader did not indict the top global nuclear-smuggling kingpin is an issue that has not even been examined.

### The Lubbers revelations

Former Dutch Prime Minister Rutub Lubbers revealed in 2005 that the Netherlands sought to arrest Khan in 1975 and then again in 1986 but that on each occasion, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) advised his country to back off. With Dutch authorities deferring to U.S. intelligence, Khan was allowed to return to the Netherlands repeatedly, with his last visit being in 1992.

In fact, after Khan was tried in absentia and sentenced to four years in prison in 1983 for stealing secret blueprints, the Amsterdam court lost his legal files, with the main judge suspecting the CIA's hand in the disappearance. In 1985, Khan's sentence was overturned on a technicality – he had not been served the summons. Instead of seeking a retrial, authorities abandoned prosecuting the most momentous crime committed in the Netherlands since the Second World War.

As Lubbers said, "The last word is Washington. There is no doubt they knew everything, heard everything." So, why did the U.S. protect Khan? Probably the same reason why Washington ignored mounting evidence of Pakistan's nuclear-weapons advances. As *The New York Times* reported in 1998 that "without China's help, Pakistan's bomb would not exist", but that the U.S. "pursued policies that proved almost as essential to



FILE PHOTO/APP

the Pakistani bomb program" as the Chinese assistance.

In the 1980s, while Khan's network was smuggling western nuclear items to Pakistan, the CIA was smuggling billions of dollars of weapons to anti-Soviet guerrillas in Afghanistan via Pakistan. Add to the picture another Cold War dimension that Lubbers alluded to: New Delhi's warm ties with Moscow and the 1974 nuclear test induced the U.S. to turn a blind eye to Pakistani proliferation to help balance India.

### A role switch

The U.S.'s concerns were stirred only after Pakistan's 1998 nuclear tests, which emboldened Khan's metamorphosis from a buyer to a seller. After Iran and Libya later admitted receiving nuclear items from Pakistan-linked black marketers, U.S. pressure compelled Pakistan to open investigations into Khan's activities.

What followed was a remarkable charade. In a state-scripted confession, Khan appeared on national television in 2004 asking for forgiveness, saying he had acted entirely on his own in transferring nuclear goods to other countries. Pakistani dictator General Pervez Musharraf then quickly pardoned Khan. But to prevent the uncovering of the military's own role in the nuclear-smuggling scandal, Mush-

arraf also barred international investigators from questioning Khan.

Before long, the charade started unravelling. Khan disowned his confession, saying it had been forced upon him by Musharraf, while the Islamabad High Court ruled his house detention unlawful. Khan lived the rest of his life in his comfortable Islamabad villa, with state-provided security.

Yet, the U.S. readily acquiesced in the charade from the beginning, despite knowing well that Khan could not have operated alone in a country that has always been in the grip of its military. British investigative journalists Adrian Levy and Catherine Scott-Clark, in their book on the scandal, concluded that Khan's underground trade was "supervised by Pakistan's ruling military clique". Musharraf himself, according to French intellectual Bernard Henri Lévy, was in the know of "Khan's dark machinations".

### The North Korean link

In exchange for supplying centrifuges to Pyongyang, Pakistan received North Korean ballistic missile technology, helping it to build its first intermediate-range, nuclear-capable missile, Ghauri. North Korea's nuclear-weapons capability, however, relies not on enriched uranium but on plutonium, which the Khan network did not traffic. Iran apparently received second-hand gear – discarded Pakistani centrifuges, some with traces of enriched uranium. Libya was sold basic kits, from ageing centrifuges to natural uranium.

As Pakistan's Kahuta facility advanced from entry-level P-1 aluminium centrifuges to P-2 maraging-

steel centrifuges – which could spin almost twice faster, thus doubling the rate of uranium enrichment – Khan's network palmed off the old centrifuges on other nations. However, until Khan's very last breath, Pakistan's military generals ensured that no outside investigator questioned him.

### The law of consequences

Against this background, America's shielding of Khan, who long championed a "Muslim bomb", paralleled its policy of not penalising the Pakistani military's nexus with terrorist groups, thus leading to unforeseen but far-reaching consequences. Such dual shielding paved the way for Pakistan's emergence as the world's sole state sponsor of Islamist terrorism protected by nuclear weapons.

Today, the U.S. maintains contingency plans to seize Pakistan's nuclear weapons if they risk falling into terrorist hands. Such a threat, however, comes from jihadists within Pakistan's military and nuclear establishment. The U.S. has added Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to its list of foreign terrorist organisations but not Pakistan's rogue Inter-Services Intelligence, with which the CIA has sustained long-standing ties.

But as if to underscore the law of unintended consequences, the U.S., through its humiliating Afghanistan defeat at the hands of a terrorist militia, has tasted the bitter fruits of the Pakistani generals' cross-border use of jihadist proxies from behind their protective nuclear shield.

Brahma Chellaney is a geostrategist and the author of nine books, including the award-winning "Water: Asia's New Battleground"

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Kerala's rain fury

Heavy rainfall during the retreat of the Southwest monsoon is a rare phenomenon in Kerala. That unexpected torrential rain, accompanied by landslides in the southern and central parts of the State, is wreaking havoc on the physical infrastructure is a grim pointer to the growing vulnerabilities of the coastal State to adverse weather events. Climate change mitigation and adaptability measures

should be taken up on a war-footing. While rescue and relief efforts have improved, the country needs to vastly improve its climate change-resilient infrastructure.

M. JEVARAM,  
Shoolavandan, Tamil Nadu

### Sidhu again

After a lull, Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu has commenced his usual outbursts. What Mr. Sidhu desires is that the government should be

subservient to him and that he should have a greater say in all key administrative decisions. The image of the Congress party has already taken a beating following the ignominious exit of the stalwart, Captain Amarinder Singh. The Congress president needs to crack the whip.

V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR,  
Chennai

### Tamil Nadu governance

The unprecedented and mammoth victory of the

DMK in the local body elections in Tamil Nadu is recognition the people have given to the government, particularly for the implementation of people-oriented schemes in such a short time. One believes that the Chief Minister is on track to make the State regain its shine. Other leaders and cadres of the DMK should also realise their responsibilities and perform their duties honestly, keeping only the welfare of the people

supreme. The Chief Minister should not hesitate to take severe action against anyone found to be involved in corruption or unlawful activities.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,  
Chennai

### Back to the Tatas

The Government's move to give up its entire stake in Air India is a bold decision. The Tatas winning the bid for the betterment of India's national airline. I have felt a special affinity

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for the airline, having also been a VIP card holder until recently. Till its nationalisation, passengers were assured of the Maharaja's exemplary service besides travelling on a profit-making airline. The new development should lead to the return of its glory. One also hopes that its much loved logo, the Centaur, returns.

V.P. DHANANJAYAN,  
Chennai

# A shadow foreign policy for the first time

A document suggesting an alternative foreign policy has been put forth, but will the Opposition consider it?



T.P. SREENIVASAN

India does not have a tradition of shadow cabinets lurking behind the government in power with ready alternative approaches to policy matters. The opposition challenges government policies, but provides no alternatives to be adopted in the event of a change in government. It is only at the time of elections that a manifesto is put forward, but that does not become the policy of the government automatically. The opposition uses think tanks and NGOs to float ideas, which may become part of policy if they become publicly acceptable. Since there has been a consensus on foreign policy, a shadow foreign policy was out of the question. But for the first time, a document has emerged from the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) in the nature of an alternative to the present foreign and defence policies named 'India's Path to Power: Strategy in a world adrift'. It is authored by eight well-known strategists and thinkers.

In 2012, many of the same authors had produced another document, 'Non-alignment 2.0', in the light of the global changes at that time, as a contribution to policymaking, without criticising the policies of the government. But the new government in 2014 had its own ideas and not much attention was given to the study. The present document, however, is in the nature of an alternative to the foreign and defence policies of the Modi government, as some of its tenets are not considered conducive to finding a path to power for India in the post-pandemic world. The eight conclusions are quite logical and reasonable, but the tenor and tone of the paper is one of criticism and need for course correction.

## Change in foreign policy

The first term of the Modi government was remarkable for its innovative, bold and assertive foreign policy, which received general approval. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led from the front and took



the credit for overcoming the hesitations of history. He laid out his priorities and pursued them with vigour. After his unconventional peace initiatives with Pakistan failed, he took a firm stand and gained popularity at home. His wish to have close relations with the other neighbours did not materialise, but his helpful attitude to them even in difficult situations averted any crisis. He brought a new symphony into India-U.S. relations and engaged China continuously to find a new equation with it. India's relations with Israel and the Arab countries became productive. Mr. Modi's enhanced majority in the second term was partly on account of his foreign policy successes.

It was when the second Modi government dealt with some of the unfinished sensitive matters, which were essentially of a domestic nature (Article 370, citizenship issues and farming regulations), that their external dimensions led to a challenge to its foreign policy. Questions were raised in the West about human rights and the state of democracy in India. The opposition in India began to question the foreign policy postures of the government. The pandemic, the economic meltdown and China's incursion into Ladakh added to the woes of the government.

The cumulative effect of these developments is reflected in the CPR report. It says, "The foundational source of India's influence in the world is the power of its example. This rests on four pillars, domestic economic growth, social inclusion, political democracy and a broadly liberal constitutional order. If these integral pillars remain strong, there is no stopping India... The most significant change in the last decade or so is that we cannot take for granted

the success of India's development model... But the fundamental sources of India's development and international influence look increasingly precarious. We must confront this changed outlook... Nourishing the foundations of India's success requires a conscious political effort, and it is a strategic imperative..."

## Set the house in order

This assertion at the beginning of the report is the heart of the report and it is repeated in different forms. In other words, the finding is that domestic issues have impacted foreign policy and, therefore, India should set its house in order to stem the tide of international reaction. "It is important that we acknowledge the perverse impact of domestic political and ideological factors that are driving our foreign policy... Political polarisation and majoritarianism will lead to a diminished India - one that may struggle to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead," asserts the report. It also says that the confused international order that followed the global crisis saw an "omni-directional Indian foreign policy." These harsh statements are likely to be challenged by the government, which will claim that India has stood true to its own foundational values and there is no "authoritarian model of development".

Once the basic premise is set aside, the report has many positive elements, which will help policymakers to rethink policy. For instance, the report rightly points out that "it would be incorrect and counterproductive for India to turn its back on globalisation..." It also suggests that SAARC should be revived and that India should rejoin the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

and continue its long-standing quest for membership in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

The report also stresses the importance of strategic autonomy in today's world where change is the only certainty. As for the India-U.S.-China triangle, the report makes the unusual suggestion that India should have better relations individually with both the U.S. and China than they have with each other.

The report contains detailed analyses on different regions and key countries, but the general thrust is that all is not well with Indian foreign policy and a fundamental change is necessary to meet the present situation. The report concludes that since China will influence India's external environment politically, economically and infrastructurally, there is no feasible alternative to a combination of engagement and competition with China. The approach of the present government is not very different. There is implicit criticism of the Pakistan policy when the report asserts, "as long as our objectives of policy towards Pakistan are modest, resumption of dialogue and a gradual revival of trade, transport and other links are worth pursuing."

A considerable part of the report is devoted to issues relating to defence, the nuclear doctrine, space, cyberspace and the ecological crisis. On the looming environmental disaster, the report states that since India is still at an early stage of its modern development trajectory, it is not yet locked into an energy-intensive pattern of growth. Much of its infrastructure remains to be built. It suggests all is not well with the present strategy for environmental protection and economic development.

The eminent stature of the authors and the CPR will certainly compel detailed studies of the report in the run-up to the next elections and beyond as the time frame suggested for change is the next decade. But the significance of the report is that it reveals the end of the era of consensus foreign policy and presents a shadow foreign policy for the first time in India. It remains to be seen whether any of the opposition parties will adopt it and fight the next election on the platform provided by the report.

T.P. Sreenivasan is former Ambassador of India and Governor for India of the IAEA

# India needs a caste count

A new intervention strategy can then be fashioned to emancipate groups that are still at the bottom of the ladder



MANISH TEWARI

The Constituent Assembly sat together 114 times to draft a visionary Constitution for India, targeted at transforming an ancient civilisation into a modern nation state. The Preamble *inter alia* stated that there would be justice (social, economic and political) and equality of status and opportunity.

## An economic and social fillip

In order to fulfil the egalitarian construct of the Constitution, the makers of modern India incorporated into the chapter on Fundamental Rights three path-breaking postulates: Article 17 (abolishing untouchability), Article 23 (prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour) and Article 24 (prohibition of child labour). The Constitution outlawed discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex and place of birth and mandates equality of opportunity in matters of public employment albeit with caveats to promote the interests of the underprivileged. Part XVI delineates Special Provisions relating to certain classes, including reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Anglo-Indians in the Legislatures. This reservation system was supposed to end 10 years after the commencement of the Constitution. However, it has been extended every 10 years since. The objective is to provide a political voice to the disempowered. Article 335 provides for reservations for SCs and STs in public employment both under the Union and the States. The Constitution thus provides both an economic and social fillip to the weaker sections who had been discriminated against historically. The aim is to bring about social integration that could pave the way for the creation of a classless ethos.

In 1990, another step was taken in this direction when the then Prime Minister V.P. Singh decided to act on the recommendations of the Mandal Commission report and provide 27% reservation in public employment to Other Backward Classes (OBCs). This was subsequently extended to educational institutions. This added to the existing 22.5% reservation quota for SCs and STs thereby increasing reservations in educational institutions to 49.5%. This decision led to a nationwide tumult in university campuses and a legal challenge in the Supreme Court. In *Indra Sawhney v. Union of India*, the

Supreme Court upheld 27% reservation for OBCs but struck down the 10% quota based on economic criteria. It further fixed the ceiling of reservations at 50%. It also held that a "caste can be and quite often is a social class. If it is backward socially, it would be a backward class for the purposes of Article 16(4)." It also evolved the concept of a creamy layer. This was done to ensure that those who really require reservation get it. The OBC reservations sparked off similar demands from socially powerful and upwardly mobile caste groups. Reservations provided by successive governments either within the 27% quota for OBCs or beyond the 50% ceiling to various communities were struck down by various courts or are still being challenged.

## Demand for a caste census

The demand for a caste census is growing louder as its findings can be used to cross the 50% hurdle. If it can be empirically established that the OBCs are numerically higher, perhaps it could be argued that the 50% cap on reservation is redundant. But where would that leave merit? Nations are built by an intricate interplay of social inclusion and meritocracies. The UPA government had, albeit reluctantly, acquiesced to a Socio-Economic and Caste Census in 2011 that it then rigorously implemented. In 2016, the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Rural Development observed that "the data has been examined and 98.87% data on individuals' caste and religion is error free". However, the NDA government told the Supreme Court and Parliament that the caste census data are flawed and cannot be released.

Over time, what has been forgotten is the original dream of transforming India into an egalitarian and classless society. Undoubtedly, while reservations have ameliorated socio-economic backwardness, they have equally created silos whereby the benefits of reservation have been more far-reaching vertically than horizontally. Therefore, a new paradigm of affirmative action is required to fulfil the vision of the makers of independent India given that economic stimuli have not brought about societal integration. Since it has been judicially determined that caste is synonymous with class, a fresh socio-economic caste census is imperative if the previous one is flawed and cannot be released.

Once it is known what the economic and social status of every caste group is, a new intervention strategy can then be fashioned to emancipate caste groups that are still at the bottom of the ladder. Only when all castes are equal can society become egalitarian.

Manish Tewari is lawyer, MP & former Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India

# Improving livestock breeding

Revised schemes will enhance the productivity and traceability standards of India's livestock

ATUL CHATURVEDI

Livestock breeding in India has been largely unorganised because of which there have been gaps in forward and backward integration across the value chain. Such a scenario impacts the quality of livestock that is produced and in turn negatively impacts the return on investment for livestock farmers. Approximately 200 million Indians are involved in livestock farming, including around 100 million dairy farmers. Roughly 80% bovines in the country are low on productivity and are reared by small and marginal farmers. To enhance the productivity of cattle, the Rashtriya Gokul Mission was initiated in 2014 with a focus on the genetic upgradation of the bovine population through widespread initiatives on artificial insemination, sex-sorted semen, and in vitro fertilization.

## Entrepreneurship development

The revised version of the Rashtriya Gokul Mission and National Livestock Mission (NLM) proposes to bring focus on entrepreneurship development and breed improvement in cattle, buffalo, poultry, sheep, goat, and piggy by providing incentives to individual entrepreneurs, farmer producer organisations, farmer cooperatives, joint liability groups, self-help groups, Section 8 companies for entrepreneurship development and State governments for breed improvement infrastructure.

The breed multiplication farm component of the Rashtriya Gokul Mission is going to provide for capital subsidy up to ₹200 lakh for setting up breeding farm with at least 200 milch cows/ buffalo using latest breeding technology. The entrepreneur will be responsible for the arrangement of and would be able to sell at least 116 elite female calves every year out of this farm from the third year. The entrepreneur will also start generating income out of the sale of 15 kg of milk per animal per day for around 180 animals from the first year. This breeding farm will break even from the first year of the project after induction of milk in animals. Moreover, the strategy of incentivising breed multiplication farm will result in the employment of 1 lakh farmers.

The grassroots initiatives in this sphere will be further amplified by web applications like e-Gopala that provide real-time information to livestock farmers on the availability of disease-free germplasm in relevant centres, veterinary care, etc.

The poultry entrepreneurship programme of the NLM will provide for capital subsidy up to ₹25 lakh for setting up of a parent farm with a capacity to rear 1,000 chicks. Under this model, the hatchery is expected to produce at least 500 eggs daily, followed by the birth of chicks that are in turn reared for four weeks. Thereafter, the chicks can be supplied to local farmers for rearing. Under this model, the rural entrepreneur running the hatchery will be supplying chicks to the farmers. An entrepreneur will be able to break even within 18 months after launching the business. This is expected to provide employment to at least 14 lakh people.

In the context of sheep and goat entrepreneurship, there is a provision of capital subsidy of 50% up to 50 lakh. An entrepreneur under this model shall set up a breeder farm, develop the whole chain will eventually sell the animals to the farmers or in the open market. Each entrepreneur can avail assistance for a breeder farm with 500 does/ewe and 25 buck/ram animals with high genetic merit from the Central/State government university farms. This model is projected to generate a net profit of more than ₹33 lakh for the entrepreneur per year.

For piggy, the NLM will provide 50% capital subsidy of up to ₹30 lakh. Each entrepreneur will be aided with establishment of breeder farms with 100 sows and 10 boars, expected to produce 2,400 piglets in a year. A new batch of piglets will be ready for sale every six months. This model is expected to generate a profit of ₹1.37 crore after 16 months and 1.5 lakh jobs. The revised scheme of NLM coupled with the Rashtriya Gokul Mission and the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund has the potential to dramatically enhance the productivity and traceability standards of our livestock.

Atul Chaturvedi is Secretary, Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

## DATA POINT

### Lacking in nutrition

India was ranked 101 out of 116 countries in the recently released Global Hunger Index. It was one among the 31 nations where hunger has been classified as "serious". The country's rank has been on the downward trend since 2016. Four indicators were used to compute the score - share of the population that is undernourished, share of children under five who are wasted (low weight for height), share of children under five who are stunted (low height for age), and the under-five mortality rate. Among these, while wasting has increased compared to 2012, stunting and mortality have reduced. The results of the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-20) also showed that in the majority of the States for which data were released, stunting and wasting increased compared to the 2015-16 survey round. By *The Hindu Data Team*

### Declining trend

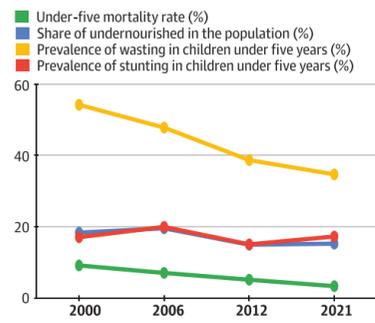
India's rank in the Global Hunger Index has consistently worsened in the last 10 years. The country's rank has become quite poor since 2016

Year	India's rank	Number of countries analysed
2021	101	116
2020	94	107
2019	102	117
2018	103	132
2017	100	119
2016	97	118
2015	80	117
2014	55	120
2013	63	120
2012	65	120
2011	67	122



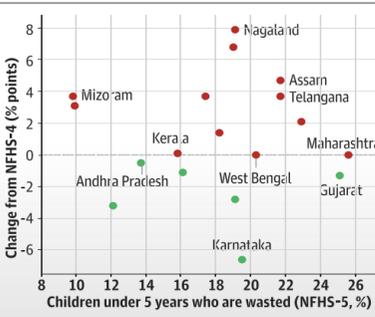
### Nutrition assessment

According to the GHI, the prevalence of wasting in children under five in India increased in 2021 compared to 2012, the earlier year for which data are available. On the other hand, the prevalence of stunting in children under five and the under-five mortality rate have consistently declined since 2000



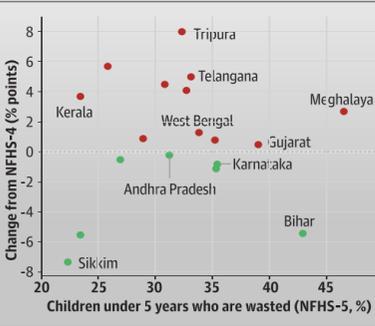
### Prevalence of wasting

The chart plots the share of children under five who were wasted according to NFHS-5 (2019-20) against the change from NFHS-4 (2015-16). In 10 out of the 18 States, a higher % of children were wasted in 2019-20 compared to 2015-16. Only six States performed better on this count. No change was recorded in two States



### Prevalence of stunting

The chart plots the share of children under five who were stunted according to NFHS-5 (2019-20) against the change from NFHS-4 (2015-16). In 11 out of the 18 States, a higher % of children were stunted in 2019-20 compared to 2015-16.



SOURCE: GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX, NFHS-5, NFHS-4

## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FROM THE OCTOBER 18 EDITION AS THERE WAS NO EDITION ON OCTOBER 19, 1971

### Children's Tamil encyclopaedia

Mr. M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister, to-day [Madras, Oct. 17] expressed his desire that Tamil publications seeking to instill scientific knowledge in the minds of children should, as far as possible, employ terms which could be easily understood. There was nothing wrong in assimilating English words like 'cycle' in Tamil also, as they were understood by all. The Chief Minister was releasing the third volume of Children's Encyclopaedia (in Tamil) brought out by the Tamil Academy. He also suggested that children be given the opportunity to get acquainted with new words and modern discoveries, in Tamil. He felt that commonly understood Tamil words like "Vizha" and "Pori" could have been adopted in the encyclopedia in the place of "Pandigai" and "Yanthiram" to denote festival and machine respectively. He commended the efforts of those connected with the publication and said that not only children but even elders would have a lot to learn from such books. Mr. Karunanidhi released a copy of the book and presented it to Mr. Anbil Dharmalingam, Minister for Agriculture.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 19, 1921

### The Indian Medical Service.

A retired officer of the Indian Medical Service in a contribution to the "Times" deplores the gradual Indianisation of the Indian Medical Service and says that, in spite of the "great deal of sentimental nonsense" that is being written about the equality of the races, it is very "distasteful to a European to serve under an Asiatic". This is a true specimen of impotent rage born of race pride and colour prejudice. Appointments to the Indian Medical Service are made by the Secretary of State for India, assisted by Selection Committees both in England and India. Nominations are evidently made in the light of the recommendations of the Public Services Commission and with a view to secure for India the services of the best available candidates. The conditions in India also require the services of eminent medical men familiar with the local conditions and with thorough knowledge of the tropical diseases. If the present system of "Indianising the Indian Medical Service" be distasteful to some of the recruits, the remedy lies with them and the country will not be the worse for their absence.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Recent attacks in J&K reveal new strategy: NIA

It also asked them to ensure that no land was given to non-locals under the new J&K Development Act, particularly entrepreneurs from outside the Union Territory who were planning to set up businesses with locals. On its proposed targets were also NIA and police officials and those assisting them.

It also directed the outfits to counter the induction of non-local students and staff from outside Kashmir in educational institutions. Investigations are on to determine the identity and location of the person who opened the blog account. Its contents are being examined by experts to assess the threat perceptions.

## Tracked, attacked Army patrol: new terror outfit

The narrator in the video, who is identified as the leader of the strike team, says that they crossed "Chamrer Gali" around 4.30 p.m.

The terrorists claim they took away a bag belonging to a sepoy identified as Harjeet Singh, which carried a hand-written identity card, packet of instant noodles, wafers and a personal grooming kit.

An Army source, however, termed the video as an "immature attempt at propaganda."

The source added that sepoy Harjeet Singh was alive and also in possession of his

identity card.

The Army has launched a massive search operation in the forest areas of Poonch and Rajouri to track down the terrorists involved in the killing of nine soldiers.

Those killed in the October 11 incident were identified as Jaswinder Singh, Mandeep Singh, Gajjan Singh, Saraj Singh and Vaisakh H. On October 14, the Army said the bodies of Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh were recovered while Riflemen Vikram Singh Negi and Yogambar Singh were killed in another encounter.

## Govt. panel to regulate outflow in Kerala dams

The committee will primarily regulate the opening and closing of spillways and modulate the discharge of excess inflow to prevent downstream flooding and warn District Collectors about the opening of spillways well in advance. The district administrations will alert people and evacuate them to higher grounds or relief camps as required.

The principal task of the panel is to ensure that the heavy inflow from catchment areas does not strain the structural integrity of the levees.

Moreover, the committee will also regulate the discharge of dam water to ensure that the outflow does not inundate villages, towns, homes, roads, population centres and farm-lands downstream.

### Kakki-Anathodu

Authorities on Monday opened the gates of the Kakki-Anathodu twin reservoirs, triggering panic across the region. With the storage in the Kakki-Anathodu reservoir touching 94%, the authorities raised two shutters around 11 a.m. The resultant discharge is expected to push up the water level in the Pampa river by 15 cm.

Two shutters of the Pampa dam will be also opened after 5 a.m on Tuesday.

With water to be released at 50 cumecs, this could further raise the water level by another 10 cm. The water released from the dam is expected to reach the Pampa-Triveni, the base camp of Sabarimala temple, about six hours later

In view of the forecast of further heavy rain, the existing ban on entry of pilgrims to Sabarimala has been extended to all five days of the ongoing monthly pujas.

The decision triggered protests among the pilgrims.

### Release from Idukki

With the water in the Idukki reservoir approaching the red alert level and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicting heavy rainfall from Wednesday, the authorities have decided to open two shutters of the Cheruthoni dam of the reservoir at 11 a.m. on Tuesday.

At a high-level meeting addressed by Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine at the Collectorate on Monday, it was decided to open the two shutters by 50 cm to release 100 cumecs of water.

The water level at 5 p.m. on Monday stood at 2,397.44 ft whereas the red alert level is 2,397.86 ft. The full reserve level of Idukki dam is 2,403 ft. Though power generation was raised to 13.61 mu, the water level of the reservoir kept rising despite less rainfall on Monday.

The district administration has started preparations for evacuating 64 families in five villages living close to the Periyar river. Schools and other buildings scheduled to function as rehabilitation centres have been taken over.

(with inputs from Hiran Unnikrishnan in Pathanamthitta and Giji K. Raman in Idukki)

## Dera chief, 4 others get life term in murder case

The Special Court in Haryana's Panchkula convicted Ram Rahim Singh and four others - Krishan Lal, Jasbir Singh, Avtar Singh and Sabdil - in the murder case on October 8.

They were convicted under relevant Sections, including 302 (murder), 120 B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC. The CBI had sought capital punishment for them. "The court has given the life sentence to five," CBI special prosecutor H.P.S. Verma said after the hearing was held amid tight security.

Mr. Verma said the Dera chief was also fined ₹31 lakh, half of which would go to

the victim's family as compensation.

Reacting to the verdict, Jagseer Singh, son of Ranjit Singh, said it was a big day for the family as they got justice after a long wait.

Mr. Jagseer, who was eight years old when his father was murdered, said he was satisfied with the verdict, though his family had been seeking death sentence for Ram Rahim Singh.

The Dera chief, who enjoyed a large following, had frequently courted controversies. After his conviction in the rape case in 2017, violence had broken out in Panchkula and Sirsa leaving over 40 dead.

# Long-pending trade talks between India, Israel to resume

Jaishankar, Israeli counterpart meet; hold quadrilateral talks with the U.S., UAE

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

India and Israel agreed to resume long-pending negotiations on a free trade agreement, as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid in Jerusalem on Monday.

Both also joined a virtual quadrilateral meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed.

The quadrilateral meeting, seen as an outcome of last year's Abraham Accords brokered by the U.S. that saw the UAE and Israel establish diplomatic relations, also underlines India's close relationships with both the West Asian countries and Washington.

Welcoming Mr. Jaishankar, Mr. Lapid said in a tweet, "In the last year, India and Israel have dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic, and have helped one another amidst this crisis. This is how friends and partners behave."

During the bilateral talks,



**Stark reminder:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar rekindling the eternal flame at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial museum in Jerusalem. • AFP

Mr. Jaishankar, who was meeting the recently installed Israeli Government for the first time, said he was confident that the India-Israel relationship, which would enter its 30th year, would "shift gears into a new phase".

He stated, "I am therefore, particularly pleased that just as we came to this visit, our officials have agreed on the resumption of the India-Israel Free Trade negotiations."

The FTA talks would begin in November and concluded by June 2022, he added.

The push for an FTA between the two countries is the latest in a series of attempts to negotiate a trade agreement over the past 14 years.

### Lapsed talks

Both in 2007, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and in 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that an FTA would be completed, but talks have lapsed over a number of issues.

During the last round of talks, both sides explored the possibility of a limited trade deal or a Preferential

Trade Agreement for about 200 goods, which had also not been concluded. The latest effort for an FTA with Israel comes on the back of the government's recent drive to resume a number of trade negotiations, and the government has thus far committed to resumed talks with the U.K., Australia and the European Union, expressing the hope they would also be concluded in 2022.

During the talks, India and Israel also agreed to mutually recognise each other's vaccination process "in principle", although for the moment Israel will only allow Indians vaccinated with Covishield to travel there, but not those vaccinated with Covaxin, which is still awaiting an Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) from the World Health Organisation.

Mr. Jaishankar said it was a "great pleasure" that Israel also announced it would join the India-France led International Solar Alliance (ISA), ahead of the next U.N. Climate Change COP26 summit in Glasgow this November.

# Disproportionate assets case against ex-Minister

Simultaneous searches conducted at houses of C. Vijayabaskar across 50 locations in Tamil Nadu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUCHI

Officials of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) conducted simultaneous searches at the houses of former Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar and his relatives in Pudukottai and other places in Tamil Nadu on Monday after booking a case of disproportionate assets against him and his wife.

The searches were conducted at 50 locations, including 32 in Pudukottai district, a senior DVAC official told *The Hindu*.

The Minister's houses in Chennai and his native village Illupur, the educational institutions run by the Mother Teresa Educational and Charitable Trust run by his



**Under the scanner:** C. Vijayabaskar's residence at Kilpauk in Chennai was also searched on Monday. • B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

family and a stone crushing unit in Pudukottai district were among the places that were searched. One of the teams searched the residence of Mr. Vijayabaskar's father-in-law at Ramanathapuram in Coimbatore.

Various other premises of Dr. Vijayabaskar's family

members, relatives, aides and business partners in Tiruchi, Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Coimbatore and Madurai were searched, the official said.

While holding office, Mr. Vijayabaskar and his wife Ramya, also cited as an accused, were alleged to have been in possession of pecuniary resources and movable

and gold articles, registration certificates for 136 heavy vehicles, hard discs and documents relating to property transactions were seized, the DVAC said.

The searches were conducted by different teams after an FIR was filed by the DVAC's Pudukottai unit based on information that Mr. Vijayabaskar had indulged in corrupt practices and enriched himself by acquiring assets in his and dependents' names and in the name of the businesses in which he and his wife were proprietors/shareholders.

While holding office, Mr. Vijayabaskar and his wife Ramya, also cited as an accused, were alleged to have been in possession of pecuniary resources and movable

## Four more arrested for Lakhimpur Kheri killings

BJP man who escaped from jeep held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

A BJP worker who was seen escaping from a jeep moments after it mowed down farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri was among four persons arrested on Monday.

With this, the total number of persons accused in the murder of four farmers has gone up to 10.

On Monday, a SWAT team of the Lakhimpur Kheri Crime Branch and district police arrested Sumit Jaiswal, Sishu Pal, Nandan Singh Bisht and Satya Prakash Tripathi, alias Satyam.

Sumit Jaiswal was the complainant in the second FIR lodged in the case in connection with the lynching of three BJP workers, including a driver, following the mowing down of the farmers by the three cars in the convoy of Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, alias Monu, on October 3 in Tikonia. Ashish Mishra was subsequently arrested.

After the incident, a short clip showing Jaiswal getting out of the front left door of the jeep owned by the Mishras, which incidentally led

the carnage, was widely shared on social media.

A licensed pistol and three cartridges were recovered from Satyam.

### Interrogation on

The police said the arrested persons were being questioned by the Special Investigation Team probing the incident.

Ashish Mishra and 15-20 unidentified others were booked for murder, criminal conspiracy, rioting and death by negligence, following the first FIR lodged by the farmers. The FIR alleged that Ashish Mishra was sitting in the jeep which ran over the farmers, a charge he denied in media interviews.

In the second FIR lodged against unidentified persons for murder and other charges, Sumit Jaiswal alleged that the farmers pelted the vehicle with stones and attacked it with sticks.

Apart from the four farmers, a local scribe Raman Kashyap, two BJP workers Shubham Mishra and Shyam, and driver of the jeep Hari Om Mishra were killed.

## Navy gets integrated road map

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday launched the Integrated Unmanned Road Map for Indian Navy at the second edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference that commenced on Monday.

This will outline all the unmanned aerial and underwater platforms and efforts of the Navy as part of its force modernisation.

"The geographical location of our country is something that makes it unique. Surrounded by the vast expanse of ocean from three sides, our country is very important from the point of view of strategic, trade and resources," Mr. Singh said.

## Man convicted in Sydney attacks on Sikhs returns

Vishal gets big welcome in Haryana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

Vishal Jood, 24, who was arrested in Sydney in April for his alleged involvement in a series of targeted attacks on the Sikh community, was accorded a hero's welcome by the Ror community on his return to Kurukshetra in Haryana on Sunday.

Jood was released earlier this month on completion of a six-month sentence after the New South Wales police dropped eight charges against him, including of racial hatred.

Nearly 200 youth from the Ror community assembled at Panipat to receive him before marching to a dharamshala in Kurukshetra.

"On his way to Kurukshetra dharamshala for a felicitation programme, he was also welcomed by the Rajput community at Gharaunda. Our community had organised programmes at Panipat dharamshala and Umri village as well," Naseeb Singh, president, Akhil Bharatiya Ror Mahasabha,



Vishal Jood at a welcome function in Kurukshetra.

said. On allegations of his involvement in attacks in Australia on a religious community, Mr. Singh said Jood had been framed.

"Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal, Karnal MP Sanjay Bhatia and Kurukshetra MP Nayab Singh met the Union Government Ministers to facilitate his release," said Mr. Singh.

Australia's Immigration and Citizenship Minister Alex Hawke, in a tweet on Jood's return to India, said, "Attempts to undermine Australia's social cohesion will not be tolerated".

## Frame of mind



**Living in the moment:** Children playing near the flooded Kurukthurai Murugan Temple on the banks of Tamirabarani river in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu. With more water being released from the Papanasam Dam on Monday, the temple is gradually getting submerged. • A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN

# Webinar on asset allocation, wealth

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

A webinar on "Creating wealth by asset allocation" will be jointly organised by the LIC Mutual Fund and *The Hindu BusinessLine* on Friday at 4 p.m.

Lav Kumar, zonal head - West (Retail Sales), LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management, and Dharendra Kumar,



founder and chief executive officer, Value Research, will be the panelists. The discussion will be moderated by C. Parvatha Vardhini, head, research bureau, *The Hindu BusinessLine*. The discussion will touch



upon risk-based investing, asset allocation, the difference between investment return and investors return and the importance of patience in wealth creation. Those interested in attending the webinar can register at <https://bit.ly/3FUD8Lw> or scan the QR code.

**APPEAL**

**Mast Selva** is a 8 years old boy hailing from a poor family. He is suffering from Fanconi Anemia and needs Rs. 15,00,000/- for the Allogenic Bone Marrow Transplant at V.S. Hospital, Chennai. Kindly help him to have a new life. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **V.S. Medical Trust** will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

(Please do not mention patient name on the cheque).

All Correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Cordell Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Picrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/2823524/7338978027. Email ID: [womenswelfare.org@gmail.com](mailto:womenswelfare.org@gmail.com). Website: [www.womenswelfare.org](http://www.womenswelfare.org)

**WWS**

# J&K killings touch a raw nerve in Bihar

Lack of jobs in State is forcing people to risk their lives in Kashmir, says Tejashwi; JD(U) hits back

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) on Monday blamed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for the death of migrant workers from the State in Jammu and Kashmir.

Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav said people were forced to migrate as there were no jobs in the State.

Daily wage workers Raja Reshi Dev and Joginder Reshi Dev were killed by terrorists in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, while another migrant, Chunchun Reshi Dev, was seriously injured. A total of 11 civilians have been killed in targeted shooting in the Union Territory.

Mr. Kumar has spoken to Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha and announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh each to the families of the victims.

"Double engine government's double whammy, won't provide employment



Under threat: Migrant workers going about their routine in Srinagar on Monday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

in Bihar and if you go out to earn a living you will be killed," Mr. Yadav tweeted. The cost of a Bihari's life, he alleged, was pegged at a mere ₹2 lakh.

"Nitish Kumar and his incompetent government are

also equally guilty of the brutal murder of Biharis. If the NDA government had really done anything seriously on employment generation as per their claim of 'good governance' in the last 16 years, then crores of Biharis would

not have been forced to migrate and die every year," he said.

### Bring them back: RJD

The RJD demanded that all the migrant workers from Bihar who are living under dis-

stress in J&K should be brought back.

They should also be paid ₹10,000 a month as compensation for the loss of livelihood.

RJD spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Manoj K. Jha observed, "The Chief Minister's silence speaks volumes. What stops him from speaking out against the union government?"

Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) president Chirag Paswan too sought to corner Mr. Kumar on the issue.

He remarked, "My question to Nitishji is that if there were ample job opportunities in Bihar, would the sons of Bihar be forced to face terrorists' bullets in Kashmir?"

The Janata Dal(U) shot back, saying J&K was not under the jurisdiction of Mr. Kumar. Party secretary general K.C. Tyagi accused the RJD of politicising a sensitive issue to divert the attention from its own family feud.

# SP rebel MLA Nitin Agarwal elected Deputy Speaker in U.P.

With BJP's support, he defeated the official SP candidate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Nitin Agarwal, a rebel MLA of the Samajwadi Party backed by the ruling BJP, was elected Deputy Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Monday.

With 304 votes, Mr. Agarwal, a former Minister of State in the Akhilesh Yadav government and a three-time MLA from Hardoi, defeated Narendra Singh Verma of the SP.

Mr. Agarwal had quit the SP along with his father Nareish Agarwal, a former Minister, and joined the BJP ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election. However, the MLA is technically still regarded as an SP legislator and the party's petition seeking his disqualification had reportedly been rejected. This technicality allowed Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to



U.P. Speaker H.N. Dixit, left, offering sweets to Nitin Agarwal on Monday ■ PTI

BSP and the Congress boycotted the election, which were held using ballot paper during a special session of the Assembly.

### Yogi's charge

Speaking in the Assembly following Mr. Agarwal's election, Mr. Adityanath accused the SP of being "anti-youth" for fielding a senior MLA, Mr. Verma, 57, against the 40-year-old Mr. Agarwal. Mr. Adityanath mocked the SP and said the party had drowned in its internal contradictions. "It cannot even keep its own members," Mr. Adityanath said, accusing it of "betraying" Mr. Verma.

Mr. Adityanath said the Deputy Speaker's election was a signal that a similar result was expected in the upcoming Assembly polls. "The picture of 2022 polls has come out before us."

justify the decision to field Mr. Agarwal, a Vaishya community member, for the post traditionally reserved in recent years for the largest opposition party, which is currently the SP.

Mr. Verma, a six-time MLA from Sitapur belonging to the Kurmi (OBC) caste, received only 60 votes, which was however more than the number of MLAs currently with the SP. The Opposition

# Lawyer shot dead by another in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

A lawyer was shot dead allegedly by another on the premises of the Shahjahanpur district court in Uttar Pradesh on Monday, the police said.

The victim, Bhupendra Singh, was allegedly shot dead by Suresh Kumar Gupta, with whom he had a property dispute.

Assistant Director-General of Police (Law and Order) Anand Kumar said the case had been cracked on the basis of CCTV footage and Gupta was arrested.

Mr. Kumar added that the latter had "accepted the crime".

# Nadda holds meeting with BJP office-bearers

They discuss how to celebrate 100 crore vaccinations and chalk out plans for the Assembly elections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Organisational programmes with regard to the completion of 100 crore vaccinations against COVID-19 and the coming Assembly elections were the main items on the agenda as BJP president J.P. Nadda sat down with the party's national office-bearers for a day-long huddle.

The party intends to celebrate the completion of 100 crore vaccinations in a big way. "Hitting 100 crore vaccinations is a big achievement for any country, and it has been done by the Modi Government," said a senior office-bearer.

The meeting began with



Talk time: BJP president J.P. Nadda with office-bearers at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Monday. ■ PTI

Mr. Nadda telling the team that they had worked for the nation keeping in mind not only "political indicators" but also "social indicators" "despite hurdles placed in their way by the Opposition". He cited welfare mea-

sures during the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with pro-poor programmes such as free grains, and asserted that the party had worked to change the definition of politics, official sources said.

Briefing reporters, party

vice-president and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh said the meeting of the office-bearers would put in place the party's agenda for the next few months. He noted that it came against the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaging in extensive deliberations with the party's organisational leaders over the past few months.

### Voter outreach in U.P.

The party has already laid out an elaborate voter outreach programme in the politically significant Uttar Pradesh.

A community specific outreach programme was

launched on Sunday in Lucknow. Outreach *sammelans* with the Pasi community (October 19), the Rajbhar community (October 20), the Nai, Saini, Savita, Halwai, Kasaulhan, Shivhare communities (October 21), and the Nonia, Chauhan and Yadav communities (October 22) have been lined up by the party.

Specific responsibilities have been chalked out for election work in various States, and these will begin with holding the BJP's shakti kendras and panna pramukh meetings and also setting up call centres to reach out to beneficiaries of the various government schemes.

# L&T is lowest bidder for Secretariat project

Bid of ₹3,141 cr. is less than the estimate

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

Larsen and Toubro Ltd. has emerged as the lowest bidder for the contract for the construction and maintenance of the first three buildings of the proposed new Common Central Secretariat (CCS), according to the financial bids opened on Monday.

L&T's bid of ₹3,141.99 crore was 3.47% less than the Central Public Works Department's estimate of ₹3,254 crore. A part of the Central Vista redevelopment, the project is the third of the major segments of the plan, after the new

Parliament and the Central Vista Avenue.

The other two bidders in the fray, Tata Projects Ltd. and NCC Ltd., quoted 8.96% and 1.94% over the estimate, respectively. A CPWD official said the Central Works Board would take a decision based on the lowest offer or what is called LI and its reasonability. The board would decide whether to approve or reject the offer, the official said.

According to the CPWD's tender, the company selected would be responsible for the construction of the buildings as well as maintenance for five years.

# Judiciary should not act as a super-legislature, says Centre

Questions challenge to tribunal reforms by Jairam Ramesh

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

A "distressed" government has taken a leaf from former United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt's speech to indicate that the judiciary ought not to act as a "super-legislature" by entertaining a challenge to the Tribunal Reforms Act by Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh.

The Union Government, in an affidavit in the Supreme Court, said it was "confused" why the judiciary thinks that the law made by Parliament and implemented by the executive is an attack on judicial independence.

Some of the provisions of the Act under challenge include the reduction of the tenure of chairpersons and members of key tribunals from five years to four. The Act mandates their minimum age for appointment be 50 years.

The new law said the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by the Prime Minister, may "preferably" make the appointment within three months of the recommendation by the Search-cum-Selection Committee (SCSC).

The law said that the recommendations of SCSC to the ACC should be of only one single name per vacant

post with waitlist available. The affidavit said each one of these issues is purely one of policy.

### 'Exclusive right'

The government said it was the "exclusive right" of Parliament and the executive to frame policy and execute it.

The affidavit said it is significant that the separation of powers entrusts to Parliament and the executive the exclusive jurisdiction to decide as to what would be the best policy.

How can duration of tenure of a chairperson or members affect the independence of judiciary, the government asked.

# CWC meet saw spat between two leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) met on October 16 witnessed a spat between Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress's leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury over their performance in the monsoon session of Parliament.

A source on Monday said when Mr. Kharge gave an assessment of what the LoP's office did in terms of mobilising like-minded parties, Mr. Chowdhury interrupted to point out that he should "factor in the opposition in the Lok Sabha as well". Mr. Kharge pointed out that Mr. Chowdhury was not perhaps attentive.

# BJP alleges 'vilification' of Patel at CWC meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday accused the Congress of having "sinned" after news reports surfaced that a leader, at the recent Congress Working Committee meeting, made critical remarks about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

At a press conference at

the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, party spokesperson Sambit Patra cited reports that Tariq Hameed Karra, a Kashmiri leader and a permanent invitee to the CWC, had credited Jawaharlal Nehru for Jammu and Kashmir's integration with India and alleged that Patel wanted to keep the Valley out.

Mr. Patra asked whether

Congress president Sonia Gandhi or its former chief Rahul Gandhi objected when Mr. Karra "vilified" Patel and presented India's first Home Minister as a "villain" while praising Nehru.

"Was Karra reprimanded? Will he be axed from the CWC?" Mr. Patra said, accusing the Congress of constantly insulting leaders such as

Subhas Chandra Bose, Patel and Veer Savarkar.

The Congress, he alleged, had been reduced to being a party of a family and worked to advance the family's rule. "What sort of mindset is this that one family has done everything and others have done nothing. What the CWC has done is a sin," he added.

# Raj Thackeray advised to join hands with BJP

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Monday met Guru Maa Kanchan Giri and Jagadguru Suryacharya who suggested that he should join hands with the BJP. "If ideologies match on the issue of Hindutva then MNS should tie up with the BJP," said Giri after her meeting with Mr. Thackeray at the latter's residence.

She said they had a discussion about the formation of a Hindu rashtra as well as about his opinions about north Indians.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**  
**CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK**  
E-mail: ID-sectcrb\_2006@yahoo.co.in Tel/Fax - 0671-2301751/2302751

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1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as mentioned below:  
2. No. of work : 1 No.  
3. Nature of work : Building works.  
4. Class of contractor : 'B' & 'A' Class.  
5. Tender paper cost : Rs. 10000/- (online)  
6. Available of bid documents in the web site : From 22.10.2021 to 16.00 Hours of 08.11.2021  
7. Date of opening of bid : 08.11.2021 at 11.00 Hours.  
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Sd/- P.K. Pradhan  
Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack(R&B) Circle  
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**Employees' State Insurance Corporation**  
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)  
PANCHDEEP BHAVAN, NORTH SWARAJ ROUND, THIRISSUR-680020  
(ISO 9001:2015 Certified) web: [www.esic.nic.in](http://www.esic.nic.in) Ph: 0487-2331080 (Ex: 242)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Regional Director, ESIC, Kerala invites online bids from eligible Central Govt./State Govt. Dept./PSUs/ Autonomous Bodies for the following works:

S/N	Tender ID	Name & Location of the work(s)
1	2021_ESIC_652535_2	ARM/SR (On need basis) of Civil and Electrical works of buildings including Operation of various Electrical/Electro-Mechanical Services, Equipment's and plants in the ESI establishment of the Kerala region.

Pro-Bid meeting (Online): 25.10.2021 Last Date for submission: 02.11.2021  
For complete details & participation, please visit <https://esicnco.gov.in/esicnco/asp>  
Tender documents are also available on [www.esic.nic.in](http://www.esic.nic.in)-Tenders Sd/-  
13.10.2021, Thirissur Regional Director

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
212223 001555	Procurement of 1000 + 5% MT Old News Paper (Malayalam) from Kerala for TNP&L Unit-II, Manaparai, Trichy Dist.	28.10.2021

Detailed terms & conditions, Tender Fee, EMD, etc are available in tender document at our websites: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)  
DIPR/2970/Tender/2021 TNP&L - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper  
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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
212223 001584	Bleached Hardwood Sulphate Pulp for Unit-I & II	02.11.2021
212223 001585	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp-Softwood 70 for Unit-II	03.11.2021
212223 001586	Stoneground Softwood Pulp for Board Plant (Unit-II)	03.11.2021

Method of tender: Tender-cum-Auction  
Terms & conditions, Specifications, Qty, Tender Fee, EMD are available in the tender document at our websites: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)  
DIPR/2970/Tender/2021 TNP&L - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper  
"சேதான கட்டு வந்ததும் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI**  
**MARKETING DEPARTMENT e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

e-tender cum REVERSE TENDERING are invited for procurement of SUGAR (S-30) for a period of four months by the Procurement Department, T.T.Devasthanams, Tirupati.

Proposed Quantity	Period	Date of e-Tender	Date of Reverse Tendering
40,00,000 Kgs (4000 tons) of Sugar (S-30)	4 Months	01-11-2021 @ 3.30 P.M.	02-11-2021 @ 2.00 p.m. Tentatively

For tender notice and tender details log on to the web site <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tenders.procurement.gov.in> Click on current tenders, AP and select "more" and select "Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams-MARKETING". For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No.0877-2264554, Email: [gmpttd@gmail.com](mailto:gmpttd@gmail.com).  
Rec.No.PR4/13935/Adv.No.199/PRO/2021, Dated:18-10-2021 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
212213 003470	Procurement of DAF Chemicals for De-Inking Plant: Flocculant - Anionic-6 MT Flocculant - Cationic - 90 MT Coagulant - Strong Cationic - 180 MT	02.11.2021
212213 003471	Procurement of Caustic Soda Lye (Qty: 3660 MT)	01.11.2021
212213 003472	Procurement of Liquid PAC (Poly Aluminium Chloride) - 700000 KG	09.11.2021

Method of tender: Tender-cum-Auction  
Terms & conditions, Specifications, Qty, Tender Fee, EMD are available in the tender document at our websites: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)  
DIPR/2975/Tender/2021 TNP&L - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper  
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In view of the special package of additional subsidy announced by Govt. of India vide order No: 23011/1/2021 dated 13/10/2021 FACT has fixed the MRP of FACTAMFOS at Rs. 1390 per 50 kg bag, from October 2021 to March 2022 for the benefit of farmers.  
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**IMPORTANT DATES**

The Website opens for online submission of applications	01.10.2021
Last date for online submission of applications (website closes - 23:59 hours of 31.10.2021)	31.10.2021

Sd/-, REGISTRAR

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY**  
KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND

**WALK IN INTERVIEW**

It is proposed to fill up the following Group 'A' posts at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi on contract basis for a period of one year or till the post is filled up on regular basis whichever is earlier. Accordingly applications are invited from the eligible and desirous candidates fulfilling the qualifications for the posts mentioned below. Applications on plain paper either typed or handwritten along with two passport size photograph, photocopy of the certificates of educational qualification, experience etc., may be submitted to the undersigned on or before 15.11.2021. After submission of application candidates have to turn up alongwith their original certificates on the date of interview. No interview letter will be issued separately.

The interview shall be held at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006, Jharkhand, on 16.11.2021 at 09.30 a.m.

Sl. No.	Name of post	Consolidated pay per month in 1 <sup>st</sup> year	No. of post
1.	Asst. Prof. of Psychiatry	Rs.95,000/-	10 (UR-6, EWS-1, OBC-2, SC-1)
2.	Asst. Prof. of Neurology	Rs.95,000/-	3 (UR-3)
3.	Asst. Prof. of Neurosurgery	Rs.95,000/-	2 (UR-2)
4.	Asst. Prof. of Anesthesiology	Rs.95,000/-	2 (UR-2)
5.	Asst. Prof. of Radio-diagnosis	Rs.95,000/-	2 (UR-2)
			<b>TOTAL 19</b>

Details of qualifications and age limit of the above posts are available on our website [www.cipranchi.nic.in](http://www.cipranchi.nic.in) Sd/-Director

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Visit <https://tenders.kerala.gov.in> for more details.  
Ro.No:11-17/Oct/2021/PRD(N/11)

# Vaccine campaign lags despite pile-up of stock

Daily average drops to 50 lakh doses from peak of 2.5 crore

REUTERS  
NEW DELHI

The country's vaccination campaign has slowed despite amassing record stockpiles of vaccine, Health Ministry data showed on Monday, as authorities maintain a wider-than-usual gap between doses in a strategy that has boosted coverage.

Domestic production of the AstraZeneca vaccine has more than tripled since May, when a supply shortage prompted the country to double the period between doses to between 12 and 16 weeks.

That gap, exceeding the eight to 12 weeks recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), has allowed the government to give at least one vaccine dose to 74% of the country's more than 94 crore adults, with just 30% getting the full complement of two.

Over the past few days,



The Health Ministry said daily stocks of vaccines had exceeded 10 crore doses.

daily stocks of all COVID-19 vaccines have exceeded 10 crore doses, the Health Ministry figures show.

In contrast, daily vaccinations have dropped to an average of 50 lakh doses this month and even fewer in the past week, off a daily peak of 2.5 crore last month.

The Health Ministry said it followed recommendations from a group of experts in making any changes to dosage, arrived at by weigh-

ing up "scientific and empirical" evidence.

"NTAGI is actively considering the matter of dose interval between Covishield doses," its spokesperson said, referring to the Ministry's National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

However, vaccine supply alone should not determine the gap, said Chandrakant Lahariya, a physician and epidemiologist in New Delhi.

"There is no scientific rationale for reducing the gap," Mr. Lahariya added. "In fact, retaining this gap has the possibility of giving stronger protection and longer-lasting immunity."

A 12-week gap was more logical and scientific for vaccinations drive in the country, where some studies have shown many people already had antibodies against COVID-19 infection, Mr. Lahariya said.

# Ensure safety checks in theatres: Uddhav

Maharashtra CM's caution comes ahead of cinema halls reopening on Oct. 22

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PUNE

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday directed that the theatres and cinema halls across the State, which are to reopen from October 22, should carry out proper fire and structural safety checks.

At a meeting with the office-bearers of the Cinema Owners' and Exhibitors' Association, Mr. Thackeray said a solution would be found in coordination with the Finance Department to address the problems faced by single-screen cinema hall owners, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

A delegation of Poona Exhibitors' Association demanded that the government give concessions for the renewal of various licenses, including free renewal of cinema licenses, and permission to levy a service charge of ₹25 per ticket after payment of GST.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar and



Taking precautions: A worker sanitises a hall at Balaji Movieplex in Navi Mumbai on Monday ahead of the reopening of multiplexes and theatres in Maharashtra. ■PTI

Transport Minister and Shiv Sena leader Anil Parab were also present at the meeting along with several senior Ministers and officials.

**Cooperation promised**  
"It was assured that the State government would extend all possible cooperation to revive the film exhibition business," tweeted Mr. Pawar.

A delegation of the Maha-

rashtra truck tempo, tankers, bus transport federation also met the Chief Minister and presented a number of demands, including exemption from the annual motor vehicle tax and business tax, a complete exemption of motor tax on vehicles transporting passengers to schools and religious places, and a provision of parking spaces for vehicles and

buses. Mr. Thackeray said the Urban Development Department would be informed about the need for adequate parking spaces.

He also asked officials to plan setting up of trauma care centres at various check posts. "A solution will be worked out for transporters who are facing financial crisis," the statement said.

# Cannot rush nod for Covaxin: WHO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
UNITED NATIONS/ GENEVA

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday said it was expecting additional information from India's Bharat Biotech regarding its COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin, asserting that it "cannot cut corners" before recommending a vaccine for emergency use. The global health agency also emphasised that it must evaluate a vaccine thoroughly to make sure it is "safe and effective".

Bharat Biotech had submitted an Expression of Interest to the WHO on April 19 for the vaccine's Emergency Use Listing.

In a series of tweets, WHO said, "We are aware that many people are waiting for WHO's recommendation for Covaxin in the #COVID-19 Emergency Use Listing, but we cannot cut corners..."

It also said Bharat Biotech has been submitting data to WHO on a rolling basis and WHO experts have reviewed these data.



# Actor Yuvika held under SC/ST Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

Actor Yuvika Chaudhary was arrested by the Haryana police on Monday in a case pertaining to alleged offensive remarks against Scheduled Castes on a social media platform. She was later released on interim bail following an order from the Punjab and Haryana High Court order.

Ms. Chaudhary's arrest comes two days after the arrest of cricketer Yuvraj Singh in a separate case with similar charges.

An FIR was registered against Ms. Chaudhary on May 28 at Hansi's City Police Station for allegedly making offensive remarks against the Scheduled Castes on a social media platform while filming a video of her husband Prince Narula.

The case was registered under Section 3 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act on the complaint of Rajat Kansal, a Dalit rights' activist.

Ms. Chaudhary had later apologised.

# Kushinagar connect to Sri Lanka

Premier Mahinda's son to lead 125-member team at airport opening by PM Modi

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi declares open the Kushinagar International Airport in Uttar Pradesh on October 20, a sizeable Sri Lankan contingent, led by a member of the first family, will be present.

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa, nephew of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and son of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, will travel to Uttar Pradesh, along with ministerial colleagues and a group of 100 Buddhist monks to attend the event, according to officials in Colombo.

## Buddhist circuit

The airport is expected to provide seamless connectivity to tourists from Sri Lanka, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and so on. Kushinagar is the centre of the Buddhist circuit, which consists of pilgrimage sites at Lumbini, Sarnath and Gaya. Buddhist pilgrims consider Kushinagar a sacred site where, they believe, Gautama Buddha delivered his last sermon and attained 'Mahaparinirvana' or salvation.

The inaugural flight on Wednesday will land at the airport from Colombo, Sri Lanka, carrying the 125-member delegation of dignitaries and Buddhist monks.

To mark the occasion, Sri Lanka will present to India photographs of two murals painted by renowned Sri



One of the murals, by Sri Lankan artist Solias Mendis, that will be gifted to India on the occasion. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Lankan artist Solias Mendis of the Kelaniya Rajamaha Vihara, a popular Buddhist temple near Colombo, officials at the Sri Lankan High Commission in New Delhi told *The Hindu*.

One of the murals depicts 'Arahat Bhikkhu' Mahinda, son of Emperor Ashoka delivering the message of the Buddha to King Devanampiyatissa of Sri Lanka. The other

shows the arrival of 'Theri Bhikkhuni' Sanghamitta, the daughter of the Emperor, in Sri Lanka, bearing a sapling of the 'sacred Bodhi tree' under which Siddhartha Gautama is believed to have obtained enlightenment.

The gesture comes at a time when Sri Lanka and India have agreed to strengthen ties through their shared Buddhist heritage.

Despite India's known support to the Mahinda Rajapaksa administration in defeating the LTTE, sections among Sri Lanka's southern population remain India-sceptics, wary of the big neighbour who "interfered" in Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict, "sided with Tamils".

## Cultural diplomacy

In the decade after the civil war, which coincides with China's growing influence, New Delhi seems keen on recasting its image as a friend, using religious and cultural diplomacy.

When India sent the first consignment of 5 lakh doses of Covishield vaccine to Sri Lanka in January this year, the Indian High Commission in Colombo in a tweet linked its arrival to a "blessed Poya Day", or full moon day considered holy by Buddhists.

Sri Lanka, too, considers promoting shared Buddhist ties a matter of "paramount importance", as was outlined in the Integrated Country Strategy prepared by Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India.

On the growing emphasis on shared Buddhist ties, senior political scientist Jayadeva Uyangoda said: "A cynic might say this marks the beginning of a soft saffronisation [of bilateral ties], but it signals that India is going to have a more assertive foreign policy stance towards Sri Lanka."

(With inputs from Jagriti Chandra in New Delhi)

# Part-time employees not entitled to regularisation: SC

'They are not working against any sanctioned post in Govt.'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held that part-time employees are not entitled to seek regularisation as they are not working against any sanctioned post in the Government.

A Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and A.S. Bopanna clarified in a recent judgment that there cannot be any permanent continuance of part-time temporary employees.

"The status of permanency cannot be granted when

there is no post. It is further observed that mere continuance every year of seasonal work during the period when work was available does not constitute a permanent status," Justice Shah noted.

The judgment came on a plea concerning the regularisation of part-time sweepers at a post office in Chandigarh. The court said it was a settled proposition of law, that regularisation could be only as per the policy declared by the State/Govern-

ment and "nobody can claim the regularisation as a matter of right".

The court ruled in favour of the Government which had appealed against the Punjab and Haryana High Court decision to regularise the part-time employees.

"There are no sanctioned posts in the post office in which the respondents were working, therefore, the directions issued by the High Court in the judgment and order are not permissible," the Court said.

# Panel to study Indian culture did not submit report: ASI

The body, formed in 2016, was reconstituted but to no avail

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

A committee formed in 2016 to "study evolution of Indian culture from 12,000 years ago" which was approved on 31.10.2016 for a period of one year. The committee had not submitted any report to the ASI.

## 'Lack of diversity'

Asked about the committee in the Lok Sabha on September 14, 2020, the then Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel confirmed that an expert panel had been set up for the "holistic study of origin and evolution of Indian cul-

ture since 12,000 years ago". At the time, DMK MP Tiruchi Siva and the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami had raised the lack of diversity on the panel, calling for scholars from southern States to be included.

Sources in the Culture Ministry said in September last year that the first committee's tenure had lapsed without a report, so the committee would be re-constituted with a wider selection of experts.

TH **CROSSWORD** + 13380 Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids: @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn> SCAN TO PLAY

(set by Gussulufz)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9					10		
11				12			
13				14			
16				17			
19	20			21	22		23
24				25			26
27							28

- 16 China, in general, is getting transformed after taking the lead in modern AI (7,8)
- 19 Lost again, kindling a sad feeling (9)
- 22 Vibrator smuggled by retreating hurricane evacuee? (5)
- 24 Threw a tantrum about breaking update being broadcast (5,2)
- 26 Surgical instrument cut tree, with some modifications (7)
- 27 Condition of novel: nearly ruined (5)
- 28 Measurements obtained by transforming a tensor over networked stimuli, ultimately (9)
- DOWN
- 1 Every now and then, upset priests lodge report (6)
- 2 Souvenir embodying local form of government (8)
- 3 Cooked a soft adai filled with some extra spice (10)
- 4 Humble Gussulufz is passed over by head of department (6)
- 5 India mishandled a census release (8)
- 6 Peacekeeper holding raised sword (4)
- 7 A few bits from new version of bible (6)
- 8 Carelessly forget about protected forest-dweller (4,4)
- 15 Cheeky single on in gap after raising slip up (10)
- 16 Moreover, following the start of monsoon, rain destroyed fruit (8)
- 17 Say, slices of grapefruit, salmon, porridge, omelettes – on another breakfast table item (3,5)
- 18 Name of agitated deity devouring books by Gussulufz? (8)
- 20 Arrange to get energy in form of beer (3,3)
- 21 With regular losses as a coach, he made me give in (6)
- 23 In India, tea-sellers say this to make men relaxed (2,4)
- 25 Went back a long way (4)

**SUDOKU**

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

**Solution to puzzle 13379**

A	S	I	E	P	S	L		
E	D	D	S	U	P	E	R	V
D	C	R	I	O	G	T		
S	I	E	R	A	C	O	L	O
S	A	E	O	O				
N	A	U	T	I	L	S	G	A
B	E	P	U	I				
P	A	S	S	V	O	I	C	E
B	E	E	E	T	I			
C	A	L	L	O	N	D	I	L
T	A	O	A	H	G			
T	W	O	T	I	M	E	R	N
A	E	O	U	E	A	G	E	I
A	R	T	N	O	U	V	E	R
D	T	S	F	R	S	E		

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

**FAITH**

## Ambal to the rescue

There are many instances where Goddess Parvathi has come to the rescue of Her devotees, said M.A. Manickavelu in a discourse. Vallalar was not interested in formal lessons at school. Having lost his parents, Vallalar was under the care of his elder brother Kanakasabapathi Pillai, who was afraid that if Vallalar continued to neglect his studies, then it would be taken as a case of bad upbringing by the brother. So Kanakasabapathi Pillai was strict with Vallalar.

One day, Vallalar returned home late at night and not wanting to wake the household, decided to sleep on the pyol outside the house. But he had not eaten anything, and Ambal was not going to let Her devotee sleep on an empty stomach. Vadvudai Amman, the Goddess of Thiruvotriyur, came in the guise of Kanakasabapathi Pillai's wife and gave Vallalar a dish of rice and lentils to eat. A little later, Vallalar's sister-in-law brought him some food, and Vallalar realised that the One who had fed him was the Goddess.

In Vikramasingapuram, near Tirunelveli, lived a devotee of Siva, called Singai Namasiyavar. Every day he would go to the Papanasam temple to worship Siva. One day, while he was away, his daughter attained puberty, and asked her neighbour to serve her father some food. When Namasiyavar returned, the Goddess, in the guise of his daughter, served him food. When his neighbour told him that his daughter had not cooked and had asked her to serve him, he knew it was Ambal who had served him food. Ramakrishna Paramahansa's consort Sarada Devi and her father were on their way to Calcutta. They spent the night in a rest house, and that night Sarada Devi developed a fever. In her dream, she saw a lady of dark hue stroke her and she was cured at once. The lady was none other than Goddess Kali.

# China denies testing 'hypersonic missile'

It's a routine test of space vehicle to verify technology of spacecraft's reusability, says Foreign Ministry

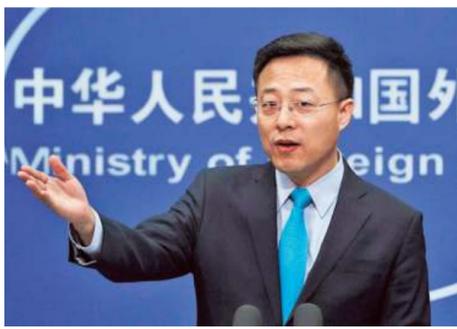
ANANTH KRISHNAN

China's government on Monday denied a recent report saying it had carried out a test of a nuclear capable hypersonic missile, stating that the launch was a "routine test of a space vehicle".

On Sunday, the *Financial Times* reported China's military in August carried out its first ever test of a "nuclear capable hypersonic missile", adding that the test "circled the globe before speeding towards its target, demonstrating an advanced space capability that caught U.S. intelligence by surprise".

The newspaper quoted five people familiar with the test as saying the Chinese military launched a rocket that carried a hypersonic glide vehicle "which flew through low-orbit space before cruising down towards its target".

Two of those people told the newspaper the test "showed that China had made astounding progress



**Quick reaction:** A file photo of Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian in Beijing. • AP

on hypersonic weapons and was far more advanced than U.S. officials realised." Only the U.S., Russia and China were developing the hypersonic glide vehicles, the newspaper said, noting they are far more difficult to track than ballistic missiles.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, however, denied the report. "As we understand," spokesperson Zhao Lijian said, "this was a routine test

of space vehicle to verify technology of spacecraft's reusability."

"It is of great significance to reducing the cost of using space vehicle and providing a convenient and cheap way for mankind's two-way transportation in the peaceful use of space," he added. "Several companies around the world have conducted similar tests. After separating from the space vehicle be-

fore its return, the supporting devices will burn up when it's falling in the atmosphere and the debris will fall into the high seas. China will work with other countries in the world for the peaceful use of space for the benefit of mankind."

# U.S. watching Beijing's weapons development

REUTERS  
TBILISI

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Monday that Washington was closely watching China's development of advanced weapons systems, while declining to comment directly on a report that Beijing had tested a

nuclear-capable hypersonic missile.

Mr. Austin told reporters during a visit to the former Soviet republic of Georgia: "We watch closely China's development of armament and advanced capabilities and systems that will only increase tensions in the region."

The *Financial Times* quoted security experts as saying the test was conducted in August. It noted that the China Academy of Launch Vehicle

Technology, which carries out launches, had in July announced its 77th launch of a Long March rocket, and in end-August said it had carried out a 79th flight, sparking speculation about a secretive 78th launch that had not been reported.

Asked if he was referring to the same launch as reported by the *Financial Times*, Mr. Zhao said, "It's not a missile, but a space vehicle."

Gen. Powell was one of America's foremost Black figures for decades. He was named to senior posts by three Republican Presidents and reached the top of the U.S. military as it was regaining its vigour after the trauma of the Vietnam War.

Gen. Powell, who was wounded in Vietnam, served as U.S. National Security Adviser under President Ronald Reagan from 1987 to 1989. As a four-star Army General, he was Chairman of the military's Joint Chiefs of Staff under President George H.W. Bush during the 1991 Gulf War in which U.S.-led forces expelled Iraqi troops from neighbouring Kuwait.

# Colin Powell, first Black U.S. Secretary of State, dies

He served three Republican Presidents in key posts

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

Colin Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants who rose to become the first Black U.S. Secretary of State and top military officer but whose reputation was tainted in 2003 when he touted spurious intelligence to the UN to make the case for war with Iraq despite deep misgivings, died on Monday at the age of 84.

Despite being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, his family said, he died due to complication from the disease.

Gen. Powell was one of America's foremost Black figures for decades. He was named to senior posts by three Republican Presidents and reached the top of the U.S. military as it was regaining its vigour after the trauma of the Vietnam War.

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Republican, pragmatist Gen. Powell, a moderate Republican and a pragmatist, considered a bid to become the first Black President in 1996 but his wife Alma's worries about his safety helped him decide otherwise.

In 2008, he broke with his party to endorse Democrat Barack Obama, who became the first Black person elected to the White House.

Gen. Powell will forever be associated with his con-



Gen. Colin Powell

troversial presentation on February 5, 2003, to the UN Security Council, making President George W. Bush's case that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein constituted an imminent danger to the world because of its stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons.

He admitted later that the presentation was rife with inaccuracies and twisted intelligence provided by others in the Bush administration and represented "a blot" that will "always be a part of my record".

Mr. Bush had picked Gen. Powell, the top U.S. military officer during his father's presidency, as Secretary of State in 2001. Gen. Powell endured four stormy years as the top U.S. diplomat, often outmanoeuvred by Vice-President Dick Cheney - with whom he served closely under the first President Bush - and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

With U.S. troops already fighting a war in Afghanistan launched after al-Qaeda leaders plotted the September 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S., hawks within the Bush administration began to advocate war with Iraq.

Gen. Powell argued with the administration to let diplomacy run its course on

Iraq. He held grave reservations about a war, as well as the veracity of intelligence about Iraqi weapons.

**'You break it, you own it'** He privately warned Mr. Bush about the monumental difficulties of invading and occupying Iraq, invoking the so-called Pottery Barn rule: "You break it, you own it."

Nevertheless, Gen. Powell agreed to publicly sell the case for war in order to gather international support.

In the Security Council chamber, he displayed photographs and diagrams purporting to detail Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, as well as translations from U.S. intelligence intercepts. At one point, he brandished a small vial containing a teaspoon of simulated anthrax, warning that Iraq had not accounted for "tens upon tens upon tens of thousands of teaspoons" of the deadly pathogen.

The invasion came six weeks later but no such weapons were found, undermining American credibility for years. U.S. forces fought in Iraq from 2003 to 2011, with nearly 4,500 American troops killed and 32,000 wounded.

Gen. Powell told the author of a 2006 book that he spent five days ahead of the UN presentation "trimming the garbage" that Cheney's staff had provided as evidence of Saddam's weapons programmes and alleged links to al-Qaeda. "There were some people in the intelligence community who knew at that time that some of these sources were not good, and shouldn't be relied upon, and they didn't speak up. That devastated me," he told interviewer Barbara Walters in 2005.

# After spying row, Russia shuts mission to NATO

In retaliation to expulsion of 8 Russians, it will strip accreditation of the organisation's staff in Moscow

REUTERS  
MOSCOW

Russia said on Monday it would halt the activities of its diplomatic mission to NATO after the Western military alliance expelled eight Russians in a row over spying.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also said staff at NATO's military mission in Moscow would be stripped of their accreditation from November 1, and the alliance's information office in the Russian capital would be shuttered.

"If NATO members have any urgent matters, they can

contact our Ambassador in Belgium on these questions," Mr. Lavrov told a news conference.

NATO said on October 6 it had expelled eight members of Russia's mission to the alliance who it said were "undisclosed Russian intelligence officers".

Moscow said at the time that the expulsions undermined hopes that relations with the U.S.-led alliance could normalise.

"NATO is not interested in equitable dialogue and joint work," Mr. Lavrov said on Monday, announcing the clo-



Sergei Lavrov

sure of the Russian mission. "If that's the case, then we don't see the need to keep pretending that changes in the foreseeable future are possible."

The dispute marks the latest deterioration in East-West ties that are already at post-Cold War lows.

Russia accuses NATO of provocative activity close to its borders, and recently staged major exercises of its own.

**Not official yet: NATO** The alliance says it is determined to reinforce the security of member states close to Russia following Moscow's annexation of the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and backing for separatists in eastern Ukraine.

NATO said it had taken note of Mr. Lavrov's comments but had received no official communication on the issues raised.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Russia no longer seemed willing to talk to the West. "It's more than just regrettable, this decision taken in Moscow," he said. "It will seriously damage the relationship."

The NATO-Russia council has not held its meeting since 2019 against the backdrop of the heightened tensions.

# Bangladesh violence needs to stop: UN

'Attacks on minority Hindus are against the country's constitutional values'

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

The attacks on minority Hindus in Bangladesh are against the values enshrined in its Constitution and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government needs to ensure an impartial inquiry into the incidents, the UN said on Monday. Communal tension continued to remain high in Bangladesh as violence spread to northern district of Rangpur during the weekend.

"Recent attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh, fuelled by hate speech on social media, are against the values of the Constitution and need to stop. We call upon the Go-

vernment to ensure protection of minorities and an impartial probe. We call upon all to join hands to strengthen inclusive tolerant Bangladesh," said Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh.

The developments of the past several days have already drawn international attention. Sources told *The Hindu* that "all of the community leaders including ISKCON" met the Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswamy at the Indian mission in Dhaka on Monday evening.

The message from the top UN official based in Dhaka was prompted by a nearly week-long spell of commu-

nal violence targeting the minority Hindus during the just concluded Durga puja celebrations. The violence reached Pirganj of Rangpur district during Sunday night when a village of fisherfolks in the area was targeted by a group of arsonists.

**Arson attack** Late on Sunday, a large number of properties belonging to the minority community were set on fire by groups of people. The attacks in Rangpur followed the script of the incidents that unfolded earlier in Comilla, Noakhali, Chittagong and other areas.

"The incident in Comilla that triggered the violence was orchestrated by some

people to disturb inter-community ties and defame our government," said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan to the media.

A reported incident of desecration of the Quran during the Durga puja celebrations in Comilla town went viral on social media last Wednesday, which quickly triggered mob attacks against puja pandals.

On Monday, the situation remained tense in Chittagong and Comilla where some of the worst communal attacks were witnessed that led to the death of at least four attackers in police firing and two devotees of the ISKCON temple in Noakhali district.

# Activists try to disrupt Beijing Olympic event

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
OLYMPIA

Activists grabbed the spotlight at the flame-lighting ceremony for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics in Greece on Monday by unfurling a Tibetan flag and a banner that said "no genocide" at the Games.

The demonstrators pulled out the flag and banner during the ceremony in Olympia attended by International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach and several dozen dignitaries, including Chinese officials.

Greek police forced the demonstrators to take down the flag and the banner before detaining them.

The incident, which came a day after three Tibet activists staged a demonstration at the Acropolis in Athens calling for a boycott of next year's Games, illustrates the challenges faced by the first Olympics to be held in China since the 2008 Beijing Summer Games.

# Myanmar to free 5,000 protesters

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
YANGON

Myanmar's junta chief on Monday announced the release of more than 5,000 people jailed for protesting against a February coup, days after a regional bloc delivered a major snub to the military regime.

There has been chaos in Myanmar since the coup,

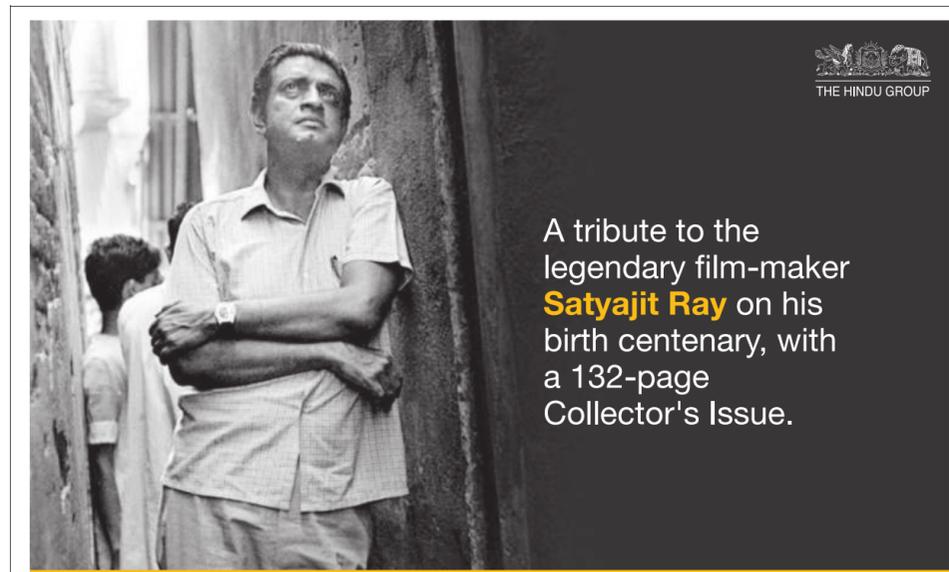
with more than 1,100 civilians killed in a bloody crackdown on dissent and more than 8,000 arrested, according to a monitoring group.

More than 7,300 are currently behind bars, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP).

Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing said a total of 5,636 pri-

soners will be freed to mark the Thadingyut festival later in October.

The announcement comes on the heels of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' decision to exclude Gen. Min Aung Hlaing from an upcoming summit of the 10-country bloc over his administration's failure in defusing the bloody crisis.

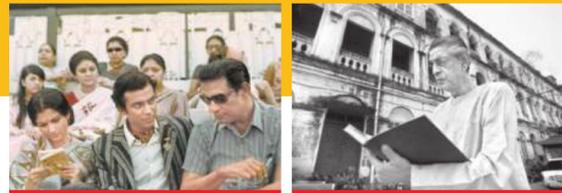


THE HINDU GROUP

A tribute to the legendary film-maker **Satyajit Ray** on his birth centenary, with a 132-page Collector's Issue.

“Not to have seen the cinema of Ray means existing in the world without seeing the sun or the moon.”  
- Akira Kurosawa

Such was the genius of Satyajit Ray that Frontline dedicates a curated special edition to the legendary film-maker who put Indian cinema on the world map after his Pather Panchali nearly six decades ago. The lead piece is written by Andrew Robinson, Ray's biographer, and the special issue will feature over a dozen articles and interviews of actors who worked closely with him and, directors who were inspired by him.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COLLECTOR'S ISSUE

Watch out for tributes by legendary directors: **Shyam Benegal, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Girish Kasaravalli, Gautam Ghose and Sandip Ray**

Understand Ray through the memories of actors: **Dhritiman Chatterji, Sharmila Tagore, Aparna Sen, Barun Chanda and Kathak dancer Saswati Sen.**

A treasure trove of never-seen-before vintage photographs - both black & white, and colour by **Nemai Ghosh (Ray's photographer), Raghu Rai and more.**

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**FRONTLINE**  
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984

MARKET WATCH

	18-10-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,766	0.75
US Dollar	75.35	-0.11
Gold	46,306	-0.04
Brent oil	84.71	-

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	810.55	-2.25
Asian Paints	3241.50	-56.30
Axis Bank	313.30	-11.25
Bajaj Auto	3915.95	-49.95
Bajaj Finserv	18677.95	189.05
Bajaj Finance	7865.55	2.65
Bharti Airtel	680.60	-5.20
BPL	462.50	3.20
Britannia Ind.	3837.35	-57.50
Cipla	903.75	-7.60
Coal India	185.30	1.50
Divis Lab	5343.05	-29.10
Dr Reddys Lab	4877.50	-81.20
Eicher Motors	2826.35	-26.85
Grasim Ind.	1753.95	-1.45
HCL Tech	1221.40	29.75
HDFC	2811.50	2.75
HDFC Bank	1670.30	-17.10
HDFC Life	703.60	9.80
Hero MotoCorp	2904.10	-23.70
Hindalco	542.80	26.70
Hind Unilever	2654.00	4.45
ICICI Bank	745.45	18.15
IndusInd Bank	1219.60	9.60
Infosys	1792.15	76.40
IndianOilCorp	136.35	1.95
ITC	262.55	6.00
JSW Steel	715.80	22.95
Kotak Bank	2011.60	-6.20
L&T	1788.45	-0.85
M&M	910.95	-20.45
Maruti Suzuki	7657.00	160.10
Nestle India Ltd.	19438.45	113.05
NTPC	149.55	0.15
ONGC	162.10	3.05
PowerGrid Corp	203.80	-0.85
Reliance Ind.	2707.60	7.20
SBI Life	1192.50	6.95
State Bank	497.95	7.35
Shree Cement	28191.30	234.85
Sun Pharma	835.90	-5.40
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	843.95	-5.65
Tata Motors	509.60	12.00
Tata Steel	1411.05	36.00
TCS	3647.15	35.70
Tech Mahindra	1479.65	48.85
Titan	2588.80	24.75
UltraTech Cement	7399.30	3.80
UPL	751.10	3.25
Wipro	709.75	1.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	75.14	75.46
Euro	87.09	87.47
British Pound	103.16	103.60
Japanese Yen (100)	65.73	66.01
Chinese Yuan	11.69	11.74
Swiss Franc	81.24	81.59
Singapore Dollar	55.66	55.91
Canadian Dollar	60.63	60.89
Malaysian Ringgit	18.02	18.10

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Tata Motors unveils Punch at ₹5.49 lakh

MUMBAI Tata Motors Ltd. on Monday introduced Tata Punch, a sub-compact SUV, in the Indian market at a starting price of ₹5.49 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). Deliveries will commence from Tuesday from more than 1,000 Tata Motors showrooms nationwide.

'Housing sales rose 59% July-Sept. across 8 cities'

NEW DELHI Showing signs of recovery, housing sales across eight major cities registered an annual growth of 59% during July-September at 55,907 units, but demand jumped more than threefold against the previous quarter, according to PropTiger.com. Sales stood at 35,132 units in the July-September last year and 15,968 units in the previous quarter because of the adverse impact of the first and second wave of the COVID pandemic. PTI

CG Power, Evie sign pact on ₹382 cr. property sale

NEW DELHI CG Power and Industrial Solutions on Monday said it has signed a binding term sheet with Evie Real Estate to sell its property at Kanjurmarg in Mumbai, for ₹382 crore by March 2022. "The sale consideration has been fixed at ₹382 crore, in addition to the repayment of ₹20 crore of deposit, under dispute. The transaction is scheduled to be completed on or before March 31, 2022 (long stop date)," according to a BSE filing. PTI

Paytm earmarks ₹100 cr. to boost digital payments

NEW DELHI Paytm on Monday said it has set aside ₹100 crore for marketing campaigns during festive season to promote UPI, buy-now-pay-later (BNPL) and wallet businesses. "The campaigns will be aligned to promote digital payments in India and educate users about Paytm UPI for money transfers, Paytm Wallet and Paytm Postpaid (buy now, pay later) for spends, to drive financial inclusion across the country," Paytm said in a statement.

# 'Economic activity resurged to a post-COVID peak last week'

Nomura India economists flag supply side risks including coal, power situation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Economic activity hit a fresh post-pandemic high last week, the Nomura India Business Resumption Index signalled, with most indicators showing improvements even as power demand declined from the previous week.

The index rose to an all-time high of 108.8 for the week ended October 17, from 105 in the prior period, Nomura said in a research note. A reading of 100 on the index, which uses February 23, 2020, as its base, relates to the pre-pandemic economic activity level.

While mobility rose sharply, and the labour force



Driving a rebound: Mobility rose sharply in the week ended Oct. 17, labour participation inched up. -GIRI KVS

participation rate inched up to 41.6% from 40.4%, power demand slid 1.7% after a 0.3% uptick in the previous week, Nomura economists Sonal Varma and Aurodeep Nandi wrote in the note.

The economists, however, raised concerns about supply side risks, including the coal and power situation.

Last week, Nomura had warned that if power outages widened, then industrial

output could suffer.

"Even as demand is recovering, supply bottlenecks have emerged as a bigger constraint. Coal shortages are resulting in supply disruptions to non-power customers, while chip shortages have hurt passenger vehicle sales during the festive season. As supply struggles to tango with demand, we see higher inflation as a bigger risk," they noted.

With domestic flights allowed to operate at full capacity from Monday, the transportation sector would get a further boost, the Nomura economists pointed out. Vaccine coverage was enabling reopening, they added.

# High fuel prices spur demand for CNG vehicles, says Maruti

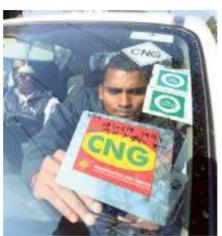
'CNG units rose from 7.4% of total in FY20 to 14% in first half'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA  
NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki is witnessing strong demand for CNG-powered vehicles and expects more than 80% growth in sales of such vehicles this fiscal, said Shashank Srivastava, senior executive director (Marketing & Sales). This is in the backdrop of pump prices of petrol and diesel hovering at all-time highs.

India's largest carmaker sold about 1.6 lakh CNG vehicles in FY21, and expects this number to climb to about 3 lakh in the current financial year, Mr. Srivastava told *The Hindu*.

"Generally, the increase in fuel prices impacts consumer sentiment negatively,



However, one good thing which has happened for us is that this has led to a huge increase in the demand for CNG vehicles as CNG prices haven't gone up as much and CNG running cost is just around ₹1.60-1.70 per kilometre," he added.

He said that in addition to the surge in fuel prices, the

increase in the network of CNG stations had also helped the growth. In the six months ended September, the company sold 83,000 CNG vehicles, accounting for 14% of total sales. CNG vehicles accounted for 11.5% of the company's sales in FY21 and 7.4% in FY20.

Asked about sales during the Navratras, Mr. Srivastava said booking and enquiries grew 11-13% compared with the same period last year, while retail sales were down by 20% because of the non-availability of stock at the dealerships amid the semiconductor shortage.

"We cannot rule out price corrections in the future," he added.

# 'India start-ups raised \$11 bn. in July-Sept.'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Indian start-ups received a record funding of \$10.9 billion across 347 deals in the third quarter of 2021, according to a PwC India report.

This is twice the amount of funding received in Q3 of the calendar year 2020 and an approximate increase of 41% compared to the second quarter of 2021.

An increase in funding activity was witnessed across all sectors in terms of value and volume.

However, fintech, edtech and SaaS are the top three hot investment sectors in the calendar year 2021 (CY21), together accounting for approximately 47% of the total funding activity, PwC India said.

# PNB Housing dives as Carlyle deal scrapped

REUTERS  
BENGALURU

Shares of PNB Housing Finance Ltd. fell 5% on Monday to their lowest since early June after the mortgage lender scrapped a fund-raising deal with a group of investors, led by private-equity firm Carlyle Group.

PNB Housing Finance said Thursday that it had ended the deal, which was announced in May to issue shares worth ₹40 billion to Carlyle-led investors, after a long legal battle with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The deal had been challenged by the SEBI following an institutional investment advisory firm's statement that the deal was unfair to minority shareholders.

# China's economy stumbles on power crunch, property woes

Q3 GDP grows 4.9% missing forecasts, slowest pace in a year

REUTERS  
BEIJING

China's economy hit its slowest pace of growth in a year in the third quarter, hurt by power shortages, supply chain bottlenecks and major wobbles in the property market, raising pressure on policymakers to do more to boost the faltering recovery.

Data released on Monday showed gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.9% in July-September from a year earlier, the weakest clip since the third quarter of 2020 and missing forecasts.

The world's second-largest economy is facing several major challenges, including the China Evergrande Group debt crisis, and a critical electricity crunch, which sent factory output to



its weakest since early 2020, when heavy COVID-19 curbs were in place.

"The domestic economic recovery is still unstable and uneven," said National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) spokesperson Fu Linghui at a briefing on Monday.

China's economy had staged an impressive rebound from last year's pandemic slump thanks to effective

virus containment and hot overseas demand for the country's manufactured goods. But the recovery has lost steam from the blistering 18.3% growth clocked in the first quarter of this year.

"In response to the ugly growth numbers we expect in coming months, we think policymakers will take more steps to shore up growth, including ensuring ample liquidity in the interbank market, accelerating infrastructure development and relaxing some aspects of overall credit and real estate policies," said Louis Kuijs, head of Asia economics at Oxford Economics.

New construction starts in September slumped for a sixth straight month, NBS data showed.

# JK Tech eyeing \$100 mn worth acquisitions: CEO

IT firm to ramp up AI, ML capabilities

MINI TEJASWI  
BENGALURU

JK Tech, the technology division of the 140-year-old JK Group, is planning to spend \$100 million on ramping up its business through acquisitions.

The acquisitions will be in the fields of analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning capabilities, Alok Paskar, CEO & president, JK Tech told *The Hindu*.

Deep technologies

The firm is evaluating more than 20 firms focused on deep technologies, for acquisitions that would be carried out from any time now to the next 24 months.

JK Tech had recently reshuffled its business strategy to increase its focus on hyper automation (holistic automation of the entire busi-



Alok Paskar

ness process of an enterprise with the help of multiple technologies, tools and platforms backed by AI and ML), modernisation and digital transformation.

"We now have a laser focus on hyper automation, which is expected to be an industry segment worth \$40 billion in the next three to four years, as per Gartner," he said. "We want to be a lead player in this market in the next five years."

# EV firm Wardwizard mulls ₹150-crore capex

It may set up units in South and East

LALATENDU MISHRA  
MUMBAI

Wardwizard Innovations & Mobility Ltd., a BSE listed electric vehicles (EV) company, is planning to invest ₹150 crore in the development of new products, meeting working capital requirements and setting up manufacturing facilities in the South and East to cater to the growing demand.

To stay closer to its customers as well as to improve margins, the firm has started discussions to set up facilities in Kerala in the South and either in Odisha or West Bengal in the East, top company executives said.

"We are in a sunrise sector," said Yatin Gupte, chairman and MD.

"Whatever we are producing is far less than the demand. So, we are ramp-



Yatin Gupte

ing up production. We are developing a reliable vendor base to source all components from India.

"We are also in discussions with our distributors in the South and the East to finalise the location of the new facilities, Mr. Gupte said, adding "we need to invest ₹150 crore to cater to the demand."

Last year, the firm had sold 4,300 units. The plan is to sell 25,000 units in FY22.

# Private industrial investments set to bounce back, says Crisil

'New cycle to depend on implementation of govt. policy'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India's private industrial investment cycle is poised to bounce back, ratings agency Crisil said in a research note on Monday, citing a rise beyond pre-pandemic levels in Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) filings with the government, the pace of environmental approvals, and the surge in foreign direct investments.

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for 13 sectors and the surge in commodity prices will influence fresh private investments, aided by accommodative monetary policies, lower interest rates, rising merchandise exports and

Without the PLI scheme, capex may have taken 2 more years to touch pre-pandemic level

the supply chain diversification underway globally, Crisil projected. The macro and micro triggers for recovering from the collapse in private investments last year include flush global liquidity and healthier corporate balance sheets, it noted.

'New growth drivers'

"Overall, private industrial capex appears to be getting into a whole new cycle after the pandemic hiccup - this time around armed with a new set of growth drivers,"

Crisil's research analysts said in the note, stressing that the new capex cycle will depend on the implementation of government support and policy measures.

Estimating that industrial investments will rise 30% over the period 2021-22 to 2023-24, Crisil said that the PLI scheme had given a 'much-needed booster dose to flailing capex', which may have likely taken almost two more years to touch pre-pandemic levels in its absence.

"Actualisation of the scheme will result in aggregate industrial capex rising 1.3 times through fiscals 2022-2024 in comparison to fiscals 2018-2020," they said.

# Coal costs weigh down UltraTech net at ₹1,310 cr.

Company's revenue increases 16%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement Ltd. on Monday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,310.34 crore for the quarter ended in September against ₹1,310.06 crore in the year-earlier quarter on account of a sharp rise in coal and pet-coke prices.

However, revenue from operations was up 15.7% to ₹12,016.78 crore, UltraTech Cement said in a BSE filing.

Total expenses were at ₹10,209.43 crore, up 17%.

"Coal and pet-coke prices almost doubled in Q2FY22 resulting in energy cost rising 17% YoY.

"The resulting impact on the company's operations were partly offset by a re-



duction in power consumption and continuing focus on operational efficiencies," UltraTech Cement said.

The company expects to commence mining operations at its Bicharpur coal block situated in Madhya Pradesh, during Q3/FY22 which will help in reducing the dependence on coal purchases, it added.

# NCLT gives nod for meet on Future deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Monday allowed the creditors and shareholders of Reliance Retail Ventures to hold meetings to seek approval for the firm's proposed ₹24,700 crore deal with the Future Group.

The Mumbai bench of NCLT allowed the application by Reliance Retail's creditors and shareholders to convene meetings to seek approval for the deal.

Reliance Retail Ventures is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries. On June 22, the tribunal had reserved its order on Reliance Retail's plea to seek consensus of the shareholders on the company's deal with Future Group.

# Tea exports fall 14% in first 7 months of 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

Exports of tea from India registered a fall of about 14.4% in the first seven months of 2021 compared with the same period last year.

Total exports of the beverage

during January to July of 2021 was 100.78 million kg as against 117.56 million kg in the same period of 2020, according to Tea Board data.

The CIS block remained the largest importer at 24.14 million kg, down from 30.53

million kg in the previous similar period. Though shipments to Iran were substantially down due to the sanctions, the country imported 12.63 million kg in the first 7 months of 2021, as against 21 million kg in 2020.

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M)-II  
WAZIRABAD WATER WORKS, CIVIL LINES, TIMARPUR  
DELHI-110054  
PRESS NIT No. - 19(2021-22)

NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of release of Tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/Time receipt of Tender through e-procurement solution
19	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of RO Plant including O&M for 15 years at OKHLA STP)	Item and Lump Sum Rate	Rs. 70,00,000/- Exempted vide Office memorandum no: F/9/4/2020-PPD and DJB endorsement No:- DJB/2020-21/Misc-II(PT)/971 Dated 23.12.2020	Tender Id: 2021_DJB_209772_1 Publish Date 14-Oct-2021 06:55 PM onward	25-Nov-2021 up to 03:15 PM

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on DJB website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 494 (2021-22)

Executive Engineer (E&M)-II

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(C) DR-II  
DELHI GATE STP PHASE-II  
OPPOSITE DELHI SECRETARIAT  
IP ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002  
E-mail : eecdr2@gmail.com

"STOP CORONA; Wear Masks, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

NIT No. 01(2021-22) EE(C)Dr-II (Re-invited)  
(Tender ID: 2021\_DJB\_209776\_1)

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (in Lakhs)	Earnest Money (in Lakhs)	Non refundable Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Construction of 60 MGD WWPS at Kilokri including allied appurtenant works & 10 years O&M)	DBO Basis	NIL	1500/-	14.10.2021	09.11.2021 up to 03.05 PM

Issued by P.R.O. (Water)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 496 (2021-22)

(RAJIV SHARMA)  
A. Executive Engineer (C) Dr-II

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)  
# 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road  
Bengaluru - 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-05/8801/2021-22 Date: 18.10.2021

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
(Through GOK e - Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender for Detailed Project Report (DPR) from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for the work of Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) Including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan, Design, Preparation of Detailed Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed development of Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Colony of M/s.MRPL in Mangaluru Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District. (Extent 171.06 Acres) - 2nd Call.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is: 10.11.2021 upto 04:00 pm  
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru

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

Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

# Kishan, Rahul among the runs as India beats England

Both score half-centuries; Shami takes three wickets

## T20 WC WARM-UPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI

K.L. Rahul's elegant half-century sealed the second opener's debate while Ishan Kishan grabbed the opportunity as India warmed-up nicely with a seven-wicket win over England in the opening practice match ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Rahul made batting look easy with six boundaries and three sixes in his 24-ball 51 while Kishan retired hurt after a chiselled 70 off 46 balls that had three sixes apart from seven boundaries as India chased down a target of 189 with an over to spare.

## Breathtaking sixes

In a game where the result was secondary, Rahul's knock would have pleased skipper Virat Kohli as he hit some breathtaking sixes off Chris Woakes and also treat-

ed Mark Wood with disdain. Kishan, who might have to sit out if he is not playing as an opener, did his case no harm once Rahul was dismissed, as he punished the spinners, including a dazzling six coming down the track off Adil Rashid.

India ticked some boxes that includes two senior pacers Jasprit Bumrah (one for 26) and Mohammed Shami (three for 40) hitting the straps straightaway with some fast and accurate deliveries. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, however, missed the length and gave away 54 runs in four overs.

Hardik Pandya came in with 21 needed off 15 balls and hit a few streaky shots in his unbeaten 16 off 10 balls.

Earlier, the England batters threw their willows around to get some quality time in the middle on a good surface after being asked to bat. Aggressive knocks by

Jonny Bairstow (49), Liam Livingstone (30) and Moeen Ali (43) lifted England to 188/5.

**The scores:** England 188/5 in 20 overs (Jonny Bairstow 49, Liam Livingstone 30, Moeen Ali 43 n.o., Mohd. Shami 3/40) lost to India 192/3 in 19 overs (K.L. Rahul 51, Ishan Kishan 70 retd. n.o., Rishabh Pant 29 n.o.).

West Indies 130/7 in 20 overs (Shimron Hetmyer 28, Shaheen Shah Afridi 2/41, Hasan Ali 2/21, Haris Rauf 2/32) lost to Pakistan 131/3 in 15.3 overs (Babar Azam 50, Fakhar Zaman 46, Hayden Walsh 2/41).

South Africa 145/5 in 20 overs (Temba Bavuma 31, Adien Markram 48, ) bt Afghanistan 104/8 in 20 overs (Mohammad Nabi 34, Lungi Ngidi 2/27, Tabraiz Shamsi 3/18).

New Zealand 158/7 in 20 overs (Martin Guptill 30, Daryl Mitchell 33 retd. n.o., Kane Williamson 37, James Neesham 31, Kane Richardson 3/24, Adam Zampa 2/17) lost to Australia 159/7 in 19.5 overs (Steve Smith 35, Marcus Stoinis 28, Mitchell Santner 3/22, Trent Boult 2/13).



Coming good: Openers Ishan Kishan and K.L. Rahul got India off to a flying start after Mohd. Shami shone with the ball. •AP

## Fortunate to coach talented players, says Sridhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI

India's outgoing fielding coach R. Sridhar finds himself extremely fortunate to have coached and interacted with "amazingly talented cricketers" and said that every mistake made was a learning experience along the way. Head coach Ravi Shastri, bowling coach Bharath Arun and Sridhar will be leaving at the end of the T20 World Cup.

"I was fortunate to coach & interact with amazingly talented cricketers and help them unleash their full potential.

## Lasting relationships

"I fostered lasting relationships and made memories that I will treasure for a lifetime and beyond," Sridhar wrote on his Instagram page.

# Campher on fire, takes four in four

Ireland defeats Netherlands by seven wickets

## T20 WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ABU DHABI

Johannesburg-born seamer Curtis Campher became only the third bowler to claim four wickets in four balls in T20Is as Ireland defeated Netherlands by seven wickets in a first round Group A match here on Monday.

Thanks to Campher's exploits, Ireland bundled out Netherlands for 106 after the Dutch had decided to bat. Ireland chased down the target with 29 balls to spare. Gareth Delany (44) and Paul Stirling (30 not out) were the significant contributors with the bat for the Irish team.

Earlier, bowling the 10th over of Netherlands innings,



What a feat: Curtis Campher became only the second player after Brett Lee to take a hat-trick in T20 World Cup. •AFP

the 22-year-old Campher left the opposition in disarray when he dismissed Colin Ackermann, Ryan ten Doeschate, Scott Edwards and Roelof van der Merwe off successive balls.

He was bowling his second over of the day, having gone for 12 runs first up.

Ackermann was out caught behind on review, having played an attempted pull off a shortish ball that

seemed to be going down leg. The seasoned ten Doeschate, best remembered for his incredible century against England in the 2011 World Cup, was out for a duck, trapped in front by a full and straight one.

Edwards too fell leg before as DRS tracked the ball hitting the leg stump. For his final wicket, van der Merwe played on to his stumps a wishid delivery, leaving the Irish camp in a state of frenzy.

**The scores:** Netherlands 106 in 20 overs (Max O'Dowd 51, Curtis Campher 4/26, Mark Adair 3/9) lost to Ireland 107/3 in 15.1 overs (Gareth Delany 44, Paul Stirling 30 n.o.). **Toss:** Netherlands. Ireland won by seven wickets with 29 balls to spare.

# Sri Lanka proves too good for Namibia

Theekshana, Hasaranga and Kumara strangle the opposition

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
ABU DHABI

Spinners Maheesh Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga set up a seven-wicket win for Sri Lanka against debutant Namibia in the Twenty20 World Cup on Monday.

Theekshana returned figures of three for 25 and Hasaranga took two wickets to help dismiss Namibia for 96.

## Useful stand

Namibia hurt Sri Lanka with three wickets in the chase but Avishka Fernando (30) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (42) put on an unbeaten stand of 74 to steer the team home in 13.3 overs.

The left-handed Rajapaksa smashed four fours and two sixes in his 27-ball blitz.

But bowlers remained key to victory with pacer Lahiru Kumara also chipping in with two wickets to bowl out Namibia in 19.3 overs after Sri Lanka chose to field.

Craig Williams, with his 29, skipper Gerhard Erasmus, 20, and J.J. Smit, unbeaten on 12, were the only three batsmen to manage double figures.

## The scores:

Namibia 96 in 19.3 overs (Craig Williams 29, Maheesh Theekshana 3/25, Lahiru Kumara 2/9, Wanindu Hasaranga 2/24) vs Sri Lanka 100/3 in 13.3 overs (Bhanuka Rajapaksa 42 n.o., Avishka Fernando 30 n.o.).

## Toss:

Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka won by seven wickets with 39 balls to spare.



Cleaned up: Namibia's Jan Frylinck fails to connect a sweep and loses his stumps to Maheesh Theekshana. •AFP

# Scotland looks to keep momentum going

PNG will have to win to stay alive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AL AMERAT

Buoyed by the stunning victory over Bangladesh, Scotland will be keen to keep the winning momentum going when it takes on Papua New Guinea in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

Chris Greaves' magnificent all-round display helped Scotland notch up a six-run victory over Bangladesh while debutant Papua New Guinea was handed a 10-wicket thrashing by co-host Oman in the tournament opener.

However, despite ending on the winning side skipper Kyle Coetzer conceded that the side was capable of better performances.

"We understand that we have to play extremely well

to beat sides. We certainly didn't play to our full potential," Coetzer said.

A win on Tuesday will put Scotland in strong position to head to the Super 12 stage.

On the other hand, Papua New Guinea, which was hoping to end its 12-match losing streak in white ball cricket, was completely outplayed in all departments.

Going ahead, not only will it have to win against Scotland but also needs to improve its net run rate.

Barring skipper Assad Vala, who hit a half century and Charles Amini's (37), the PNG batters struggled.

Looking ahead, Vala said, "We just need to focus on ourselves and not worry about Scotland and Bangladesh."

# Bangladesh takes Oman in a must-win game

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AL AMERAT (OMAN)

Handed a rude shock in their T20 World Cup opener, Bangladesh will have to sort some self-confessed batting problems and play as per its reputation in a must-win game against upbeat host Oman here on Tuesday.

Bangladesh came into the tournament as the sixth-ranked team which had beaten New Zealand and Australia at home.

However, it was found wanting against Scotland on Sunday and lost the game by six runs due to an ordinary batting performance.

Bangladesh was expected to run away with it after reducing Scotland to 53 for six, but the pressure of the big stage perhaps got the better of it. Skipper Mahmudullah blamed the batters



Do-or-die situation: Mahmudullah will expect his batters to perform better in this match. •AP

for the unexpected loss and said they must perform better against Oman, which thrashed Papua New Guinea in its opener. Bangladesh needs to win on Tuesday to keep itself in contention for a spot in the Super-12 stage.

## Tuesday's matches

- Scotland vs Papua New Guinea, 3.30 p.m. (IST)
- Bangladesh vs Oman, 7.30 p.m. (IST)

# Lanka's first Test skipper Warnapura no more

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's first Test captain, who was hit with a 25-year ban for leading a rebel cricket team to South Africa in breach of an international boycott, died on Monday.

Bandula Warnapura, 68, died following a heart attack after undergoing a leg amputation for complications arising from diabetes.

Warnapura captained Sri Lanka's first Test, against England in 1982, scoring 38 runs.

But his international career came to a crashing halt after four Tests, when he led a team of local players to South Africa in 1982, defying a government ban against any sporting contact with the then-apartheid regime.

He and other players were banned for 25 years but it was lifted in 1990, al-



Bandula Warnapura. •FILE PHOTO

lowing Warnapura to take an active role in coaching.

Sri Lanka's former skipper Mahela Jayawardena paid tribute to Warnapura, who was one of his coaches as a young cricketer.

"He coached me at Nalanda (college) and was a steady influence in my growth as a cricketer and a person," the 44-year-old tweeted.

# Pragg claims title in style

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

With a stunning performance that attracted praise from the world's elite, R. Praggnanandhaa destroyed American Christopher Yoo 3-0 to win the \$40,000 Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour title on Sunday.

As in the previous two matches, Praggnanandhaa won with a game to spare in the best-of-four-game rapid encounters. In all, Praggnanandhaa scored a stupendous 8.5 from nine games. In fact, he could have finished with an astonishing 9/9 score had he not chosen to draw in a winning position against arch-rival Vincent Keymer in the semifinals.

Praggnanandhaa not only won \$12,500 but also gained the right to play with the creamy layer of the chess world in the million-dollar Meltwater Champions Tour next year.

If World champion Magnus Carlsen was among the first ones to congratulate Praggnanandhaa on Twitter, former World champion Vladimir Kramnik and the strongest woman player in chess history, Judit Polgar, praised the 15-year-old from Chennai.

Kramnik said of Praggnanandhaa, "He reminds me so much of the young Vishy (Anand). Judit tweeted, "Absolutely brilliant play by Praggnanandhaa." **The result: Final:** R. Praggnanandhaa bt Christopher Yoo (USA) 3-0.



Praggnanandhaa. •FILE PHOTO

# Sensational Fati stars for Barca

Napoli continues superb start to season

## EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MADRID

Ansu Fati came to the rescue again on Sunday by scoring a sensational goal and earning a penalty in a 3-1 victory over Valencia as Barcelona got a big week off to a winning start.

Memphis Depay slammed in the spot-kick and Philippe Coutinho, who came on for Fati on the hour, added a late third to give a comfortable complexion to a game that Valencia had led after just five minutes.

Ansu went off with Valencia still chasing an equaliser, an indication of how important Ronald Koeman considers his involvement in Wednesday's Champions League game against Dynamo Kiev, with the season's first Clasico against Real Madrid com-



Star turn: Ansu Fati showed why he is highly regarded with this goal for Barcelona. •AFP

ing four days later.

Napoli returned to the top of Serie A on Sunday after Nigerian international Victor Osimhen scored the only goal in a hard-fought 1-0 win against Torino. Napoli has 24 points, two more than AC Milan, after equalling the best start in club history,

having also won the first eight games in 2017-18.

**The results: La Liga:** Villarreal 1 (Gerard 55) lost to Osasuna 2 (Torro 26, Avila 87); Barcelona 3 (Fati 13, Depay 41-pen, Coutinho 85) bt Valencia 1 (Gaya 5).

**Serie A:** Napoli 1 (Osimhen 81) bt Torino 0; Juventus 1 (Kean 16) bt Roma 0.

# PSG to miss Neymar against Leipzig

Liverpool visits Atletico; Donetsk welcomes Real Madrid

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON

Paris Saint-Germain has won 10 of its 12 games overall this season, but there are serious questions being raised about the level of play.

PSG again looked laborious in a league game against Angers on Friday night and scraped another late win courtesy of a controversial penalty from striker Kylian Mbappe.

It was handed a further blow with Neymar ruled out for the clash against RB Leipzig due to an abductor injury suffered while on international duty with Brazil. PSG at least it will have Lionel Messi, but midfielder Leandro Paredes is also out with a thigh injury.

Pep Guardiola will make a late decision on whether



Huge setback: Neymar suffered an abductor injury while on international duty with Brazil. •REUTERS

goalkeeper Ederson and forward Gabriel Jesus should play in Manchester City's match at Club Brugge on Tuesday after being unable to prepare with the team due to a prolonged period on duty with Brazil.

Daniel Maldini is the third

member of his family to play for AC Milan after grandfather Cesare and record-breaking father Paolo.

Daniel scored his first Serie A goal last month and now could get his first start in the Champions League when Milan visits Porto in

Group B.

Striker Luis Suarez will meet former club Liverpool for the first time since joining Atletico Madrid from Barcelona.

For Tuesday's Group B game, Atletico coach Diego Simeone is expected to count on a couple of players who had been doubtful because of injuries - midfielder Marcos Llorente and defender José María Giménez.

Shakhtar Donetsk will try to make it three straight group-stage victories against Real Madrid after consecutive wins last season.

**Tuesday's fixtures:** Besiktas vs Sporting, Club Brugge vs Man City, 10.15 p.m.; Shakhtar Donetsk vs Real Madrid, PSG vs RB Leipzig, Atletico Madrid vs Liverpool, Inter Milan vs Sheriff, Ajax vs Dortmund, Porto vs AC Milan 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

TV PICKS

**Badminton:** Denmark Open, Star Sports 3, 12.30 p.m.  
**Men's T20 World Cup (first round):** Star Sports 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.  
**Champions League:** Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.15 p.m.; Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD) 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

IN BRIEF



**Bhavani Devi claims fencing title in France**

**NEW DELHI**  
Bhavani Devi, who became the first Indian fencer to compete in an Olympics, has won the individual women's sabre event at the Charlevalle National Competition in France. At Tokyo, she lost to eventual bronze-medallist Manon Brunet of France in the round of 32. **PTI**



**Federer out of top 10 for first time since 2017**

**PARIS**  
Roger Federer dropped out of the top 10 in the ATP rankings on Monday for the first time since January 2017. Federer, 40, has not played due to a right knee injury since losing in the Wimbledon quarterfinals and is now at 11th spot. **AFP**

**Norrie and Badosa reign at Indian Wells**

**INDIAN WELLS**  
Cameron Norrie beat Nikoloz Basilashvili 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 to win the men's title at the BNP Paribas Open here on Sunday. The women's final produced a first-time champion, too, when Paula Badosa edged Victoria Azarenka 7-6(5), 2-6, 7-6(2). **AP**

# Mudit Dani escapes to victory

Yashaswini Ghorpade gets the better of Moumita Dutta

TABLE TENNIS

**RAKESH RAO**  
CHANDIGARH

Sixth-ranked Indian in World ranking, Mudit Dani huffed and puffed to beat little-known Tushar Chauhan in five sets and then learnt of getting a possible walkover for a place in the men's main draw of the National ranking table tennis championship on Monday.

Over the last few years, 22-year Dani accumulated enough ranking points by playing several international tournaments and climbed to the 200th spot in the world. However, the youngster is yet to prove his worth in domestic competitions.

On the first day of qualifying rounds at Panchkula's De-



**On the ball:** Yashaswini eyes entry into main draw. \*FILE PHOTO

vi Lal Stadium, Dani posted a hard-fought 9-21, 12-10, 11-8, 5-11, 11-7 victory over his rival from Daman & Diu.

In the three-man Group 14, Dani was due to face Parth Virmani, ranked 30th in the country. But Virmani, who lost his father to Covid not so long ago, was absent for his first match. On Tuesday, in

the likely scenario of Virmani staying away, Dani will join the main draw of 128.

Utkarsh Gupta, one of the players tipped to qualify, suffered a serious setback to his plan after a shock 12-10, 5-11, 5-11 loss to Shivam Das. Since only one player advances from each of the 64 groups, Shivam is set to be a

surprise qualifier.

Karnataka's K. J. Akash surprised Railway's Kiranjoy Pushilal 3-1 and wildcard Parth Mishra 3-2 to qualify.

Among those who remained on course to qualify are, Birdie Boro, Raj Mondal, Anirban Ghosh, Sougata Sarkar, T. Nitin, Siddesh Pande, Abhimanyu Mitra, Ravindra Kotiyani, Anukram Jain and Omkar Torgalkar.

In the women's section, Yashaswini Ghorpade upstaged Moumita Dutta in four sets to brighten her prospects of gate-crashing into the main draw. In other upsets, Isha Chavan surprised Riti Shankar 3-1, Aarthi Chaudhary got past Manasi Chiplunkar 3-1, Sanchita Chatterjee beat Vanshika Bhargava 3-2 and Shubha Bhat scalped Trisha Gogoi 3-2.

RUFC posts win

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
BENGALURU

Aman Thapa's injury-time goal gave Rajasthan United Football Club full points against Delhi Football Club in the opening match of the final round of the I-League Qualifiers here on Monday. **The result:** Rajasthan United Football Club 1 (Aman Thapa 90+2) bt Delhi Football Club 0; Kenkre 1 (Pravittu Raju 85) bt Madan Maharaj FC 0.

McIlroy reigns

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
LOS ANGELES

Rory McIlroy captured his 20th career USPGA title on Sunday, firing a six-under 66 to win the CJ Cup in Las Vegas by one stroke over Collin Morikawa.

The four-time Major winner shot a 62 on Saturday before claiming his 29th worldwide title.

Saffron Art triumphs

**HYDERABAD:** Trainer Laxman Singh's Saffron Art, ridden by Ajit Singh, won the G. Sudhakar Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Monday's (Oct. 18) races here. The winner is owned by Mr. S. Pathy.

**1. NEARCO PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only: COSMICO (Akshay Kumar) 1, Thanks (Nakhat Singh) 2, Hot Seat (Md. Ismail) 3 and Wild Card (Aneel) 4. 3-3/4, 2-1/2 and 3/4. Im 13.97s. ₹29 (w), 12, 12 and 55 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 154, SHW: 18 and 10, FP: 77, Q: 27, Tanala: 1.857. Favourite: Thanks.**

**Owners:** Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula, Mr. G. Raghunandan Chary & Mr. Shalendra Singh. **Trainer:** Mr. Faiyaz Ali Khan.

**2. BELOVED PRINCE PLATE (Div. II) (1,600m), rated up to 25 (Cat. II): GURBAZZ (Kuldeep Singh) 1, Royal Girl (Gaurav Singh) 2, N R I City (Rohit Kumar) 3 and Solo Winner (B.R. Kumar) 4. Nk, 3-1/2 and 1. Im 42.82s. ₹88 (w), 23, 14 and 27 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 81, SHW: 50 and 17, FP: 419, Q: 188, Tanala: 2,507. Favourite: Solo Winner.**

**Owners:** Mr. Hari Sharan Devgan & Mr. Tindar Singh Ahluwalia. **Trainer:** L. D. Silva.

**3. NEARCO PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): UNSUNG HERO (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Morior Invictus (Rafique Sk.) 2, Visionary (Neeraj) 3 and Total Darc (Afroz Khan) 4. 3-3/4, Sh and 1-1/4. Im 13.82s. ₹91 (w), 18, 23 and 11 (p). SHP: 82, THP: 80, SHW: 37 and 99, FP: 1,084, Q: 712, Tanala: 4,957. Favourite: Visionary.**

**Owner:** Mr. Syed Abul Hasan Razvi. **Trainer:** Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan.

**4. LOYAL MANZAR PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): ICICLE (Ashad Ashar) 1, Show Me Your Walk (Akshay Kumar) 2, Cheltenham (Ajeth Kumar) 3 and N R I Sun (Mukesh Kumar) 4. 2, 1-1/2 and Sh. Im 40.13s. ₹20 (w), 15, 18 and 42 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 80, SHW: 13 and 35, FP: 158, Q: 104, Tanala:**

**2,703. Favourite:** Icicle. **Owner:** Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. **Trainer:** D. Netto.

**5. ALIJAH PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): BLISSFUL (Nakhat Singh) 1, Mind Reader (R.S. Jodha) 2, N R I Magic (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Angelita (Kuldeep Singh) 4. Not run: Secret Circle. 2, 1 and 1-1/4. Im 14. 00s. ₹15 (w), 11, 19 and 13 (p). SHP: 48, THP: 39, SHW: 10 and 47, FP: 91, Q: 71, Tanala: 255. Favourite: Blissful.**

**Owners:** M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. **Trainer:** K. Sathesh.

**6. G. SUDHAKAR REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (2,000m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): SAFFRON ART (Ajit Singh) 1, Just Incredible (Aneel) 2, Lamha (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Mark My Word (Nakhat Singh) 4. 3-1/2, 4-3/4 and Nose. 2m 5.66s. ₹18 (w), 11, 24 and 10 (p). SHP: 118, THP: 43, SHW: 10 and 100, FP: 567, Q: 395, Tanala: 908. Favourite: Saffron Art.**

**Owner:** Mr. S. Pathy. **Trainer:** Laxman Singh.

**7. ALIJAH PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): PROUD (Nakhat Singh) 1, Brilliant View (Santosh Raj) 2, Aibak (Aneel) 3 and Curcumin (R. Ajinkya) 4. Not run: Stunning Force. 2-1/2, Nk and 1/2. Im 13.71s. ₹21 9w), 13, 15 and 17 (p). SHP: 57, THP: 53, SHW: 19 and 24, FP: 91, Q: 61, Tanala: 714. Favourite: Proud.**

**Owner:** Mrs. Lingala Aarti Reddy. **Trainer:** L.V.R. Deshmukh.

**8. BELOVED PRINCE PLATE (Div. I) (1,600m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III): SPUNNIC (Md. Ismail) 1, Cephalonia (B. Nikhil) 2, Wot's Up Jay (Abhay Singh) 3 and Proud Legacy (Kuldeep Singh) 4. Not run: Astronaut and Jo Malone. Nk, Nk and 4-1/4. Im 42.88s. ₹18 (w), 11, 24 and 24 (p). SHP: 68, THP: 72, SHW: 10 and 56, FP: 193, Q: 81, Tanala: 1,643. Favourite: Spunnic.**

**Owners:** Mr. Donald Anthony Netto and Mr. C. Parthasarthy. **Trainer:** D. Netto.

**Jackpot:** 70%: ₹374 (1,127 tkts.), 30%: 67 (2,697 tkts.). **Treble:** (i) 1,750 (26 tkts.), (ii) 1,169 (30 tkts.), (iii) 85 (666 tkts.). **Mini Jackpot:** (i) 5,968 (8 tkts.), (ii) 149 (514 tkts.).s

# Karan Singh set for the big league

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN**  
NEW DELHI

The newly-crowned National junior champion Karan Singh is a natural talent, who believes in the power of being vegetarian.

National coach Zeeshan Ali has been fine-tuning Karan's game, while Arun Kumar, the other experienced coach at the National Tennis Centre has been motivating him.

More than the raw power that his tall frame can generate, Karan thrives on superb technique and timing. Having grown up on clay, he constructs the points before delivering telling blows.

He loves serving and often spends one of the two sessions of training in a day, mastering the craft.

"My kick serve has improved a lot," says Karan, quite pleased about his overall game.

Before the national junior



Karan. \*KAMESH SRINIVASAN

The last time the Fenesta National championship was held in 2019, Karan had won the under-16 title in a crack of a contest.

Despite the pandemic and lockdown, Karan was able to sustain his training at the academy set up by his father Ashok Chauhan in Karnal.

"Our whole family has shifted to the academy. We have hostel facilities for a few players," he said.

Last year, renowned coach Kawaljeet Singh had done a few stints of training at the academy, ensuring quality guidance for Karan.

"Kawaljeet sir helped me a lot, like working on the leg drive in serve," Karan said.

The National championship, in which Karan will start in the qualifying event, will serve as another test.

Karan, who loves watching Dominic Thiem play, promises exciting times ahead for Indian tennis.

# Coach Sachdeva to lead RoundGlass Tennis Academy

**SPORTS BUREAU**  
CHANDIGARH

Coach Aditya Sachdeva, with players like Yuki Bhambri, Karman Thandi, Divij Sharan and Vijayant Malik to his credit, will be the Technical Director of the RoundGlass Tennis Academy.

Making the announcement in a release, the founder of RoundGlass Sports, Sunny Gurpreet Singh stated, "In addition to football and hockey, we are happy to add tennis.

"We want to transform tennis in India by offering best in class training and give children the opportunity to explore their potential.

"Aditya Sachdeva brings significant coaching experience, and we are proud to

have him lead the academy."

"We aim to develop world class players and create role models. We aspire to be one of Asia's premier training academies in the next five years," said Aditya Sachdeva.

**Pay and play scheme**

The pay and play scheme of RoundGlass Tennis was launched at the Chandigarh Club earlier this year. The tennis academy will offer 100% scholarship to about 20 players selected through trials.

The Academy will also have several developmental and grassroots centres across Punjab as part of its overall drive to redefine tennis coaching.

**Development of Tourist Facilities at Dholavira, Kutch, Gujarat (retender)**

**Components:** Accommodation Facility, Cafeteria, Tourist Lounge / Tourist Reception Centre and support infrastructure.

**Key Features:** Proximity to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dholavira.

**RFP Document** can be downloaded from <https://www.nprocure.com/> & <https://www.gujarattourism.com/>, 19/10/2021 onwards.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on 26/10/2021. For any further details, interested Bidders may contact **Mr.M.S.Joshi at [msjoshi@gujarattourism.com](mailto:msjoshi@gujarattourism.com)**

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