



Chandrababu Naidu wants Centre's help to check YSRCP

page 7



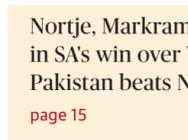
The vaccination milestone and a distant goal

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China's Foreign Minister meets Taliban in Doha, offers support

page 13



Nertje, Markram star in SA's win over WI; Pakistan beats NZ

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IN BRIEF



Kejriwal offers prayers at Ram Janmabhoomi site

NEW DELHI
 Setting the tone for his campaign for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal offered prayers at the Ram Janmabhoomi site in Ayodhya on Tuesday.

STATES PAGE 4

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OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 17

Supreme Court to pass orders on pleas in Pegasus case today

Petitions have sought formation of independent panel to probe alleged spying

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
 NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana is scheduled to pronounce its decision on Wednesday in pleas to form an independent committee to probe reports that the government used Israel-based Pegasus software to spy on citizens.

On September 23, the court indicated its intention to form a committee to examine the allegations. The CJ, at the time, said the court wanted to pass the orders without delay, but had been temporarily stalled be-



We thought the government would file a counter-affidavit... Now we will pass our interim orders

cause some of the members it had shortlisted for the committee were unavailable for personal reasons.

The court on September 13 had reserved the case, led by a petition filed by veteran journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar, after the government expressed reservations

about filing a "detailed" affidavit responding to the allegations. The Centre had said it would be too public and compromise national security.

The petitioners had sought either an affidavit from the Cabinet Secretary or formation of a committee

led by a sitting judge to probe the snooping controversy.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli made it clear that there would be no more "beating around the bush" in the issue.

The CJ had said the court had given the government a fair opportunity to file a detailed affidavit to get a clear idea of its stand in the case.

"We thought the government would file a counter-affidavit... Now we will pass our interim orders," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

SC quizzes U.P. over dearth of witnesses

Only 23 listed in Lakhimpur Kheri case

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday was surprised to find that the Uttar Pradesh Police could find only 23 eyewitnesses to the alleged incident of a Union Minister's convoy mowing down farmers at a public place in Lakhimpur Kheri where 4,000 to 5,000 people had gathered for a rally to protest the agricultural laws on October 3.

"There were hundreds at the farmers' rally and only 23 people are witnesses," Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, leading a three-judge Bench, told the Uttar Pradesh Government.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, for U.P., said the "first ring" of people close to the scene of the incident and those who saw the cars and the people inside these vehicles were among the 23.

The U.P. Government has filed a second status report on the investigation which said there were 23 eyewitnesses out of a total 68 witnesses. The statements of 30 of them have already been taken before the Magistrate.

"Overlapping videos" Mr. Salve said there were also videos on digital media about the incident. There are "overlapping videos".

"We will receive the exact



People at the site of the incident in Lakhimpur Kheri on October 4. *AP

frames of these videos, which would be certified and sent to us... All that process is going on. Many of the witnesses are formal... No need to take their statements under Section 164 Cr.PC [witness statement before a Magistrate]," Mr. Salve submitted.

Justice Surya Kant, on the Bench, asked the State Government, "Is it not your case too there were 4,000 to 5,000 people in that place. They were locals... But even after the incident, they have hesitated to come forward... Is access to these people or their identification going to be a major problem?" "Out of 4,000 and 5,000 people at the place of incident, some would be fence-sitters. They would not be serious witnesses. You need to find people who can stand up and say what they saw..." Justice Kant told the State Government.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Wankhede rubbishes allegations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) Mumbai Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede, who is supervising the drugs case probe against actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, met senior agency officials at its Delhi headquarters on Tuesday.

Terming all the allegations against him baseless, Mr. Wankhede told reporters at the airport that he had not been summoned in connection with the case. After attending a meeting on Tuesday morning, he arrived at the NCB headquarters around half past noon and met senior officials. The visit came amid several charges levelled against Mr. Wankhede by Maharashtra Minister and Nationalist Congress Party leader Nawab Malik and others.

On Monday, Mr. Malik had said: "Sameer Dawood Wankhede is a Muslim by birth. He forged a caste certificate claiming to be Scheduled Caste. I have given his birth certificate which mentions his father's name as Dawood Wankhede, who had converted to Islam. He used fake caste certificate and denied a true Dalit the opportunity to become the officer."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
 ARYAN SEEKS BAIL PAGE 10

Horses, tanks force Rajpath plan revision

Paving on the road changed to ease movement during Republic Day parade

DAMINI NATH
 NEW DELHI

Horses and battle tanks that make their way down the Rajpath on Republic Day have forced some changes to the plans for the new look of Central Vista Avenue, according to the architect of the project.

While the plan to use granite around India Gate has been shelved for now, the stone pavement replacing the sand path along Rajpath has been tweaked to be coarser at the point where the President's Bodyguard salutes the President on January 26.

Architect Bimal Patel, whose firm HCP Design, Planning and Management, is the Centre's consultant for the entire Central Vista redevelopment project, said during a presentation at CEPT University in Ahmedabad on October 22 that the "bajri" (sand) along the road was being replaced with granite. He



On a trot: A trial run of horses on the new pavement at Rajpath. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

explained the idea of laying the footpath was to include infrastructure under it, replacing the temporary utilities installed for Republic Day parades every year.

"When we are doing these new things, everybody is against it, or not against it but apprehensive. When we did the granite paving, we are looking at it and saying fantastic, it looks good. But these guys who bring their horses during the Republic Day parade said 'no, no, no, hamare

ghode nahi challenge' [our horses won't walk]. We had to do an experiment and let them ride on it," said Mr. Patel, who is also the president of CEPT University.

Granular finish
 He added that the conclusion was that the paving would work, but the one place where the guards salute the President, the paving should be "more granular".

When asked what the concerns had been, HCP told *The*

Hindu in a written response on Monday: "The horses were not facing any issues. The same paving as the rest of the area will continue along the pathway, with a more coarse finish to ensure additional friction".

On the other hand, the portion around India Gate that was proposed to be changed from bitumen to granite cobblestone, but the project's tight deadline (before R-Day 2022) meant it had to be dropped for now. During the parade, heavy equipment like the Arjun Main Battle Tank (around 60 tonnes) and India's longest-range ballistic missile Agni-V (launch weight of 50 tonnes) roll down Rajpath.

"We didn't have enough time to do samples and discover what would be the right way to do cobblestones that would take the weight of tanks," Mr. Patel said.

Updated NPR form retains contentious questions

VIJAYTA SINGH
 NEW DELHI

The latest form of the National Population Register (NPR) appears to have retained contentious questions such as "mother tongue, place of birth of father and mother and last place of residence", according to a document compiled by a committee under the Registrar-General of India and shared with the District Census officers.

The new questions were part of a trial exercise involving 30 lakh respondents in September 2019. The exercise has been opposed by some States and citizen groups as the NPR is the first step toward compilation of the NRC.

DETAILS PAGE 10

Four of a family killed in Delhi fire

HEMANI BHANDARI
 NEW DELHI

Four members of a family died in a fire that broke out at their residence in Shahdara's Old Seemapuri in the early hours of Tuesday.

DCP (Shahdara) R. Sathiyasundaram said the de-

ceased have been identified as Hori Lal, 59, his wife Reena, 55, their son Ashu, 24, and daughter Rohini, 18. The couple's younger son Akshay survived the incident.

Mr. Sathiyasundaram said a call was received at 4 a.m. after which the police and

Delhi Fire Service personnel reached the spot "The fire was small and only domestic articles were damaged. The four are suspected to have died of smoke inhalation," DFS chief Atul Garg said.

DETAILS PAGE 2

Jayalalithaa death: SC ticks off probe panel

Plea accuses the commission of bias

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday wondered whether the trajectory followed by the Justice (retired) A. Arumughaswamy Commission of Inquiry (CoI) into the death of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa is redolent of "virtually becoming a judge of his own cause" or an "umpire playing the game himself".

The remarks made by a Bench of Justices Abdul S. Nazeer and Krishna Murari were in reaction to submissions made by Apollo Hospitals, represented by senior advocate Aryama Sundaram and advocate Rohini Musa, accusing the Commission of bias, violation of principles of natural justice and conducting the fact-finding exercise outside its jurisdiction.

'Reputation blighted'

Mr. Sundaram said the reputation of the premier Chennai hospital, where Jayalalithaa breathed her last in 2016, was "blighted overnight" by the CoI who took a tangent which was "unbelievable". The senior lawyer said the path followed by the CoI was straight out of the fairy tale *Alice in Wonderland*.

Mr. Sundaram submitted that the CoI had even got about to ask for the medical records concerning the hospitalisation of another former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, 37



years ago, and his shifting to the Brooklyn hospital in the U.S. The CoI had written to Apollo chairperson Prathap C. Reddy for the information. "How will one centre get the medical records from another centre where the patient was referred to?" Justice Murari asked.

"How will Dr. Reddy get the documents of a U.S. hospital? What they did was out of a Robert Ludlum novel," Mr. Sundaram said. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave — appearing for Tamil Nadu, which wants the Commission to finish its work and submit its report — retorted sarcastically that John Grisham would be a better choice of author. "Grisham is more straight-forward. Ludlum is better, considering the intricacies involved," Mr. Sundaram shot back.

Mr. Sundaram clarified that he was not seeking to arrest the inquiry. "Please do not stop the inquiry, but do appoint someone else with very strict guidelines. They should have a competent medical board to assist them..." he submitted on record.

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4 of family killed in fire in Old Seemapuri

They are suspected to have died of smoke inhalation, says DFS chief; son was engaged to be married

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Four members of a family died of suspected smoke inhalation after a fire broke out at their residence in Shahdara's Old Seemapuri in the early hours of Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) R. Sathiyasundaram said the deceased have been identified as Hori Lal (59), his wife Reena (55), their son Ashu (24), and daughter Rohini (18). The deceased couple's younger son Akshay has survived the incident.

Mr. Sathiyasundaram said a call was received at 4 a.m. after which police and Delhi Fire Services (DFS) personnel reached the spot with four fire tenders and doused the blaze.

"The fire was very small and only domestic articles were damaged. The four are suspected to have died of smoke inhalation," DFS chief Atul Garg said.

A senior fire official said that the cause of the fire was not short circuit as the switch board in the house was intact. "The family used to light a diya every day. A mosquito repellent coil was also found close to the curtain, which is



The three-storey building at Old Seemapuri in Delhi where a fire broke out on Tuesday; (right) the grieving relatives of the family. •R.V. MOORTHY

suspected to have caused the blaze, but investigation is under way," the official said.

While waiting for the bodies at Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital's mortuary, Mr. Akshay said he returned home around midnight after work and brought eggs for dinner. "I am employed with a company as one of their house keeping staff and my shift gets over at 11 p.m.. My brother and I had dinner after which Ashu went upstairs to sleep while I stayed on the second floor," he said.

The family lived in a three-storey building of which they owned the second and third floors. While Hori Lal worked

as a peon in Shastri Bhawan, Reena worked as a sanitation worker with the municipal corporation. Ashu had started a contractual work at North Block a few months ago and Rohini was a Class XII student in a government school nearby.

Sunny Kumar (20), who stays opposite the building, said he and his family woke up after hearing the glass windows break. "We ran to our balcony and saw fire on the third floor. There was a lot of smoke. We started shouting but no one heard us. A few minutes later, Akshay came out of his room," he said.



Mr. Akshay immediately went to the third floor but he couldn't open the door. He then came to the ground floor and opened the door for Mr. Kumar and a few others. "We all went to the third floor and managed to open the door. They were all lying lifeless. Rohini and Ashu were closer to the door. They were probably trying to reach the door but couldn't," Mr. Kumar said.

Mr. Akshay said that his father was due to retire in March 2022 and his brother Ashu was engaged to be married soon.

Ashu's fiancé – a 19-year-old girl who had passed Class

XII a few months ago – mourned his death outside the house. "I stay in Mahipalpur and we got engaged in August. The wedding date was not finalised but families were talking about fixing it sometime after Diwali. However, I told them that I wanted to study further and we should wait for at least a year," she said.

The police said a case under Sections 436 (mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy house) and 304A (causing death by negligence) under the Indian Penal Code has been registered and investigation is under way.

'Sextortionist' gang busted, 5 arrested

They threatened the victim with case of rape

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A gang of 'sextortionists' has been busted and five people have been arrested in Dwarka's Dabri, the police said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Shankar Choudhary said the accused have been identified as Revti Devi (33) and her husband Vaibhav (37), both residents of Jeewan Park; Sonu Suri (42), a resident of Rajouri Garden; Sheetal Arora alias Pooja (40), a resident of Burari; and Harbinder Singh (60), a resident of Tagore Garden.

According to the police, on Saturday, a businessman lodged a complaint that he received a call from one Pooja for the purchase of a plywood. When he reached Mata Chanan Devi Hospital in Janakpuri on Thursday, he received a WhatsApp call from her and five minutes later, she came on an e-rickshaw and took him to a house.

There, she gave him wa-

ter and after drinking it, he became unconscious. When he gained consciousness, he found himself naked on a bed. Five-six women and three men, who were in the room, then started beating him. They snatched his purse with ₹15,700 in cash in it, a wristwatch and golden ring and demanded ₹7 lakh more and threatened to kill him, the police said.

The police arrested them. The modus operandi was one accused Shivani would collect mobile numbers of targeted persons from an online dating application and pass them on to Ms. Arora. She would invite the person to the residence of Ms. Devi. One of the gang members would then have sex with the target. Subsequently, other gang members would enter the room.

Mr. Singh would play the role of a judge or legal consultant, while Ms. Suri would play the role of an NGO member. They would extort money from the victim with a threat to book him in a false rape case, the police said. The police said Ms. Suri, who was lodged in jail for 19 months, was the mastermind.

Two held, six detained for electrician's murder

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two men have been arrested and six others have been detained in connection with a robbery-cum-murder of an electrician in central Delhi's Patel Nagar, the police said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Shweta Chauhan said the two have been identified as Vivek (20) and Sikander (21), both residents of Anand Parbat. A mobile phone, one blood-stained knife, and Aadhaar card of the deceased were seized from their possession.

The police had on October 22 received information about stabbing of a man by some unknown people. The victim, Manoj, was taken to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital where he was declared brought dead.

His family told the police that Manoj, who worked as an electrician at Sharvan Electrical, Baljeet Nagar, was returning home when he was attacked and his belongings were missing.

Two arms suppliers held

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police special cell has arrested two Mevat-based arms suppliers and seized 15 semi-automatic pistols and 30 live cartridges from them, DCP (special cell) Jasmeet Singh said.

The police said the duo, Shakir (28) and Zunaid Khan (21), have supplied more than 400 firearms in Delhi-NCR in the last three years.

IIT-D announces M.Tech in MINDS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

IIT-Delhi on Tuesday announced the launch of M.Tech in Machine Intelligence & Data Science (MINDS) to be offered by the School of Artificial Intelligence (ScAI), which is slated to be a flagship educational programme for the school and is expected to begin in July 2022.

M.Tech in MINDS is planned as an industry-sponsored programme.

The students will be expected to work on industry-relevant AI problems, since they will be co-advised by an IIT-Delhi professor and a researcher from the sponsoring company.

All students with an undergraduate degree in science or engineering will be eligible for the MINDS programme, IIT-Delhi said.

ScAI currently lists around 40 faculty members, including adjunct fa-

culty members from industry research centres like Microsoft Research, Google AI, and IBM Research.

V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT-Delhi, said academic institutions today cannot remain in silos and they must work closely with all stakeholders, including industry, non-profit and governmental organisations.

He added that the new programme will energise academia-industry collaboration in AI.

HC denies bail to man in cryptocurrency duping case

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday rejected the bail application of a man, who launched his own cryptocurrency, for duping over 47 people to the tune of ₹2.5 crore by inducing them to invest in the cryptocurrency on the assurance of high returns up to 20%-30% per month.

Justice Anu Malhotra said that the allegation levelled against Umesh Verma relates to commission of an economic offence which "cor-



rodes the fabric of democracy and is committed with total disregard to the rights and interest of the nation".

The High Court said that Mr. Verma allegedly duped a large number of innocent in-

vestors of their hard-earned money, and hence, was not appropriate to be granted bail.

As per the complaint filed at the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Crime Branch, Delhi Police, Mr. Verma along with his accomplice ran a cryptocurrency chit fund company in the name of Pluto Exchange at Connaught Place.

One of the investors, who got duped by the firm, claimed that he had invested around ₹5 lakh but did not

receive returns on his investments as assured by the accused. Later, he and other investors got to know that the accused shut their office and fled to Dubai.

After an FIR was lodged, the EOW investigation revealed that over 47 investors had given similar complaints against Mr. Verma and his cryptocurrency firm and a total of ₹2.5 crore was allegedly involved. The investors used to send their money through bank transfer, and in many cases, by cash.



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RISE	22:34	SET 12:13
THURSDAY, OCT. 28		
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RISE	23:30	SET 13:00
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RISE	06:31	SET 17:39
RISE	00:00	SET 13:44

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	28	16
Safdarjung	28	16
Palam	28	18

Delhi Palam Today
30°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be little warm with mainly clear sky. Night will be cool and hazy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
31°C The weather will be dry. Day will be little warm with mainly clear sky. Night remains cool and hazy.

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IN BRIEF

No new COVID-19 deaths; 323 active cases in city

NEW DELHI
The Capital reported no new COVID-19 deaths over 24 hours for the fifth day and the death toll stood at 25,091, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi Government on Tuesday. Forty-one new cases were reported, taking the caseload to 14,39,671. So far, 14,14,257 people have recovered and there are 323 active cases.

DJB to give household water connections

NEW DELHI
Water Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday said that all household water connections will now be provided by the Delhi Jal Board and intermediaries will be removed. "The Minister approved the project of installing a 20 MGD RO plant at Okhla. He also approved the proposal of constituting a water and sewage panel for better coordination of the Government with residents," an official statement said.

City's AQI likely to worsen

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The air quality in the city deteriorated to the "moderate" category on Tuesday and it is expected to further worsen, as per official data. The effect of stubble burning is also expected to increase during the week.

"Delhi's AQI is in the moderate category. Fire emission is expected to go up due to dry weather over north India (upwind region) in the next three days and as a result, PM2.5 is likely to increase. Drier conditions tend to increase PM10. Thus, the overall AQI is likely to degrade to moderate to poor category for the next three days," government-run monitoring agency SAFAR said.

On Monday, the contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5 rose to 8% and the number of active fires counts in the region went up to 348.

SDMC hikes minimum pay for daily wagers

Civic body also regularises 209 cleaners

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Tuesday passed a proposal to revise the minimum pay for daily wagers, as per the Delhi Government's instructions.

According to the revised rates, unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers will now get ₹612 per day (previously ₹416), ₹675 per day (previously ₹468), and ₹742 per day (previously ₹494) respectively. The SDMC has 12,271 employees working on daily wages. Furthermore, SDMC

Delhi Govt.'s technical panel 'rejects' drainage master plan

Committee raises multiple issues, including discrepancies in data given to IIT-D

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

A technical expert committee (TEC) has told the Delhi Government not to accept the Drainage Master Plan, which was commissioned 10 years ago by the Government, according to documents seen by *The Hindu*.

Despite this, on August 24, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reviewed the progress of the master plan and said that "Delhi will soon get freedom from waterlogging" as work was being "expedited on Delhi's Drainage Master Plan".

"The TEC feels that the final report submitted by the consultant (IIT Delhi) is not worth considerable for recommendation and the mentioned report may not be accepted. The State Govt. or Nodal Department may take a call in this matter accordingly [sic]," a Central Water Commission (CWC) document dated August 9 read.

The TEC raised multiple problems, including "discrepancies in data" used for the master plan, which was given to IIT Delhi by the Government departments.

The master plan prepared by IIT-D was seen as a solution to waterlogging issues, which the Capital faces every year, as the city's current drainage master plan was made in 1976.

Has not made public
The Delhi Government has not yet made public the TEC telling the Government to not accept the report.

When contacted, a spokesperson said, "The Government has suggested changes and issued directions to resolve issues with the master plan. A commit-

After 10 years, no solution to waterlogging

September 2011: Delhi Govt. signs contract with IIT Delhi for a drainage master plan to find a solution to waterlogging

July 2018: IIT-D submits final report of the master plan

August 1, 2018: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal directs Govt. departments to implement the master plan, which "mentions in detail the specific reasons for waterlogging"

May 2019: A technical expert committee (TEC) formed in December 2011, to coordinate with IIT-D on



A waterlogged road under the Minto Bridge following heavy rain in Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

a regular basis, holds its first meeting in almost eight years. Chairman of the TEC expresses displeasure that data provided by various departments to IIT-D is not

verified

August 5, 2021: The TEC says the master plan is "not worth considerable for recommendation" and "may not be accepted" by the Delhi Government

August 24, 2021: Chief Minister reviews progress of the master plan and says, "Delhi will soon get freedom from waterlogging" and work is being "expedited on Delhi's Drainage Master Plan"

Currently, Delhi Govt. is not commenting on whether the master plan is rejected

tee headed by the PWD is working on it."

But when asked whether the Government has rejected the master plan, the spokesperson did not comment.

Three teams headed by PWD officials are working to fix the issues related to waterlogging in the city, an official said, but did not give a deadline by when they will come up with solutions.

Problems and backlogs

The master plan submitted in 2018 had also warned of such a possible irregularity of data. "It is possible that many of the data elements that have not been independently validated by the respective departments may be different on ground than the digital reality captured and used in the model," the master plan read.

The TEC headed by member (river water) of the CWC with members from different departments of the Delhi Government was formed by the Chief Secretary in December

2011 to coordinate with IIT Delhi "on a regular basis" to decide design parameters among other functions related to the master plan.

But the TEC held its first meeting in almost eight years in May 2019, months after IIT Delhi submitted its final report.

During this meeting, the chairman of the TEC had expressed displeasure that the data provided by various departments to IIT Delhi was not verified, as per documents.

The TEC also decided that 10%-20% of the data given by the departments to IIT Delhi to make the master plan should be verified by the departments within 15 days.

But it took almost two years for this to be done and a decision taken on it.

"As per 10%-20% data verification exercise by stakeholders, there is still large discrepancies between field data and data used in the model [software] to prepare the final report," the CWC docu-

ment of August 9 said.

A main part of the master plan is a software created by IIT Delhi which can be used to generate different solutions for waterlogging.

For instance, the Public Works Department, which controls over 2,000 km of drains in the city, told the TEC that during ground verification of 10%-20% data used in the master plan, there was a "100% variation", CWC document showed. "IIT Delhi stated that it has trained 150 officers of different departments but every department in the meeting has expressed that they are not able to run the model," read another reason cited in the CWC document for not accepting the report.

IIT-D was selected on "nomination basis" without an open tender and the contract for the master plan was signed in September 2011 for about ₹80 lakh.

Meanwhile, the waterlogging in the city is getting worse, as per experts.

AAP to begin fogging drive against dengue

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday alleged that the BJP's "reckless" governance failure has led to the current dengue situation, and therefore, it will start its own fogging campaign on Wednesday.

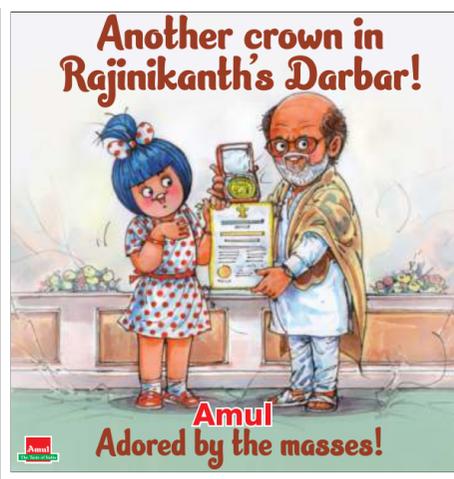
The malaria control unit of the municipal corporation is tasked with the prevention and control of mosquito-borne diseases.

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said that the corporation-appointed malaria inspectors have not yet conducted a single visit, when they should have conducted around 10 visits by now. "Neither have they sprayed medicines, nor checked for breeding. I assume not even 5%-7% of Delhi has been fogged properly," he said.

Speaking about the campaign, the AAP leader said all the 62 party MLAs and councillors will collectively ensure that fogging, checking for breeding spaces and all other required measures are enacted across the city from October 27.

"We request and invite all the RWAs, NGOs, market associations, and other such organisations to support the AAP and the people of Delhi in this drive. Starting on October 27, we will commence this mega fogging campaign," he said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that the AAP was playing politics on a sensitive issue, only to politically malign the BJP-ruled civic bodies. "The AAP is denying credit to municipal health, sanitation and domestic breeding checkers," he said.



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BJP against opening of new liquor stores

Women oppose outlet in east Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

No new liquor shops will be allowed to open in Delhi, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said at a protest against one such store, which was led by women residents, in an east Delhi locality on Tuesday.

The women of Nathu Colony in Rohtas Nagar demonstrated against the opening of a new liquor store, questioning why the Delhi Government was not able to provide drinking water to the residents instead.

"Under the new liquor policy, the Delhi Government wants to flood the Capital with alcohol. The Government is not concerned about how this will affect the younger generation, how the safety of women will be endangered, or how many people will become addicted to alcohol," Mr. Bidhuri alleged.

"This Government is only concerned about its treasury. For this, the Kejriwal Go-



Ramvir Singh Bidhuri

vernment is ready to stoop to any extent; more than 1,000 liquor shops are now being opened and the entire business of liquor has been awarded to private players," he alleged.

The women of the locality had, Mr. Bidhuri added, sounded the bugle against the new liquor policy and this movement would soon spread across the city.

No new liquor outlet, he added, would be allowed to open in Delhi and the Government should withdraw the new liquor policy, failing which the people would force it to do so.

Hindu groups seek immediate ban on namaz at public places

Muslim leaders urge Govt. to allot land for building mosques

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

The Sanyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti, a conglomeration of 22 local units of right-wing organisations, on Tuesday demanded an immediate ban on offering of namaz at public places across the Millennium City, threatening to launch a mass agitation across the State.

Reminder letter

A five-member delegation of the Samiti, led by its president Mahavir Bhardwaj, submitted a "reminder letter" to the office of Deputy Commissioner, demanding a ban on namaz at public places to maintain communal harmony and peace in the area. The letter said the Samiti members had called upon Deputy Commissioner Yash Garg on October 4 and submitted a memorandum, seeking a ban on namaz in public places, but no action was initiated even after three

weeks.

"It is requested that it was unanimously decided by the groups of two religious communities and the top political leaders in a meeting with the district administration in 2018 that people belonging to any religion or community would not use the public spaces. The Chief Minister had also endorsed the decision," the letter said.

"We want to politely submit that the Sanyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti and the common man will not be able to tolerate it," the letter further said.

The meeting of the Samiti leaders comes in the wake of growing protests against offering of jumma namaz (Friday prayers) across the city over the past few weeks.

Mr. Bhardwaj said the administration had designated 30-odd places during Ramzan for offering of namaz in 2018, but presently, there were only 18 such private

places where the prayers could be held.

Mr. Garg said the district administration was analysing the situation and keeping a strict vigil. "The duty magistrates and the police have been accordingly briefed. We will ensure that communal harmony is not disturbed," Mr. Garg said.

Muslim leader Altaf Ahmad said that Article 25 of the Constitution guaranteed freedom of religion to all people in India and made an appeal to the State Government to allocate land to the community for building mosques for offering namaz.

"Since the Muslim community has not been given enough land to build mosques in Gurugram, we are forced to offer jumma namaz in the open. The community shall pay for the land and build mosques. Till that time, we should be allowed to pray our obligatory namaz in the open," he said.

South body to procure 4 electronic sweepers

They will be used to clean narrow lanes

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Tuesday passed a proposal for the procurement of four electronic sweeping machines that will be used for cleaning bylanes. Standing committee chairman B.K. Oberoi said that the civic body plans to procure the four e-sweepers at an estimated cost of ₹10 crore.

"This is a first in the SDMC. We have 24 mechanical sweepers which are used for the cleaning of roads. The difference is that the electronic sweepers will

be used to clean narrow lanes since the machines are small in size. Each sweeper will be able to collect up to five cubic metres of dust," said Mr. Oberoi, adding that the e-sweepers will be purchased from the Central Government's fund.

The e-sweepers will be deployed in all SDMC zones - Central, South, West and Najafgarh - and will use compressed natural gas as fuel, therefore cutting down emissions. Mr. Oberoi said that the estimated maintenance cost of the machines for a period of five years is close to ₹17 crore.

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Bulandshahr case: Maliwal writes to Yogi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Delhi Commission for Women Chief Swati Maliwal on Tuesday wrote to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, asking to direct police to add sections of rape in the case of a minor girl, who was allegedly sexually assaulted by her neighbour in Bulandshahr.

Noting that the minor girl is currently admitted at a hospital in Delhi, Ms. Maliwal urged Mr. Adityanath to provide compensation to the victim's family and ensure that the trial of the case takes place in a fast track court.

The girl is being treated at a hospital in Delhi. Maliwal said the girl was brutally raped by a man in Bulandshahr, who inflicted several injuries on her and tried to strangle her.

Varavara Rao need not surrender till Nov. 18: HC

He was granted interim bail in February

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday said poet Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgaar Parishad-Maoist links case who is on interim bail, need not surrender before the Talaja prison authorities until November 18. The court adjourned the hearing on a plea filed by him to next month.

Rao, 82, had been granted interim bail for six months on medical grounds by the HC on February 22 this year. He was scheduled to surrender and return to judicial custody on September 5.

However, Mr. Rao filed an application last month through his lawyer R. Sathyanarayanan and senior counsel Anand Grover, seeking extension of the



Varavara Rao

bail period. He also sought HC permission to stay in his hometown of Hyderabad while out on bail.

However, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is probing the case, opposed Mr. Rao's plea for extension of medical bail and shifting to Hyderabad, saying the octogenarian poet-activist's medical reports do not indicate that he suffers from any serious ailment.

Before U.P. polls, Kejriwal on temple tour

Will include Ayodhya in Delhi Government's free pilgrimage scheme, says Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Setting the tone for his campaign for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal offered prayers at the Ram Janmabhoomi site in Ayodhya on Tuesday. He said his Government would include Ayodhya in the Delhi Government's free pilgrimage scheme.

During his two-day visit to Ayodhya, this was his third stop at a temple. On Monday, he offered aarti at the Sarayu river. On Tuesday he also offered prayers at the Hanumangarhi temple.

"I was fortunate that I got the chance to bow before Ram Lalla and I wish everyone gets this chance. Whatever capability I have, I will use that to make more and more people have 'darshan'



AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal with Mahant Gyan Das at Hanumangarhi temple complex in Ayodhya on Tuesday. •PTI

here," Mr. Kejriwal said.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Mr. Kejriwal had unsuccessfully contested against Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi. Though a distant second, he managed to get a little over 20% votes.

The 2022 elections will be the Aam Aadmi Party's first serious foray into Uttar Pradesh politics. The party has announced that it will contest all 403 seats.

which free pilgrimage is provided to the people of Delhi to all the pilgrim places. We will have a special Cabinet meeting on Wednesday in which Ayodhya will be included in the scheme."

Under this scheme, Delhiites will be provided travel by AC trains and stay in AC hotels and all the expenses will be borne by the Delhi Government. This scheme would be free of charge, he said.

Under the 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana' for senior citizens, the Delhi Government bears the expenses of about 77,000 pilgrims every year. Delhi residents above the age of 60 are covered under this scheme.

On being asked whether he had made any donation for construction of the Ram Temple, Mr. Kejriwal said, "I have also donated for Ram Mandir but donations must always be kept a secret".

Mr. Kejriwal's visit to the Ram Temple was not a first for the party. The AAP had formally kicked off its poll campaign in September with its senior leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh offering prayers at the Ram Janmabhoomi and Hanumangarhi shrine in the temple town.

The party had also taken out a 'Tiranga Yatra' in Ayodhya from the 18th Century mausoleum of Nawab Shujaudaulah to the Gandhi Park. The party's other poll promises include 300 units of electricity free of cost to all domestic consumers, waiver of outstanding bills of 38 lakh families and ensuring 24x7 power supply in Uttar Pradesh if the AAP is voted to power in the Assembly elections.

Decision to open schools, colleges in West Bengal welcomed

Doctors, teachers, say it was high time offline classes resumed

BISHWANATH GHOSH
KOLKATA

West Bengal's decision to re-open colleges and schools from November 15 has been widely welcomed by teachers, students and doctors alike, with many saying the move should have come earlier and that these institutions should have a mechanism for early detection of COVID-19 cases.



Students in a classroom. • IMAGE USED FOR REPRESENTATION

"In the U.S. and Europe, the effect of closure of educational institutions has been extensively studied and they are of the opinion that [the long closure] has decreased students' life expectancy and caused economic damage that will take about 70 years to set right. We have to remember the closure has been much longer in India and therefore the effect is going to be huge," Dr. Arjun Dasgupta, one of Kolkata's leading ENT specialists, told *The Hindu*.

Dr. Chaki said: "These institutions should have early-detection facilities in place, in case students show symptoms. Also, the psychological assessment of children returning to the offline mode should be taken into consideration."

Gour Mohan Sachin Mondal Mahavidyalaya, located on the outskirts of Kolkata, said: "There is no denying that we need to go back to in-person classes and that there is no substitute for it, but I also feel that it can't be done at the cost of the lives of our children. There is no clear answer actually, and I am hoping that just as the Government is opening schools and colleges, it will also respond appropriately if the situation turns critical."

Cardiologist Dr. Koushik Chaki, a founding member of West Bengal Doctors' Forum, said: "It's a welcome move that could have come earlier. Studies had shifted to the online mode for nearly two years, corroding the basis of education. While we had opened up everything else, we should have also opened schools and colleges, where it is easier to implement COVID-appropriate behaviour."

Optimal trade-off
Talking about the challenges that educational institutions would face upon reopening, University of Calcutta Vice-Chancellor Sonali Chakravarti Banerjee said the idea now was to "reconcile the imperatives of public health with the needs of public education". "The State Disaster Management Authority is mandated to find the optimal trade-off in such cases of divergent imperatives, and as a State-aided public university, we shall go by the trade-off decision evolved by the mandated authority," Prof. Chakravarti Banerjee said.

Anupama Maitra, assistant professor of English at

Somasree Samanta, a first-year M.Sc. student of environmental science at the University of Calcutta, who spent much of the lockdown period in native Durgapur helping COVID-19 patients find beds and oxygen, said: "Students who did not have technology at their disposal - in other words poor students or those living in rural areas - had suffered the most during the lockdown. They will now be able to return to their classrooms."

Rajasthan to host global investors' meet in Jan.

State seeking to accelerate economy

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

Investment opportunities in Rajasthan will be showcased in a big way at a global investors' summit to be organised here in January 2022 with the theme "committed and delivered".

The State Government is seeking investments for accelerating the economy affected by the pandemic and increasing the employment opportunities for the youths.

The "Invest Rajasthan-2022" summit will highlight agricultural processing, automobiles and electric vehicles, petrochemicals, information technology, medical and health, minerals and ceramics, renewable energy, textiles and tourism as the



Ashok Gehlot

Probe ordered into animals' electrocution at Kaziranga

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The authorities of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve have ordered a probe into the electrocution of a domesticated elephant, a swamp deer and two wild boars in the Burpahar Range of the rhino habitat.

Park officials said Oiravat, the departmental elephant had accidentally brought down an electric pole and died after touching the live wire on October 25. A swamp deer and two boars in the vicinity were also electrocuted.

"The Assam Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APDCL) had assured us of shifting this power line. The shifting work started in 2019 but was stopped in 2020," P. Sivakumar, the park's director said.

Wildlife officials said the work on shifting the line from the forest area was stopped as the contractor could only complete 30% of the project.

The inquiry at the level of a divisional forest officer is expected to be over in three days.

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PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT
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UNDER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
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PRE-CONSTRUCTION STAGE PROJECTS
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*In last 4.5 years.



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Charanjit Singh Channi
Chief Minister, Punjab

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SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Name:** Roshni @ Kajal **D/o** Vijay **R/o** H.No. G-80/2, Laxmi Park, Nangloi, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 07.10.2021 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 1197/21 U/s 363 IPC dated 11.10.2021 has been registered at Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Roshni @ Kajal

Age: 14 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Identification:** A tattoo mark on right hand, **Wearing:** Pink Colour T-Shirt & Black Colour Jeans and Black Colour Sleeper in feet.

Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing/ kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi at E-mail ld-cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
011-24368638 P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639 Outer Distt., Delhi
DP/1252/OD/2021 Ph. No. 011-25946700, 25946710

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY



General public is hereby informed that this boy namely **Farku Pujar S/o** Laldhari Pujar **R/o** Vill. Hardiya, Distt. Bakka, Bihar **Age** : 15 years, **Height** : 4'6", **Face** : Oval, **Build** : Normal, **Complexion** : Wheatish, wearing blue colour pant and red colour checkdar shirt, has been missing/kidnapped since 02.08.15 from Tikona Park, Jawahar Nagar, Kamla Nagar, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 516/15 Dated 18.08.2015 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Roop Nagar, Delhi.

Farku Pujar

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO : P.S. Roop Nagar, Delhi**
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **DP/1615/N/21**
Fax: 24368639, **Tel. No. 011-23844632,**
23849120

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED PERSON



General public is here by informed that this person **Name:** Jageshwar, **S/o** Karu Yadav, **R/o** H. No. U-385, Mangol Puri, Delhi. **Age:** 50 years, **Height:** 5 feet 6 inch, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **ID Mark:** Mentally Weak, **Wearing:** Yellow Shirt, Blue Printed Lungi and Slipper in Feet. has been missing /kidnapped since 20.09.2021 from the area of PS Raj Park.

In this regard a DD No. 48-A dated 24.09.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Raj Park, Delhi.

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

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **P.S. Raj Park, Delhi**
Ph: 011-24368639 **Ph. 011-27910070, 27910071**
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 **DP/1251/OD/2020**

**JHARKHAND ZOO AUTHORITY
BHAGAWAN BIRSA BIOLOGICAL
PARK, ORMANJHI, RANCHI**
Email Id- jharkhandzooauthority@gmail.com,
Phone no. 9006216090

**Notice inviting Expression of Interest
(For hiring a Consultant for Environmental
Enrichment of Zoo)**
Notice No. 07/2021

Sealed proposals are invited from the authorized Firms/ Agencies/ individuals for providing consultancy services to Bhagawan Birsa Biological Park for environmental enrichment of the animal enclosures in the Park during the year 2021-22. Interested Service providers are required to submit their proposals along with their credentials and quote their Rate including all taxes. EOI document on Scope of work and terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the Director, Bhagawan Birsa Biological Park on payment of application fee of Rs. 1000/- by cash or DD from any scheduled/nationalized bank drawn in favour of Member Secretary, Jharkhand Zoo Authority. The last date of the proposals is 03.12.2021 up to 1:00 pm. The sealed proposals would be opened on 03.12.2021 at 2:00 pm in the office of the Director, Bhagawan Birsa Biological Park.

Sd/-
Member Secretary
Jharkhand Zoo Authority
Ormanjhi, Ranchi

PR 255673 Jharkhand
Zoo Authority (21-22)_D

Shadow of farmers' stir over bypoll

Ellenabad a test case for INLD in Haryana

**ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM**

With just four days to go for the Ellenabad by-election in Sirsa district, the stage is all set for a second round of electoral battle in Haryana, less than 12 months after the Baroda bypoll last year.

Being held under the shadow of the ongoing farmers' agitation, the bypoll to the predominantly rural constituency - 178 of the total 211 booths in the Assembly segment are rural - could be an indicator of the mood of the agrarian population in the State. Besides hinting the long-term political implications of the farmers' movement for various political outfits, especially the ruling coalition, in the State, the election will also be a battle of political relevance for the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD).

Necessitated due to the resignation of INLD's lone MLA Abhay Singh Chautala in support of the farmers' agitation in January this year, the by-election is scheduled for October 30 with 19 candidates, including 12 Independents, in the fray.

However, the contest is largely believed to be triangular with Abhay Chautala having an edge over Congress' Pawan Beniwal and Bharatiya Janata Party's Gobind Kanda.

ALL EYES ON ELLENABAD

TOTAL VOTERS
MALE 99,138
FEMALE 86,964
OTHERS 1
Total 1,86,103

SERVICE VOTERS
MALE 304
FEMALE 9
Total 313

POLLING STATIONS
URBAN 33
RURAL 178
Total 211

ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULT 2019

(INLD) Abhay Singh Chautala **57,055**
(BJP) Pawan Beniwal **45,133**
(CONGRESS) Bharat Singh Beniwal **35,383**



Indian National Lok Dal nominee Abhay Chautala during a campaign tour in Ellenabad.

NUMBER OF CANDIDATES IN FRAY 19

DATE OF VOTING: OCTOBER 30

COUNTING OF VOTES: NOVEMBER 2

SOURCE: CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICE, HARYANA WEBSITE

"Mr. Chautala had resigned in support of the farmers' demand for withdrawal of the three laws and agreed to recontest the election at the insistence of his supporters. His victory will be the victory for the farmers and their movement," said INLD spokesperson Rakesh Sihag.

The party also banks on the charisma of its patriarch Om Prakash Chautala, released from the jail in July this year on completion of his sentence in a teachers' recruitment scam. The Congress and the BJP-Jannayak Janta Party (BJP-JJP) coalition have preferred turncoats over their own cadres for the bypoll. Congress' nominee Pawan Beniwal, who jumped

the ship from the BJP recently, has been the runner-up from Ellenabad segment on the previous two occasions.

His nomination has not gone down well with the party's old guards Bharat Singh Beniwal and Ramesh Bhadu, who joined the BJP a few days after the announcement.

Division of Jat votes
Hoping for a division of Jat votes - the constituency has around 35% Jat voters - the BJP has fielded Gobind Kanda, elder brother of Sirsa MLA and Haryana Lokhit Party founder Gopal Kanda, as the alliance candidate.

While the Congress seeks votes accusing the ruling coalition of misrule and its fai-

lure to find a solution to the farmers' agitation, the BJP-JJP talks about overall development of the State under the leadership of Manohar Lal.

However, both parties blame Abhay Singh Chautala for imposing the bypoll by first resigning and then seeking re-election from the same constituency.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha leaders will also hold two public meetings in Ellenabad on Wednesday to oppose the BJP-JJP candidate, who is facing the ire of the farming community in many villages.

Waterlogging on agricultural land in a dozen villages, lack of cotton industry and scarcity of drinking water are some of the major issues of the constituency.

"Ellenabad has been the fortress of the Chautalas for long. It should be a smooth sailing for Abhay Chautala considering that the support base for the JJP has drifted towards the INLD after the farmers' agitation. The farmers' anger too will reflect in the results and they would support Abhay for resigning on farm laws' issues. With Chautala, a Jat, enjoying huge popularity among his community, it might prevent considerable split of Jat votes between him and the Congress nominee, also a Jat. In that scenario, the prospects of the BJP-JJP candidate, a non-Jat, will be harmed," said Rajendra Sharma, Professor, Political Science, MDU.

Very likely Vaze will abscond: NIA tells HC

Agency opposes his plea for a house arrest

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI**

The National Investigation Agency has opposed dismissed Mumbai police officer Sachin Vaze's plea seeking tem-

porary transfer from the Talaja prison to house arrest in the Bombay High Court, saying Mr. Vaze, being a "highly influential person", may abscond and "tamper with prosecution witnesses", if let out of the prison.

In an affidavit filed before the High Court on Tuesday, the NIA said Mr. Vaze was ac-

cused of "serious offences".

"If any house arrest is granted to the petitioner, there is every likelihood that he will abscond and tamper with the prosecution witnesses, including the protected witnesses," the affidavit reads.

The affidavit was submitted in response to a plea filed

by Mr. Vaze seeking that he be shifted from judicial custody to house arrest for his post-operative care following bypass surgery. The NIA said Talaja prison in Navi Mumbai had the required facilities for Mr. Vaze's post-operative care and if required, he could be taken to the State-run JJ Hospital in Mumbai.

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IN BRIEF



Telangana raises security ahead of Maoist bandh

BHADRAJI-KOTHAGUDEM
Security has been tightened in the Agency mandals abutting Chhattisgarh in Telangana as the police intensified security protocol and vehicle checking operations in the border areas in view of the bandh called by the CPI(Maoist) on October 27 in protest against Monday's "encounter" in Tekulagudem forest area, in which three Maoists were killed.

Boy held for attacking 21-year-old woman

MALAPPURAM
The police on Tuesday arrested a 15-year-old boy in connection with an attack on a 21-year-old woman at Kottukkara, near Kondotty, in Malappuram, Kerala, on Monday. The police said the local boy had admitted to the attack and rape attempt.

'Cannot allow violation of SC verdict in Church case'

KOCHI
The Kerala High Court on Tuesday observed that the Supreme Court judgment in the Malankara Church dispute case cannot be allowed to be violated with impunity. Justice Devan Ramachandran said the Jacobite faction had chosen to misinterpret the court's intention to find peace with both the factions. The court adjourned the case to November 10.

'Will ask Govt. to reconsider Kannada G.O.'

BENGALURU
Karnataka Advocate-General Prabhuling K. Navadgi on Tuesday assured the Karnataka High Court that he would advise the State Government to reconsider its new policy on making Kannada a compulsory language for undergraduate courses from the academic year 2021-22.

Naidu seeks Centre's help to check YSRCP

TDP leader warms to BJP, says no 'ideological' dispute with party

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader N. Chandrababu Naidu is actively seeking help and protection for his party members from the Union Government, and the invocation of President's Rule in Andhra Pradesh, after his party headquarters was attacked by miscreants, who, he claims, are being shielded by the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Government and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

For Mr. Naidu, the two-day trip to Delhi where he called on President Ram Nath Kovind with a delegation, asking for the imposition of Article 356 on Andhra Pradesh, but missed out on a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah because

of a delay in the latter's return from Jammu and Kashmir, was a bittersweet one.

"Our party headquarters in Vijayawada is just half a kilometre away from the A.P. Director-General of Police's [DGP] office and very close to the Fifth Battalion. But we got no help. We got help when we appealed to the Union Government," Mr. Naidu told *The Hindu*.

"My partymen and I are being targeted because we have raised the issues of a drug mafia that enjoys Government protection," he said, adding that TDP workers needed protection.

The parting of ways between Mr. Naidu and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on the question of according special status to Andhra Pradesh following



Delhi mission: TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and other party leaders with President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday.

the formation of Telangana was not a happy one. The TDP-Congress alliance after the split and the personal attacks during the campaign for the 2019 general election made the parting even more bitter.

Mr. Naidu, however, said his departure from the NDA was "only to keep the State's interests in mind" and did not pertain to any major ideological breach between the TDP and the BJP. While not

explicitly expressing any regrets on his break with the NDA, his response to questions on a rethink was that he had done the split for the sake of the State. But it was "also true" that "people did not support us [TDP] in two elections" following the split, he added.

The TDP has, in the past, been at the helm of several efforts to forge "third front" formations. But Mr. Naidu did not express much enthu-

siasm about the current efforts to forge a regional parties-powered front against the BJP, adding that the time was not right for such moves. On whether he was open to exploring a return to the NDA, he said: "We must explore it, otherwise others will exploit us."

While Mr. Naidu had to return home without a meeting with Mr. Shah, he told his aides that he would persist with his efforts at securing the Union Government's help for his party workers, who feel "under siege" at the moment. "Amit Shahji returned late from Jammu and Kashmir, and has meetings of the Union Council of Ministers to attend this evening," said a source, adding that Mr. Naidu told his aides that he would be back in Delhi once an appointment was firmed up. The politics in Andhra Pradesh seems to be coming full circle.

Fix water level at 137 ft, says Kerala

At high-power panel meet on Mullaperiyar, T.N. wants to set the level at 142 ft

A CORRESPONDENT
IDUKKI

At an online meeting of the high-power committee appointed by the Supreme Court on the Mullaperiyar dam on Tuesday, Kerala sought to fix the water level at 137 ft and suggested Tamil Nadu take maximum water from the dam.

But the Tamil Nadu representative wanted to set the water level at 142 ft. The Kerala representative said in 2018, the Supreme Court had directed to fix the level in the reservoir at 139.99 ft.

The Kerala representative said the State was facing a serious problem now when compared to 2018. If water was released from the dam, the Idukki reservoir, which

Water level remains at 137.6 ft in Mullaperiyar

IDUKKI
The water level in the Mullaperiyar dam remained stagnant at 137.60 ft on Tuesday. It was the same at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tamil Nadu was releasing hourly data on the dam to Kerala. Tamil Nadu was drawing water at 2,200 cubic feet per second, while the inflow was the same at 7 p.m.

was almost full now, would not be able to store more water. In the present situation, Tamil Nadu should draw more water from Mullaperiyar and store it in the Vaigai and Madurai dams.

Kerala Additional Chief Secretary T.K. Jose; Tamil

Opposition leader writes to T.N. CM on dam safety

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan has raised the issue of the long-term safety of the Mullaperiyar dam with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. In a letter to Mr. Stalin, Mr. Satheesan said Kerala and Tamil Nadu must jointly find a permanent solution to assuage public concern about its safety.

Nadu member and Additional Chief Secretary Sandeep Saxena; and Central Water Commission member and Mullaperiyar high-power committee chairman Gulshan Raj attended the meeting. The meeting was held in

the wake of the Supreme Court asking the committee to decide on fixing the water level. The apex court will deliver the judgment on Wednesday.

Idukki Collector Sheeba George said all steps had been taken and various departments were put on alert over the increase in the water level in the dam.

Talking to presspersons after a review meeting, she said 3,220 persons in Peerumade, Udumbanchola and Idukki taluks would be shifted. They were from the villages of Periyar, Manjumala, Upputhara and Elappara in Peerumade; Ayyappancoil and Kanchiyar villages in Idukki; and Anavilasam in Udumbanchola taluk.

Two samples in Karnataka with AY.4.2

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Although two samples from Karnataka were retrospectively found to be infected with AY.4.2 — a sub-lineage of the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 — State Health officials and experts said there was no reason to panic as of now.

AY.4.2 has been declared a 'Variant under Investigation' in the U.K., where cases are rising. But, Health officials said there was no need to panic as the two samples collected in July were retrospectively found to be infected with the sub-lineage during reanalysis of over 1,300 samples that were genome sequenced in the last few months.

UDF accuses council of abetting illegal adoption

Members walk out of Kerala Assembly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition walked out of the Kerala Assembly on Tuesday after accusing the Child Welfare Council of putting up a baby, forcibly removed from its mother, for adoption illegally.

Revolutionary Marxist Party legislator K.K. Rema, who sought leave of the House for an adjournment motion on the issue, said the CPI(M) and the council had abetted the crime.

The party, law enforcement and the Government aided the woman's father, a CPI(M) leader, "banish" his grandchild, born out of wedlock to his daughter, to "protect the family's twisted

sense of honour".

Ms. Rema said the police refused to take cognisance of the mother's complaint for six months under CPI(M) pressure and pushed her from pillar to post, searching for her "missing child". Polit Bureau member Brinda Karat had termed the "honour crime" wrong of "immense moral and human rights proportion". Her intervention at the Chief Minister's level to reunite the mother and child had failed. Yet, Ms. Rema said, Women and Child Welfare Minister Veena George justified the council's act brazenly.

Ms. George said the Government had stayed the adoption process in court and the baby was with the mother.

Cleanliness drive



Work in progress: Maintenance work at the Manthakkara Mahaganapathi temple in New Kalpathy, Palakkad, on Tuesday. The district administration is yet to give permission to hold the Kalpathy car festival. • MUSTAFAH.K.K.

Fully-vaccinated people can board Mumbai locals

Maharashtra Government issues order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Government on Tuesday issued an order allowing the common people who are vaccinated fully against COVID-19 to board suburban trains in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

In this order, the State government has extended the definition of fully vaccinated people to cover even those people who are working in non-essential sectors. This means people who have taken both the doses of vaccines and completed 14 days after inoculation can travel in local trains.

The government also stated that the people working in essential sectors must be fully vaccinated and should

have completed the 14 days post-inoculation before they can be allowed to board local trains.

Currently, the Central Railway and the Western Railway have been issuing a monthly pass to vaccinated commuters instead of daily tickets to curtail the crowd.

Notably, both the railways on Monday said suburban services in Mumbai will be operated at 100% capacity from October 28, but the travel restrictions for the general public will remain unchanged. This decision was taken considering the increased flow of commuters, an official said. Central Railway and Western Railway will run 1,774 and 1,367 services on their suburban network from October 28.

Mamata for permanent solution for Darjeeling

She promises elections to the GTA as soon as the voter list is updated

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday urged political parties in Darjeeling hills to come up with a plan for a "permanent solution" to the issues faced by the region.

The Trinamool Congress chief emphasised that creation of a separate State would not bring development to the hills, making a reference to Uttarakhand that is grappling with frequent natural disasters. While chairing an administrative meeting in the hills, she told representatives of political parties to chalk out a plan to develop Darjeeling and the region as part of West Bengal.

Separate State demand

Since the 1980s, politics in the Darjeeling hills has been centred around the demand for creation of a separate



Supporters of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hold a banner to welcome her to Kurseong in Darjeeling. • PTI

State — Gorkhaland. In the 2021 Bengal Assembly election, despite registering an emphatic win across the State, the Trinamool Congress could not win a majority of seats in north Bengal, including in Darjeeling district.

In an indirect attack on the BJP, Ms. Banerjee said, "Before every election, some political party comes and promises separate State for Darjeeling. In reality, they

want to create a division among the people of the region."

She said every 10 years, a new movement for a separate State came up and destroyed all the possibilities for the Darjeeling hills. The Chief Minister also announced allocation of ₹43 crore to the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA).

During the meeting that lasted over an hour, the

Chief Minister also assured the representatives of political parties that elections to the GTA would be held after the voter list is updated.

The GTA was created as a result of a tripartite agreement between the Union government, the State government and the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha in 2011. Elections to the GTA have been pending for the past four years. At the meeting, some participants, including the MLA of Kalimpong, raised the issue that lack of public representatives was hampering development work in the hills.

Ms. Banerjee also chided her own party MP from the hills, Shanta Chettri, who had made remarks against another hill leader Anit Thapa who had recently launched his own party.

"We will not fight with any other political party in the hills," Ms. Banerjee said.

Big screen comes alive in Kerala today

Theatre owners heave a sigh of relief, say fans will be back in large numbers

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

The relief is palpable in A.R. Vinod's voice. "Yes, finally things are looking up for us, after a most harrowing time," he says.

His sentiment is shared by hundreds of theatre owners across Kerala. They are all relieved as they can begin to screen films from Wednesday, for the first time in six months.

Mr. Vinod, proprietor of Crown Theatre in Kozhikode, is confident that film fans will be back in front of the big screen in large numbers once again. The COVID-19 pandemic may have seen over-the-top (OTT) platforms such as Amazon Prime and Netflix grow exponentially in popularity, but for most people, the experience of watching James Bond's latest adventure in a theatre will not be as enjoyable as a



Show must go on: Workers cleaning a theatre in Kochi on Tuesday. • H. VIBHU

television set. Pradeep Nair, a national award-winning director, is planning to watch the new Bond film, *No Time To Die*, in a theatre on Wednesday. He has been missing the experience of going to the movies.

of cinema, I am happy that our theatres are finally reopening."

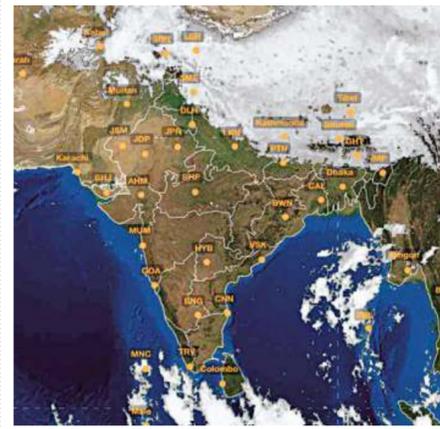
Half the capacity

But the theatres are allowed to have only half the capacity. "I hope the Government will let us sell tickets for all the available seats before long," Mr. Vinod says. "Only then will we be able to cover at least some of the huge losses made over the last one-and-a-half years."

Theatre owners have been among the hardest hit by the pandemic. "Even when there was no show, I had to spend around ₹1.25 lakh every month as maintenance cost," he says. "Most of us had to depend on bank loans." He hopes several big films that are lined up for release over the next few months will bring the smile back on an industry that has taken a severe beating.

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 Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, coastal Karnataka and Kerala. Slightly weather likely over Southwest Bay of Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	31.8	22.4		Kozhikode	32.2	25.2	
Ahmedabad	34.6	20.8		Kurnool	34.1	21.8	
Aizawl	26.0	17.6		Lucknow	30.7	19.5	
Allahabad	32.8	20.4		Madurai	0.4	30.2	23.6
Bengaluru	28.4	21.0		Mangaluru	1.6	28.2	24.0
Bhopal	30.1	16.4		Mumbai	34.8	23.4	
Bhubaneswar	30.7	22.1		Mysuru	39.0	27.0	21.6
Chandigarh	28.3	15.5		New Delhi	28.0	16.2	
Chennai	32.6	26.1		Patna	32.0	21.0	
Coimbatore	4.0	29.2	22.2	Port Blair	1.0	31.4	25.7
Dehradun	27.8	13.6		Puducherry	33.2	24.8	
Gangtok	19.8	12.3		Pune	31.8	18.0	
Goa	2.0	33.0	24.0	Raipur	31.8	20.2	
Guwahati	31.1	21.4		Ranchi	28.4	19.3	
Hubballi	31.0	22.0		Shillong	19.6	12.0	
Hyderabad	31.0	17.8		Shimla	20.6	11.4	
Imphal	28.0	17.2		Srinagar	16.2	7.4	
Jaipur	30.4	18.0		Thiruvananthapuram	21.0	31.9	23.8
Kochi	0.4	31.6	24.0	Tiruchi	34.0	31.8	23.8
Kohima	24.0	13.6		Vijayawada	32.8	25.2	
Kolkata	32.1	24.4		Visakhapatnam	33.0	23.6	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing						Yesterday
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	7	49	217	148		■
Bengaluru	6	31	65	121	112	■
Chennai	21	21	25	120	116	■
Delhi	14	102	—	130	239	■
Hyderabad	5	52	51	150	140	■
Kolkata	10	46	20	252	132	■
Lucknow	17	28	54	197	142	■
Mumbai	18	—	—	177	146	■
Pune	32	60	112	148	111	■
Visakhapatnam	13	62	38	100	168	■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: 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.
NO₂: 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



Safety first

T.N. must assure Kerala that all instruments for monitoring the dam's safety are in place

The Supreme Court's direction on Monday to the supervisory committee for the Mullaperiyar dam on the issue of the maximum water level has revived the controversy surrounding the dam. Located in Kerala, the water body is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu to meet the water requirements of five of its southern districts. The order was issued while hearing a petition raising apprehensions about the supervision of water levels of the reservoir, especially during the rainy season; Kerala has also been experiencing unusually heavy spells of rain. During October 18-25, the dam too received a substantial inflow. Despite the Court's nod in 2014 to store water up to 142 ft, Tamil Nadu has been careful in drawing as much water as possible so that the level does not reach the permissible level ordinarily. A few days ago, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to his Tamil Nadu counterpart, M.K. Stalin, referring to the heavy rainfall in the catchment and emphasising the "urgent need for the gradual release of water". His letter should be viewed more as a note of caution than anything else. During a debate in the Assembly on Monday, Mr. Vijayan categorically stated that there was no threat to the dam and was also appreciative of the Tamil Nadu authorities, who, he noted, were "highly empathetic" to Kerala's demands.

With camaraderie prevailing between the two States, Mr. Stalin and Mr. Vijayan would do well to send out a strong message that there is no room for passion and chauvinism on a technical and complex subject such as the operation and maintenance of Mullaperiyar. As the issue of dam safety is a recurrent one, it would be in the interests of all stakeholders that the remaining works to strengthen the dam are done at the earliest, for which the approval of the Kerala and Central governments is required. Some sections in Kerala may argue that the completion of the works will only make the case of Tamil Nadu stronger in the context of its long-standing demand of raising the water level to the original 152 ft. But, what needs to be kept in mind is that the works are meant to strengthen the dam. It has been suggested that Kerala give its permission – a pre-requisite for Tamil Nadu to get the Centre's clearances – while stating that this will not be prejudicial to its position on the issue. Tamil Nadu too should ensure that all the instruments for monitoring the safety and health of the dam are installed and are functioning properly. As there are sufficient scientific and technological tools to respond effectively to any legitimate and genuine concern, every player should adopt a rational approach while deciding on the storage levels and safety aspects of the dam.

Coup in Sudan

The military should restore the transition government and allow free elections

The move by Sudan's military to dissolve the Sovereignty Council where it shared power with civilian leaders has thrown the African country's fragile transition from dictatorship to democracy into chaos. Almost three years ago, tens of thousands of Sudanese rose against the regime of Omar al-Bashir in what they call a "revolution" that eventually led to the dictator's fall in April 2019. Ever since, the military and leaders of the civilian movement came together to form a transitional government. In their agreement, the acting Prime Minister would run the day-to-day affairs while the military chief would remain the leader of the Sovereignty Council for two years. Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the military chief, was scheduled to hand over the leadership of the transitional government to the civilian leadership in a few weeks. Instead, he disbanded the government, proclaimed himself the new leader, declared a state of emergency and imprisoned the civilian leaders, including Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. Tensions were brewing in recent weeks. Pro-military mobs had been carrying out protests demanding the government's removal amid soaring prices of essentials. Port Sudan, the country's largest port, on the Red Sea, had been blockaded by a tribal group, with help from the military, which worsened the economic situation, including acute shortages of food, currency and fuel. The civilian leadership had accused the military of exploiting the economic crisis.

The overthrow of the Bashir regime and the promised democratic transition were the best hopes for Sudan to end its international isolation, heal the wounds of decades of oppression and state violence, and build a stable economic and political order in an otherwise violence-ridden Horn of Africa. Sudan had taken the steps in that direction. Last year, the U.S. removed the country, which hosted Osama bin Laden in the 1990s, from the list of state sponsors of terrorism and announced financial aid. Earlier this year, the IMF had reached a \$50 billion debt-relief agreement with the transitional government. The civilian leaders had promised that they would send Bashir to The Hague to prosecute him over allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The country was also gearing up to organise its first free and fair elections in decades. But the power-hungry generals appear to be more concerned about protecting their interests, which they feared would be at risk had a democratic government taken full control of the country. After all, Sudan's military cannot absolve itself from whatever allegations Bashir is facing. But this time, it faces a stiff challenge from the public. The protesters who brought down Bashir are back on the streets fighting the security personnel. A violent showdown is most likely. Gen. Burhan should desist from more violence. The military should release all the arrested leaders, restore the transition government and let free elections decide the future of the country.

The vaccination milestone and a distant goal

The Government ought to realise that vaccinating all Indians as quickly as possible is linked to their health and progress



SONIA GANDHI

Our frontline health-care workers deserve our fullest congratulations for crossing the milestone of 100 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses. They, along with our scientists, researchers, medical professionals, and vaccine manufacturers, have heroically overcome multiple obstacles in the quest to protect our citizens from COVID-19. Thanks to their efforts, our vaccination drive has picked up pace after the initial months of delay, indecision, and confusion.

This milestone also marks the triumph of science and of India's research and manufacturing infrastructure built and nurtured over decades. It is opportune to recollect that it is the Patents Act, 1970, that contributed hugely to the development of our drugs and pharmaceutical industry, which has enabled India to become a globally respected manufacturer of vaccines.

The shock of the second wave

This jubilant mood though must not give way to complacency. It is still fresh in our memory how the Prime Minister told the Chief Ministers early in April that "we defeated COVID-19 without vaccines". Just months earlier, before the disastrous second wave triggered by premature claims of success and unregulated large gatherings, punctured these claims, he had boasted at the World Economic Forum how well prepared India was to cope with the pandemic, defying the dire predictions of several international experts. With complacency firmly in command, vaccine procurement was not prioritised and crucial efforts, including ensuring supply of oxygen in case of a surge of infections,

were neglected. The public also dropped its guard believing the Government's reassurance. As we all know, disastrous consequences followed, and lakhs of Indians paid with their lives.

Even as the Prime Minister has heralded in his usual self-promotional style the 100-crore vaccination mark – even though there are only two countries in the world that are called upon to reach this level of coverage and we were not the first to do so – the harsh truth is that the second wave was a colossal tragedy that could have been averted had the Government not let down the people of India. During that horrific, difficult time, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister were nowhere to be seen or heard but reappeared only when the situation improved. This was a repeat of their performance during the first wave, when, after the sudden announcement of the lockdown, lakhs of migrant workers were abandoned, left to themselves to trudge thousands of kilometres home to their villages. Untold numbers perished along the way.

The nation has not forgotten the heart-rending images of people gasping for breath and of families desperately trying to obtain oxygen and hospital beds. Their enormous suffering is seared in our memory through pictures of bodies scattered in riverbanks and floating on rivers. The Government is yet to give an accurate count of the number of people who died as a result of its negligence. Callously, the Government has yet to provide compensation to bereaved families. Instead, the powers that be have stubbornly doubled down on efforts to divert attention and pass on the blame to others. The Government clearly hopes that denial will cause people to absolve it of responsibility for their miseries.

Vaccine orders

We applaud science, but we know that our vaccination drive would have rolled out faster if the Go-

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vernment had respected scientific breakthroughs in other countries and placed adequate orders for their vaccines. Indeed, the situation would have been mitigated had the Government had the foresight to place orders with India's own leading vaccine manufacturer. The Government's initial "smart" vaccination strategy asserted that "there would be no requirement for vaccination of the whole population of the country". Thus, India, the biggest manufacturer of vaccines in the world – a status achieved long before May 2014 – only fully vaccinated 0.5% of its population ahead of the second wave.

Another misstep

The intensity of the second wave demonstrated how wrong the Government's vaccination strategy was. But the blunders were compounded as the Government rolled out a procurement policy that had cash-strapped States competing with each other over vaccine supply. Sustained pressure from State governments, the Supreme Court of India, Opposition parties, the scientific community, and civil society helped tide over some missteps.

Unfortunately, the Government continues to treat the fight against COVID-19 as an event management exercise. The Prime Minister's birthday saw a record two crore inoculations, partly achieved by hoarding vaccines in the run-up to the day to shore up numbers for the "event". Such vanity is inexcusable. It demonstrates that India has the capacity to vaccinate at a faster rate, but for some inexplica-

ble reason the Government has chosen not to. The Government should answer a simple question: if two crore can be vaccinated on one chosen day, why not every day?

The gaps in vaccination

In the nine months since we started the vaccination drive, we have only been able to fully vaccinate less than a third of our adult population. Countries with comparable COVID-19 figures and even those with smaller or poorer economies have performed much better. Even if manufacturers ramp up production rapidly, our vaccination rate will fail to catch up. In the first three weeks of October it was 50 lakh doses a day. This rate will have to be tripled to inoculate all eligible adults by year-end.

Not only that, the gap between the proportion of the population that has got at least one dose and two doses is widest in India. This gap is likely a result of domestic supply falling short of the demand. The Government refuses to explore diverse methods, including compulsory licensing, to raise our domestic production of vaccines. Moreover, the Government is yet to roll out a plan to inoculate our children who could be particularly vulnerable to future waves. We must protect our children urgently so they can go back to school. India has had one of the longest school shutdowns worldwide and the damage to their education and growth has been incalculable.

We are also concerned about people's immunity waning over time in spite of having been vaccinated or infected. But the Government has dealt with queries about booster shots with complete opacity. It must work out a plan, based on scientific advice, for booster shots, like other countries have done. Most importantly, scientific procedures need to be adhered to during approval and procurement of vaccines. Truth and transparency should be the hallmark of government actions

and communication with the public to avoid any vaccine hesitancy.

A shift in policy

The Prime Minister likes to emphasise that vaccines are free, while conveniently forgetting that they have always been free. It is the Bharatiya Janata Party government that moved away from India's universal free vaccination policy. A significant section of the population was forced to pay for vaccines as government centres ran out of them. Many better-off citizens pooled in money to ensure the poor could get vaccinated. While commendable, this is an indictment of the Government, which shifted its responsibility to citizens and the private sector. Not even 10% of our population can afford to pay for vaccines, yet the Government continues to allocate 25% of vaccines to the private sector. This is unacceptable – resulting in less, not more vaccination.

In May 2021, the Government announced that all eligible Indians would be doubly vaccinated by the end of 2021. This hollow announcement has not been accompanied by either appropriate planning or execution. Experts assert that we will miss this target by at least five to six months. The Government must realise that vaccinating all Indians as quickly as possible is linked to not only the health of our citizens but also the wealth of our nation.

The floundering economy can be turned around if we can drive away the dark clouds of COVID-19. That requires us to ramp up the pace of the roll out of vaccines to all, completely free, including to our children. That is our best hope to protect our citizens, put our children back in school, revive our markets and have a cascading positive impact across sectors, thus ushering in the festive season and the new year with genuine optimism.

Sonia Gandhi is the President of the Indian National Congress

Re-evaluating the neo-Buddhist movement

The advancement of Hindutva offers residual space to symbols of Buddhism and downplays its revolutionary potential



HARISH S. WANKHEDE

Till October 14, 1956, the followers of Buddhism in India were an insignificant mass. And as a religion, it was one that was on the verge of extinction. On this date, Babasaheb Ambedkar embraced Buddhism in a grand ceremony at Nagpur, Maharashtra, and offered it to millions of his followers. Significant sections among the erstwhile untouchable castes divorced the degraded untouchable caste identity to find solace in the teachings of the Buddha.

Ambedkar's impact

A few days ago, on October 20, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Kushinagar International Airport in Uttar Pradesh, which will help connect important Buddhist pilgrimage sites. Kushinagar is an important Buddhist pilgrim destination. The Prime Minister heralded the Buddhist sites and the Buddha's teachings as the marker of India's ancient civilisational heritage. However, he never acknowledged Ambedkar's contribution in revitalising the Buddhist faith. Buddhism's affiliation with the Dalit emancipatory movement is largely neglected, and often, its ornamental spiritual side is what is presented instead.

According to the last national population census, the Buddhists are one of the smallest minorities (0.7% of the total population) in India. Interestingly a majority of them are converted Dalits from Maharashtra. Within the conven-

tional Hindu social order, the untouchables were reduced to a sub-human category and treated with hatred and subject to prejudices. Though there were impactful social reforms to correct historic wrongs, the general social psyche of the dominant caste Hindus towards the lowest rung remained pervasive. It is with the arrival of Ambedkar on the national political stage that Dalits realised their self-potential and launched a struggle, claiming an equitable share in the modern institutions of power. Embracing Buddhism is heralded as the intellectual choice of Dalits that connects them to a robust historic past while also making them ready to enjoy constitutional rights as secular citizens.

A force in Maharashtra

Important cities in Maharashtra such as Mumbai, Aurangabad and Nagpur have witnessed the rise of powerful Dalit movements, social events and modern monuments. Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur, the place where Ambedkar embraced Buddhism, has emerged as a monumental heritage site, attracting millions of visitors every year. Here, Buddhism was resurrected not only as a part of India's cultural and civilisational heritage but also as a tool to escape the caste hierarchical cultural hegemony and social hostility. In the post-Ambedkar period, it is urban Buddhists – because of their educational achievements and newly gained middle class status – who have offered vital leadership to Dalit politics and organised various social and cultural struggles. Importantly, it is the creative application of the neo-Buddhist identity and ideology that has structured the Dalit movement as an autonomous political force in Maharash-



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tra. A serious debate between neo-Buddhists and Marxist-Socialists erupted during the heightened period of activism by the Dalit Panthers in Bombay. Namdeo Dhasal, a maverick revolutionary poet, offered a militant political alternative, suggesting that "Dalit" is a revolutionary collective of all oppressed communities and that they shall contest caste atrocities and state violence by radical violent means. Dhasal was influenced by the Maoist-Naxalbari movements and wanted that Dalits should build close solidarities with the Communist working-class movement.

Raja Dhale, another founding member of the Dalit Panthers' movement, criticised such a 'Leftist turn' of the Dalit movement. As an alternative to Dhasal's 'Marxist Manifesto', he offered a Buddhist perspective, suggesting that the social justice movement must be based upon a primacy to Ambedkarite liberal principles and making a break from the ideas of a violent class struggle. Conversion to Buddhism helped the community appreciate the constitutional values of secularism and social justice substantively and develop a critical distance from the ideologies that legitimise any brutal usage of violence. Dhale visualised the neo-Buddhist movement not as a sectarian project for the

emancipation of untouchables only but visualised it as a revolutionary project that would enlighten the wider Bahujan mass.

Second, conversion to Buddhism also helped Dalits to find a robust meaning about their cultural past. They reinvented the Buddhist cultural symbols (by building monuments, *viharas* and religious sites), rituals and practices (by celebrating Buddhist festivals) as the proud markers of their new social identity. Buddhist cultural assertions and claims over public spaces became the symbols of their rejection against Hindu cultural hegemony and its social tentacles. Such assertiveness often put them in opposition with right-wing ideologies.

Niche ideological space

In Mumbai, under Bal Thackeray's leadership, the Shiv Sena responded to the neo-Buddhist social activism with street violence and riots. In the early 1990s, the neo-Buddhists launched a mass movement to liberate the Bodhgaya temple from the control of Brahmin priests and also raised legal claim over the controversial site of the Babri Masjid, thus putting Hindutva politics into conundrum – on how to deal with the neo-Buddhists' demands.

Though the Bharatiya Janata Party regime at the centre appears more accommodative to Dalit cultural and religious symbols and avoided much skirmish on this front, it is difficult for the right wing to attract neo-Buddhists under the Hindutva project. As an ideological force, neo-Buddhists offer an alternative reading of history and imagine Buddhism as the chief challenger to Brahmanical Hindu traditions, caste order and orthodox ritualism. Buddhists thus stand distinct from the mili-

tant Hindutva hegemony and wish to retain their own autonomy in sociocultural spaces.

Non-allegiance with the Left militancy and later its opposition to Hindutva politics have created a niche ideological space for Dalits especially amongst neo-Buddhists. However, as a political force, they have failed to provide any significant challenge to the dominant caste and class elites and failed to mobilise other marginalised communities under their social or political programmes. In recent times, neo-Buddhism has generated a passive communitarian exclusivity that often engages with ritualistic and spiritual endeavours rather than building impressive struggles for social justice or to gain political power.

A democratic dialogue

The revolutionary promises made during Ambedkar's historic Buddhist conversion would be fulfilled only if the polity is sensitive towards secularism and social justice. The current advancement of Hindutva is coercive and hegemonic as it offers residual space to Buddhist symbols and keeps a distance from its revolutionary anticaste struggles. Though it is vital to protect the autonomous cultural space that the neo-Buddhist intellectual class has developed, it is equally important to build a unified people's movement to protect the merits of India's constitutional democracy. It is only by initiating democratic dialogue with other marginalised and struggling communities that neo-Buddhists can revitalise Ambedkar's transformative project.

Harish S. Wankhede is Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

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.

Mullaperiyar and safety

The scaremongering, especially on social media platforms, about the safety of the Mullaperiyar dam following torrential rain that lashed the catchment areas in Kerala is unwarranted. The expert committee constituted by the Supreme Court of India has certified the dam to be safe and even specified the

water level to be maintained. However, the safety of the people living downstream cannot be overlooked. As the dam is very much in the control of Tamil Nadu, the State must ensure that there is proper monitoring which will go a long way in assuring Kerala that safety does come first.

M. JEVARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Narcotics case

The twists and turns and the levelling of all sorts of allegations in the high-profile cruise ship drug incident make one wonder which direction the case is going. Most sensational cases suffer either from obstacles in the form of external influences, allurements, threats, or flaws by way of a botched

investigation and inadequate monitoring. In order to unravel the entire ramifications in the case and to guard against any modicum of suspicion, a probe monitored by the judiciary is essential. Importantly, the prosecution should travel on the right and legally stipulated path to reach a fair, unbiased, early and

independent conclusion.

V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR,
Chennai

At Dubai

Pakistan can be famous as well for meltdowns against its arch-rival in sport, but this time, it appears it was determined to prove things otherwise. India may have lost the match in Dubai but captain Virat Kohli's

wonderful move to congratulate the Pakistan openers at the end of the game must have won many a heart across the world. His gesture only reiterates the point that cricket has the magic to mend relations between the two nations.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai



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Lack of clarity, cohesion among State leaders in Congress: Sonia

Cong. president says ideas are not percolating down to grassroots levels of party

SOBHANA K NAIR
NEW DELHI

There is a lack of "clarity and cohesion" among several State-level leaders on policy issues, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said in an address to State unit chiefs and general secretaries in-charge, adding that communication from the party's headquarters often did not percolate down to the grassroots cadre.

She said the party must ideologically fight the "diabolical campaign of the BJP/RSS" and expose the BJP government's lies. She complained that this was not happening.

"The AICC releases important and detailed statements almost every day on issues facing the nation. But it is my experience that they do not percolate down to our grassroots cadre at the block and district levels," she said. Training programmes for



Consolidation act: Sonia Gandhi presiding over a meeting of AICC general secretaries, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. ■PTI

the workers were an absolute necessity, Ms. Gandhi noted, calling it a priority. She added, "The fight to defend our democracy, our Constitution and the Congress party's ideology begins with being fully prepared to identify and counter false propaganda."

With voices of dissent growing stronger within the party, especially after a group of leaders - widely known as the G-23 - ques-

tioned the Gandhi family's leadership demanding reforms, Ms. Gandhi emphasised the need to override personal ambitions.

Addressing G-23

"What should matter to each and every one of us is the strengthening of the organisation. This must override personal ambitions," Ms. Gandhi observed.

In the run-up to internal elections, there will be a na-

Rahul asks Congress leaders to stay united

NEW DELHI

Amid bitter factionalism and a leadership power tussle in Congress-ruled States of Punjab, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday tweeted a message for his colleagues. "True Congress persons can never be each other's weakness but a source of strength. #StayUnited," he wrote.

tion-wide Congress membership enrolment programme from November 1 to March 31, 2022.

Briefing reporters later, general secretary, communications, Randeep Surjewala said the core idea was to bring out the fact that the Congress was the only vehicle to fight the "designed attack on the lives and livelihoods of these sections by the policies of the Modi government".

INTERVIEW | SYED AKBARUDDIN

'Count on the not so big powers'

India should not put all eggs in one basket, says former United Nations envoy

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

Syed Akbaruddin was India's Permanent Representative to the UN when India scored an unprecedented diplomatic victory in 2017 by defeating the U.K. for a seat on the International Court of Justice. India's Dalveer Bhandari was elected a judge of the ICJ. Mr. Akbaruddin's recent book 'India vs UK: The Story of an Unprecedented Diplomatic Win' is an account of the contest in which all five permanent members of the UNSC united against India. Excerpts from the interview with Mr. Akbaruddin, who is currently Dean, Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad.

You say in the book that we were not very sure about contesting this election at all. What doubts did your colleagues have about contesting?
■ So yes, it took us a long

time to decide whether we should contest or not. In fact, I would suggest that it took us almost 15 months or so. And that was because never before in our own history, when a judge was elected for shorter than full term did India contest again. So that was one factor. The other factor was we were contesting many other elections at the same time, and the general feeling in India was that the ICJ is a distant body. It has no direct implications for India's national interest. Things changed after India decided to take Kulbhushan Jadhav case to the ICJ.

So even after the decision to go in for the contest was taken, the people who would still have doubts include the Union Minister according to your account?

■ It's normal again for people to have different views and there was a very senior Union Minister who actually reprimanded me.



Let's not forget our very many friends who are neither big nor great, but they are our friends. And their support will be key.

You begin to approach other countries for support, and it turns out that all the permanent members of the UNSC are supporting one among them, the U.K.?

■ Yes. So two things we were confronted with many countries all said, 'Look, we may have made commitments already, because you've come in very late'. So our argu-

ment to that was, 'look, we are not asking for one, you have five votes, give us one.'

That is very instructive of how the world order functions... how will the existing superpowers be thinking about India's role in the world and India's ambitions to have a bigger, larger role?

■ It's true that some among the P-5 felt we were disruptors, we were disrupting the established order. And some were actively opposed to us. However, there were some who were also tacit in their support, but they were not forthcoming because of their commitments to what they saw as a bigger cause. That is the unity of the global order... So what does it teach us? It teaches us, 'Let's not put all eggs in one basket'. The big, and the great, are important, but so are the not so great, and the not so big, because they form the base of our global support.

'Opposition unable to act freely in Tripura'

Sushmita laments about state of affairs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

There is absolutely no space for democratic and political activity for the Opposition in Tripura, Trinamool Congress leader Sushmita Dev said at a press conference here on Tuesday.

A party delegation will meet President Ram Nath Kovind soon on the violence against the party workers in the State.

Ms. Dev, who was sworn in as a Rajya Sabha member on Tuesday, said the Tripura police had been dragging their feet on investigating or making any arrests in last Friday's incident when she and other party workers were attacked.

"The police may not be able to prevent a violent attack, but even after we provided them the evidence, including videos and photographs, there have been no arrests in any of the incidents of violence against us," Ms. Dev said.

Answering questions on the party's expansion plans and efforts to elbow out the Congress from the lead Opposition role, another Rajya Sabha member Sukhendu Sekhar Ray said, "We waited for six months for the Congress and the others to decide the Opposition road map to take on the BJP but we didn't hear from them, so we decided to go ahead with our expansion plans."

SC holds order on quota in promotions

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved its judgment in a batch of petitions seeking firm guidelines and basis for granting reservation in promotions for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates in Government jobs.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao heard Attorney General K.K. Venugopal submit that 75 years of Independence had not been able to bring members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on a par with the forward classes of society. Mr. Venugopal reiterated that it was still tough for a member of the SC/ST to get 'Group A' category jobs.

Previous hearing

In the previous hearing, the Bench itself had referred to records filed before it to note that there was low representation of SC/ST category in Group A jobs.

Instead of improving the situation in the Group A ranks, the court had said, efforts were on to ensure adequate representation in Groups B and C.

Mr. Venugopal agreed that it was a "fact of life".

Srinagar students booked under UAPA

This follows videos showing them celebrating Pakistan's victory in cricket match

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The J&K police on Tuesday lodged two First Information Reports (FIRs) under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) a day after multiple videos allegedly showed students of two medical colleges in Srinagar celebrating the Pakistan cricket team's victory over India in the T20 World Cup on Sunday.

"Two FIRs have been lodged and investigations are on," a senior police officer told *The Hindu*.

Multiple videos, including those of medical students, went viral on social media on Sunday night, immediately after the Pakistan team won the match in Dubai. In a few videos, students were seen cheering and raising slogans. The cases have been filed



Hasty measures: Several medical students termed the police action 'harsh' and 'unprecedented'. ■AP

under Section 13 of the UAPA and Sections 105-A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). No arrests were made till late in the evening in the cases as the police were checking the veracity of the videos, officials said. Official sources said the

FIRs mentioned that "the students pursuing MBBS and other degrees raised slogans and burst firecrackers" and "were crying and dancing". Several medical students termed the police action "harsh" and "unprecedented". "Students have been

cheering for all the players, irrespective of their teams, who played well during the India-Pakistan clash. It's a sport and people entertain themselves by cheering for their favourites," one medical student told *The Hindu*.

Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti warned that such steps will "alienate them further".

"Instead of trying to ascertain why educated youth choose to identify with Pakistan, the Government of India is resorting to vindictive actions," she said.

Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone said punitive actions won't help. CPI(M) secretary Ghulam Nabi Malik also termed the FIRs against students "unwarranted and unnecessary".

5 CBI officials compulsorily retired

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Five officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), including a senior Public Prosecutor, have been compulsorily retired by the government under clause 56(j) of the Fundamental Rules.

"One of them is an Additional Superintendent of Police and three are Deputy Superintendents of Police," said an official. The exact nature of the charges is not clear. The clause 56(j) extends absolute right to the government to retire any government servant, fulfilling the criteria of age and service, in public interest by giving notice of not less than three months or three months' pay in lieu of such a notice.

Adityanath alleges appeasement politics

'Curfews imposed for Hindu events'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said under previous governments, Opposition parties would compete with each other on who will hold more Iftar parties while curfews would be imposed during Hindu festivals.

"Earlier, they would compete with each other on who will hold more Iftar parties. Who would organise government programmes. But they don't happen any more. If our status is secular, it will be equal for everyone," Mr. Adityanath said.

Addressing representatives of the Lodh OBC caste,

as part of the BJP's outreach towards backward castes through *samajik pratidhi sammelans*, Mr. Adityanath claimed that earlier curfew would be imposed during Hindu festivals like Deepavali, Ramnavami, Durga Puja, and Holi, raising communal temperatures in the run-up to Assembly polls in 2022.

"Would not allow to celebrate festivals...they would imprison faith," Mr. Adityanath alleged, adding that such things no longer happened under the BJP government.

Deepavali would be celebrated in a similar manner as COVID-19 was almost finished, he added.

Govt. abolishes post of CEO for museum development

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Tuesday abolished the post of CEO, Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces, and accepted the resignation of retired IAS officer Raghendra Singh from the post.

The Government had created the post in 2019 by upgrading the post of the Director of the National Museum and Mr. Singh, who had retired as Culture Secretary, was appointed for a three-year term till September 2022.

In its order on Tuesday, the ACC accepted Mr. Singh's resignation with effect from October 8 and abolished the CEO post.

Culture Ministry Additional Secretary Partha Sarthi Sensharma was given additional charge of the post of DG, National Museum, and Joint Secretary Lily Pandeya was given additional charge of the post of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library director with effect from October 13 and October 12 respectively.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU / WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603.
FORM OF CONTRACT - LUMP SUM - ITEM RATE CONTRACT
TENDER NOTICE (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

TENDER NOTICE No. 07/PBC / T.V.Malai / 2021 - 2022 / F. 59 / JDO.4 / DATED: 25.10.2021 (Fourth Call)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, the Superintending Engineer, WRD., Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603, invites tender in Two cover system from eligible tenderers for the work of "Rehabilitation and Improvements to the Shenbagathope Reservoir Project in Polur Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District" (Value of work : Rs. 1,261.00 Lakh including GST) at his office upto 03.00 p.m. on 30.11.2021 in sealed covers. The tender will be opened at 03.30 p.m. at this chamber on the same day.

Other information as details of Work, Value, EMD, Cost of Tender schedule, Qualification details etc., will be available in the Government website www.tenders.in.gov.in. Any Corrections or Modifications will be published in website only.

Superintending Engineer, (I/c) WRD., Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai-3.
DIPR/3096/Tender/2021

"சேர்ப்புக் கட்டுத்து கட்டுத்திரம் அமைத்தோம், சாரதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

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Your power to grow NEW OPPORTUNITIES
ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Tender Call Notice No.H.O./P&C/EST-E-1192/01/2019-17745 Dated 21.10.2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the Work : Additional Fire Fighting System at Fortune Tower, BBSR - Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (Composite)

Estimated Cost : 282.01 lakh (approx.)

Period of completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tenderorissa.gov.in and IDCO Website www.idco.in

Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-1559: OIPR-14003/11/0085/2122

COCHIN SMART MISSION LIMITED
4th Floor, Jawaharalal Nehru Stadium Metro Station, Kollam
Kochi-17, Kerala, Email: info@csml.co.in Ph: 0484-279570

NOTICE

Selection of PMC (Project Management Consultant) to Design, Develop, Manage and Implement Smart City Projects.

The RFP document can be downloaded from the following websites: www.csml.co.in, www.tenders.kerala.gov.in under Organization Name: Kochi Metro Rail Ltd.

M OFPI

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & MANAGEMENT (NIFTEM) - THANJAVUR
(an Institute of National Importance; Formerly Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology - IIFT)

Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India
Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005. Tel.: 04362-228155
Email: director@iift.edu.in Website: www.iift.edu.in

No: NIFTEM/Admin/Projects/2021 Date : 27.10.2021

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship & Management (NIFTEM) - Thanjavur (an Institute of National Importance; Formerly Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology - IIFT) is inviting online applications from bright, dynamic and highly motivated candidates for the following time-bound and temporary positions.

Category	Name of the post	No. of Post
1	Senior Research Fellow /Junior Research Fellow	13
2	Project Assistant	03
3	Young Professional-II	02

Application Fee: Rs.500/- (exempted for SC/ST/PWD/Women Candidates). For online application and further details on Age, Educational qualification, Eligibility criteria, Emoluments, tenure and terms & conditions, visit our website: www.iift.edu.in. Commencement of online application is on 27th October 2021 @ 10.00 am onwards. Last date for the submission ONLINE application is 16th November 2021@ 6.00 pm. DIRECTOR

Government of Uttar Pradesh
Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow-226007.
No.167/Pur.Cell/E-Tender/Instruments/2021-22 Dated 21.10.2021

E-TENDER INVITATION NOTICE

Hereby online tenders through e-procurement system are invited for rate approval of "Veterinary Equipments/ Machineries & Instruments etc. for A.I., Surgical, Pathological, Laboratory & Hospital use" (As per Schedules of requirement of e-tender) under the Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. (for the financial year 2021-22) from Sole manufacturers, possessing valid manufacturing license or registered as Small Scale Industry for production and having 05 years experience for production of quoted items; Original Authorized Supplier for those equipment for which the Sole Manufacturer does not do marketing itself. Tenderer should produce valid Manufacturing License, and ISO certificates. The Tenderer should have BIS/ISI Certificate for the items for which BIS/ISI mark is required. Only those Tenderer will be eligible to participate in tender whose turnover for last 03 years is not less than Rs. 5.00 crore each year. MSME/SSI units of U.P. are being exempted from Turnover Condition & MSME/SSI units of U.P. will be given purchase preference as per government policy. It is also to inform that only those tenderers who are registered for e-tendering (documentary proof for registration in U.P. Electronics Corporation Ltd., (UPLC), Lucknow is necessary to enclose) and having digital signatures in reference to this office memorandum No. 3157/Pur.Cell/Kra.Ni/E-pro/2016-17 dated 15-03-2017, shall be eligible to participate in e-tendering in Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. Details regarding e-tender and tender form would be available on the departmental website www.animalhusupsc.gov.in and U.P. Govt. eTender portal <http://tender.up.nic.in> within the stipulated period.

Particulars	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs.	Tender Documents Cost Rs.
e-Tender for approval of rate of "Veterinary Equipments Machineries & Instruments etc. for A.I., Surgical, Pathological, Laboratory & Hospital use" (As per Schedules of requirement of e-tender) under the Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P.	As per schedule of requirement Section III(B) of tender documents, for estimated value of the goods upto Rs. 1.00 lakh (one lakh) Rs. 1500.00 and for each additional Rs. 1.00 lakh and part there of Rs.1000.00 as bid security.	Rs. 25000.00 + GST

Cost of Tender Form (Non-refundable) in shape of Demand Draft of any nationalized/scheduled bank in the name of Director, Administration & Development, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow and amount of Earnest Money in shape of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) of any nationalized/scheduled bank pledged in favour of Director, Disease Control & Farms, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow should compulsorily be deposited in the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Badshahbag, Lucknow. The scanned copy of the Cost of Tender Form and e-Bid Security/EMD must be submitted along with the e-Bid and the original should reach to Director, Disease Control & Farms, Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow preferably on or before end date of submission of e-Bid but in any case, not later than 5 days after end date of submission of e-bid. Online e-bid should be submitted through U.P. Govt. e-Tender website <http://tender.up.nic.in>.

The Scheduled dates and time for the Tender are:-

1- Availability of Online Tender Forms	:	Date 29-10-2021 from 05.00 PM
2- Start date of Online Tender Forms Submission	:	Date 29-10-2021 from 07.00 PM
3- Pre-bid meeting	:	Date 08-11-2021 at 04.00 PM
4- Last Date/Time for online submission of tender form	:	Date 22-11-2021 up to 06.00 PM
5- Opening of Online Tender Forms (Technical bids)	:	Date 23-11-2021 at 11.30 AM

Director
Disease Control & Farms,
Animal Husbandry, U.P.,
Lucknow

Ro No 168974 Ro Date 25/10/21
Website- www.upgov.nic.in

Central University of Himachal Pradesh
(Established under Central Universities Act, 2009)

Employment Notice No. 001/2021, Dated 21.10.2021 for TEACHING POSITIONS

Central University of Himachal Pradesh invites online applications from eligible candidates for various teaching positions to be filled on regular/contract (against lien vacancy)/deputation basis. The Candidates may apply online from 22.10.2021. Last Date 11.11.2021. For further details please visit University Website i.e., www.cuhimachal.ac.in

REGISTRAR

ANDHRA PRADESH INTEGRATED IRRIGATION AND AGRICULTURE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT
(World Bank Aided Project)

Request for Bids (National Competitive Bidding) Tender Notice No.06/2021-22/ Dt. 22-10-2021 (6 works)

The Superintending Engineer, W.R. Dept., Irrigation Circle, Visakhapatnam District, Pin Code: 530002, Andhra Pradesh invites Bids from the intending Bidders for 1st Call (6 works) 2nd call 7 (Seven works) and 3rd call (1 work) in Vizianagaram District. Under "World Bank aided Project" from Date: 25-10-2021 @ 17:00 hours to dt. 02-12-2021 up to 17:00 hours. For complete details visit us at: <http://www.apcda.in> & on e-procurement platform. For queries: Contact No : 0891-2706341.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, W.R.Dept., Irrigation Circle, Visakhapatnam.

DIPR 447PP/CL, Dt: 26-10-2021

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
EDUCATION & WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, VIJAYAWADA

e-procurement Tender Notice

NIT No: 86 to 97/MD/APEWIDC/VJA/2021-22, Dated: 26.10.2021

NIT No: 86 to 97, downloading commencement on 28.10.2021 and closing date may be viewed in eprocurement.gov.in

1. Tenders are invited from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM)/ Original Equipment Manufacturing firms / Companies for various Products / items under Mana Badi:Nadu-Nedu Programme Phase - II in various Packages for procurement of Ceiling Fans, Dual Desks, Green Chalk Boards and Electrical Fixtures each item/product for Govt. Schools (Educational Institutions) with an Estimated Cost ranging from Rs.13.64 Crores to Rs. 72.40 Crores for 13 Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Further details may be viewed at <http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in> Contact No.08645 295758.

Note: 1. Changes / amendment if any will only be communicated through above e-procurement platform.
2. Reverse auction applicable as per G.O.Ms.No.67, dated 16.08.2019 of Water Resources (Reforms) Department and G.O No:79, Dated: 25.08.2020 of the Finance (HR.V-TFR) Dept.

Sd/- Managing Director, APEWIDC, Vijayawada

IN BRIEF



Rajesh Gokhale set to be new DBT Secretary

NEW DELHI
The Centre has appointed Rajesh Gokhale, 54, as Secretary of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) on Tuesday. "It is a big responsibility and I look forward to doing my best," Dr. Gokhale told *The Hindu*. The DBT played a crucial role during the pandemic, particularly in the development of indigenous vaccines. Mr. Gokhale takes over from Renu Swarup, who retires on October 31.

Assam links public benefits to vaccination

GUWAHATI
The Assam Government has decided to link welfare schemes to the COVID-19 vaccination status of the beneficiaries. Anyone not vaccinated with both doses will be deprived of the benefits of all State government schemes, said Health Minister Keshab Mahanta. The Government has set the goal to vaccinate 3 crore people aged 18 and above, he added. Assam has 2,535 active cases.



Safety first: Children often fall asleep on rides.

Young riders to wear safety harnesses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Soon, children up to four years old riding pillion on a bike will be mandatorily required to wear a harness. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Monday notified draft rules governing safety of children between nine months and four years old, which also require the speed of motorcycles carrying them to not exceed 40 kmph and the children to wear helmets. The harness will be used for attaching the child to the driver. The child will wear the vest of the safety harness, while the adult riding the bike will wear the attached shoulder loops. The draft rules also lay down specifications for such harnesses, which require them to be designed to hold up to 30 kg. The government has invited stakeholders' comments for a period of 30 days before the rules are finalised.

Centre plans 2 mobile hospitals

Container-based facilities can be sent by rail or air to any part of country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said the recently launched PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, with an outlay of more than ₹64,000 crore, is aimed at filling critical gaps in public health infrastructure, especially in critical care and primary care facilities in both urban and rural areas.

At a press conference, the Minister pointed out that the Mission would prepare the health care sector to deal with any future outbreaks.

"COVID-19 has provided us with an opportunity to boost healthcare facilities, including laboratories, hospitals and diagnostic facilities at all the levels of healthcare," said the Minister.

Highlighting some of the key features of PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, Dr. Mandaviya said that 134 different types of tests would be done for free at the district level, which will not only do away expenses but also reduce unnecessary travel for the poor.

He said that for the first time in Asia, two container-based hospitals, equipped



Health drive: Mobile medical services have proved useful during emergencies and in rural areas. • FILE PHOTO

with comprehensive medical facilities, will be stationed in Chennai and Delhi and kept at the ready to be swiftly mobilised by rail or air to respond to any calamity or disaster in the country.

Infectious diseases

"Initiatives under the Mission, including strengthening of points of entry will ring-fence our borders against the import of new infectious diseases and pathogens. Health Emergency Operation Centres and the container-based mobile hospitals shall further build capacities for effective emergency response during such times," he said.

Stating that the pandemic showed the country the importance of ensuring regular

medical services even during a time of crisis, the Minister said that development of critical care hospital blocks in 602 districts as proposed under the scheme, shall make the districts self-sufficient, to a large extent, in providing comprehensive treatment for infectious diseases without disruption to other essential health services.

It will also augment the critical care capacities in the public health facilities.

The Mission is expected to bring about a paradigm shift in India's healthcare infrastructure. In order to ensure better primary healthcare facilities, 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres are in line to be set up, of which around 79,000

are already functioning. In addition, work has started on ensuring that every district has at least one medical college with the Government already sanctioning 157 medical colleges, the Minister added.

"The Mission aims to produce robust outcomes in public health, leapfrogging India to one of the most advanced countries in the world in terms of management of public health outbreaks," said the Minister.

He added that the components, such as setting up of the National Platform for One Health, setting up a Division for Research on Disease Elimination Sciences and Health as a satellite centre of National Aids Research Institute, setting up of the Regional National Institutes of Virology, strengthening of existing national research institutions, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and existing laboratory infrastructure, upgrade of labs and creation of additional BSL-3 facilities under the Indian Council of Medical Research and the NCDC, will further strengthen the country's capacity to detect and diagnose new infections.

Covaxin nod: WHO seeks more data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA UNITED NATIONS/ GENEVA

The World Health Organisation's technical advisory group on Tuesday sought "additional clarifications" from Bharat Biotech for its COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin to conduct a final "risk-benefit assessment" for Emergency Use Listing of the vaccine.

The technical advisory group will now meet on November 3 for a final assessment.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech had submitted an EOI (Expression of Interest) to the WHO on April 19 for Emergency Use Listing (EUL) of Covaxin.

The technical advisory group met on Tuesday to review data.

"The TAG met today and decided that additional clarifications from the manufacturer are needed to conduct a final EUL risk-benefit assessment for global use of the vaccine," the WHO said. "The TAG expects these clarifications from the manufacturer by the end of this week, and aims to reconvene for the final risk-benefit assessment on Wednesday, 3 November."

Draft rules seek to make airports disabled-friendly

Civil Aviation Ministry issues norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday released draft norms for ensuring accessibility for the differently abled at airports, which include reserved parking, passenger lifts for boarding an aircraft, and aisle chairs on flights longer than three hours for in-flight use, among other measures.

The draft guidelines follow an incident involving danseuse Sudha Chandran who complained that she was often asked to remove her prosthetic leg during security checks at airports. This is despite security norms being amended four years ago which require prosthetics or wheelchairs to be put through an X-ray only on sufficient reason or justification.

The draft released by the Ministry of Civil Aviation details various infrastructural requirements that an airport must provide, including reserved parking space for the differently abled which is connected to the entrance of the passenger terminal through an accessible route and a tactile path, designated seating spaces,

bigger lifts, ramps and handrails with Braille indicators, steps and staircase that conform to the specifications laid down.

It says that air travellers desirous of bringing a service dog along will have to check with the airline whether they are "agreeable to have service dogs on board". Air India allows small and inoffensive domestic pets such as dogs, cats and birds, accompanied by valid health and rabies vaccination certificates, on domestic flights in the cabin or in cargo hold.

Airports will also be required to have toilets for service animals accompanying the differently abled. One "relief area" can serve two or more terminals provided it meets reasonable transit time. These can be either indoor or outdoor facilities, but within the sterile area of the airport.

The draft follows the Rights of Person with Disabilities Rules, 2017, under which the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is required to frame harmonised guidelines for accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

Framework to manage drone traffic notified

It will apply to airspace below 1,000 ft.

JAGRITI CHANDRA NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has notified a traffic management policy framework for drones, which envisages private, third-party service providers for ensuring safe operations.

Under the framework, these Unmanned Traffic Management Service Providers (UTMSP) will extend automated, algorithm-driven software services instead of voice communication as in the traditional Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems. They will primarily be responsible for segregating and separating a drone from other drones and manned aircraft in the airspace below 1,000 feet in the country.

The traffic management providers will be assisted by Supplementary Service Providers (SSPs), who will maintain data about terrain, weather, location of manned aircraft and provide services such as insurance, data analytics and drone fleet management.

The drone traffic management policy also requires integration of UTM with ATM so that flight plans and real-time location of manned aircraft can be recorded as well in order to continuously separate manned and un-



Data on terrain, weather and aircraft location will be used to guide traffic.

manned aircraft from each other.

Law enforcement and security agencies will also have access to some information in the UTM ecosystem on a need-to-know basis.

Service fee

The policy also allows UTMSPs to levy a service fee on users, a small portion of which will also be shared with the Airports Authority of India.

In order to implement this policy, the government is likely to carry out UTM-based experiments in the country and then float a request for proposal for on-boarding UTMSPs.

Following which an evaluation process will be undertaken and successful participants will be awarded regions for establishment of UTM services.

Waiting for a chance



Road to work: Migrant workers from Madhya Pradesh on way for work to Uttar Pradesh waiting for a transport at Kashmere Gate in New Delhi on Tuesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Rajbhar's party seems to be dumping AIMIM

It is eyeing on ties with SP; Owaisi's party was part of Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

By tying up with the Samajwadi Party, Om Prakash Rajbhar-led Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party seems to have distanced itself from the AIMIM of Asaduddin Owaisi.

The AIMIM was part of the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha – a loose alliance of sev-

eral smaller outfits, mainly OBC-based – led by Mr. Rajbhar. The parties had aimed to mutually benefit each other and hoped to bring one of the larger non-BJP parties to the table for the negotiation ahead of the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election.

However, with Mr. Rajbhar set to put up a show of strength in Mau on October 27 when he is also expected to formalise an alliance with the Samajwadi Party in the presence of its president Akhilesh Yadav, who is the chief guest at the event, the SBSP and the AIMIM seem to have drifted apart.

Mr. Owaisi will not be at the rally – Vanchit, Pichda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak Bhagid-

SC begins hearing Zakia Jafri's plea

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday began hearing a petition filed by Zakia Jafri, widow of slain Congress MP Ehsan Jafri, challenging the Special Investigation Team's clean chit to then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi in the 2002 post-Godhra riots.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for Ms. Jafri, said her case concerned "larger conspiracy" involving "bureaucratic inaction, police complacency and conspired, directed unleashing of violence".

"This Republic is too great to look the other way," Mr. Sibal said. On February 8, 2012, the SIT had filed a closure report giving clean chit to Mr. Modi, now the Prime Minister, and 63 others, including senior officials, saying there was "no prosecutable evidence" against them.

On October 5, 2017, the Gujarat High Court had rejected Ms. Jafri's appeal against the SIT closure report and the Magistrate order. "People were massacred due to police inaction. I am giving you official evidence. Who will be answerable for this?" Mr. Sibal asked.

THE CROSSWORD + 13387 Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids: @ <https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn> SCAN TO PLAY

ACROSS

- Fancy setters consume a drink (7)
- Important holy book contains verse about origin of life (7)
- Reportedly snaps flowers (5)
- Up-and-coming Prince played morsing with essential skill (9)
- End discussion of a bill – look into the wrongdoing and penalise without initial fears (10)
- Humorous scene without money, without comedian finally (4)

- Grafts to coaches without initial inhibitions at workshops (11)
- It gives a facelift when plain story is cooked up with some heroine (11)
- Deadly weapon uncovered in exchange of 500 to 1000 (4)
- Recurring advantage with initial expenses in lease withdrawal (10)
- Loss of self-respect when sailor lost initial right-of-way (9)
- Enclosures for animals of landowners have no guard in the end (5)
- Die out or regularly seek support (7)
- Troublemakers' chain loses power (7)

■ **DOWN**

- Criticise one politician's note about union government (6)
- Drug? No, not relating to the North (6)
- Quarantine about nuclear radiation (10)
- Maybe Indian in Bangladesh is old loyalist, boycotting riot (5)
- Poor signs flawed prediction (9)
- Unproductive blood vessel, it is said (4)
- Ruler follows weak philosophy (8)
- Most insubstantial cock-and-bull story narrated at trial (8)
- Childhood companion's drama casts elf and owl (10)
- Eels learn swimming like everything as it should be (3,6)
- There is no escape from it with the introduction of carbon in historic period (4,4)
- Naughty Malik is cuddled by mid field hand (8)
- They always come together before Big C (6)
- Irregular sestas? Stop taking drug, it stops flow of blood (6)
- Season not beginning, lay to rest (5)
- It's a sign of grief, RIP! (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13386

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

The immortal soul

The Mahabharata is the greatest exponent of dharma in practice. It is not easy to give a synonym for the term dharma, for in it is subsumed a highly complex subject. The way of dharma is subtle and hence difficult to understand. The Itihasa takes care to drive home the point that dharma has to be upheld for dharma's sake alone and not for the sake of enjoyment of desires, pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse.

In the Yaksha Prasna section that is placed in the Aranya Kanda of Vana Parva, an interpreter goes beyond the questions and answers to grasp their deeper significance. The first sloka in the Yaksha Prasna has four questions and is followed by Yudhishtira's succinct reply to all these. To the first question, "Who is it who makes Aditya or the sun to rise?", the answer given is that the Vedas help Aditya to rise. Neelakanta in his commentary says that Yudhishtira thinks of the atma or the soul of man when sun is mentioned. So it means the soul which through the five senses, mind and intellect gains knowledge of the world. Accordingly, his answer that the Vedas make the sun to rise means that the atma is able to realise itself with the help of the Vedas. The esoteric awareness leads the atma to differentiate between nitya and anithya aspects in life.

The watchword in spiritual practice is that all jivas are bound by karma and are redeemed with jnana. The emphasis on gaining true jnana about the immortal nature of the soul as distinct from the body has to be internalised. The Gita echoes this truth about the ultimate value of jnana in freeing the jiva from the shackles of samsara. The Lord assures that just as fire that is kindled turns all fuel to ashes, jnana can turn to ashes all the effects of karma.

China's Foreign Minister meets Taliban in Doha, offers support

Taliban say a friendly policy towards China is a firm choice by their regime

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has pledged support and assistance to the Taliban in a meeting in Doha.

Coming three months after Mr. Wang hosted the Taliban in Tianjin, near Beijing, in late July, the Chinese Foreign Minister on Monday met Acting Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, who assured Beijing that "a friendly policy towards China" was "a firm choice" by the Taliban.

Mr. Wang "expressed China's willingness to continue to provide humanitarian aid to Afghanistan within its capacity and work with the international community to help Afghanistan alleviate temporary difficulties and realise economic reconstruction as well as independent development", the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. Mr. Wang last month announced China would "urgently provide 200 million yuan (\$30.96 million) worth of grains, winter supplies, vaccines, and medicines to Afghanistan" as well as 3 million vaccines.

In their second meeting, Mr. Wang repeated to the Ta-



Building ties: Foreign Minister Wang Yi, right, with Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, in this file photo. ■ REUTERS

liban leader China's expectations that the Taliban "will make a clean break with the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) and other terrorist organisations and take effective measures to resolutely crack down on them".

Security threat

The ETIM, which China has blamed for several attacks in its western Xinjiang region, "not only poses a real threat to China's national security and territorial integrity, but also jeopardises the domestic stability and long-term stability in Afghanistan", he said.

He also called on the Taliban to "further demonstrate openness and tolerance, un-

ite all ethnic groups and factions in Afghanistan to work together for peaceful reconstruction, and effectively protect the rights and interests of women and children".

In a veiled dig at the U.S., which China has criticised for its "hasty" withdrawal as well as its legacy in Afghanistan, Mr. Wang said China "has never interfered in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and never sought selfish gains or a sphere of influence". He called on the U.S. and the West to lift sanctions, and said the country faced "a historic opportunity" to "master its own destiny" and was "at a critical stage of transforming from chaos to governance".

The Chinese Foreign Minister identified "quadruple challenges", including "the humanitarian crisis, economic chaos, terrorist threats and governance difficulties", and added China "always respects Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and supports the Afghan people to independently determine their own destiny and choose the development path".

The Taliban leader said that "pursuing a friendly policy toward China is the firm choice" and committed to attaching "great importance to China's security concerns" and "to never allow anyone or any force to use the Afghan territory to harm China. The Taliban have already expressed interest in Chinese investments and in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), including extending the China Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan.

Reports in the Chinese media have said Chinese companies are, however, still following a wait and watch approach and for the situation to stabilise before committing new investments.

Expedite talks on South China Sea: Beijing

REUTERS
BEIJING

China's Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday called for an expedition in negotiations with ASEAN countries on a code of conduct framework for the South China Sea, according to the official Xinhua agency.

China hopes the two sides can expand practical maritime cooperation, expedite COC negotiations, and strive for its early conclusion to make the South China Sea a sea of peace, friendship and collaboration, Xinhua quoted Mr. Li as saying at the 24th ASEAN-China Summit.

"Next year is the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). China wishes to work with ASEAN countries to mark the occasion with commemorative activities," he said.

China, which has for years been locked in maritime disputes with other coastal states in the South China Sea, has in recent years boosted its presence and held exercises in disputed parts of the strategic waterway.

The COC has been a stated goal of ASEAN and China for nearly two decades.

Foreign nationals flying to U.S. need to be vaccinated

Govt. also issues operational guidance for airlines

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

Most adults who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents and want to fly into the country on or after November 8 will have to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, in addition to showing a negative test, as per a new Presidential Proclamation signed by Joe Biden on Monday.

The rules have been expected for weeks and will harmonise disparate, country-specific rules. For some jurisdictions and countries, including India, Brazil, Ireland, the Schengen Area, South Africa and the U.K., where entry into the U.S. has been the exception to the rule, it will mean a significant easing of restrictions.

"For purposes of entry into the United States, vaccines will be accepted that include the FDA approved or authorised and WHO Emergency Use Listed (EUL) vaccines," a senior administration official told reporters on a briefing call on Monday.

Covishield - a version of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured in India - is on the WHO list, while the world health body is nearing a decision on whether Bha-



Those aged below 18 are exempt from the vaccine entry requirement.

rat Biotech's Covaxin, another Indian vaccine, will be granted EUL status.

Children under 18 are exempt from the vaccine entry requirement as many countries have not permitted children to get vaccines on the CDC list. Unvaccinated U.S. citizens and permanent residents ('green card' holders) will be required to show a negative test within a day of departure of their flights to the U.S.

Those who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents will be exempt from showing proof of vaccination only in a limited set of circumstances (these exempt individuals will also have to show a negative test

taken one day prior to travel).

Those applying for immigrant visas are already required to get vaccinated against COVID-19, as per a separate set of rules that became effective on October 1, so Monday's announcement applies only to those who are not U.S. citizens and permanent citizens as well as non-immigrants.

Exemptions for foreign nationals include people travelling from countries where there is limited vaccine availability (defined as less than 10%) - unless they are on a B1 or B2 visa - and for those for whom taking a vaccine is contraindicated, including due to severe anaphylactic reactions to a previous COVID-19 vaccine.

Those who are vaccinated will still need to provide a negative COVID-19 test in addition to vaccination proof, but have a larger window of three days (rather than one day) days before their flight to get the test done.

The administration also issued operational guidance for airlines and testing and contacting tracing via the CDC on Monday, as per a senior administration official.

Biden denounces coup and violence in Myanmar

Junta boycotts summit to protest snub

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday denounced the military coup and "horrific violence" in Myanmar at a summit with ASEAN leaders, the White House said.

Addressing the virtual summit, Mr. Biden "expressed grave concerns about the military coup and horrific violence in Burma and called on the country's military regime to immediately end the violence, release those unjustly detained, and restore Burma's path to democracy", a statement said, using Myanmar's previous name.

Myanmar's military government boycotted the ASEAN summit, which was hosted by Brunei, after its chief, Min Aung Hlaing, was banned in response to the February power grab and subsequent deadly crackdown on dissent.

The strongly worded White House statement came after Mr. Biden made public opening remarks to the ASEAN meeting in

which he made a veiled reference to countering China, but did not mention Myanmar. Speaking by video link from the White House, Mr. Biden called the Association of Southeast Asian Nations "essential" and said the U.S. is "committed to ASEAN's centrality". The U.S. is not a member of the 10-nation body but sees ASEAN as an important component in its strategy to push back against an increasingly assertive Chinese diplomatic, commercial and military presence across Asia.

Suu Kyi testifies

In a related development, ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi testified for the first time in a junta court, four months after being put on trial by the military, a source with knowledge of the case said.

On Tuesday, she "gave her statement at the court by herself" in response to charges of incitement related to two February statements criticising the coup, the source said.

Sudan General defends power grab

Burhan says Army ousted the govt. to avoid civil war; PM detained at his home

REUTERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS
KHARTOUM

Sudan's top General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan defended the Army's seizure of power on Tuesday, saying he had ousted the Government of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok to avoid civil war.

Speaking at his first news conference since he announced the takeover on Monday, Gen. Burhan accused politicians of incitement against the armed forces. He said Mr. Hamdok was confined in his own home and had not been harmed.

Soldiers arrested the Prime Minister and other members of his Cabinet on Monday, hours before Gen. Burhan appeared on TV to announce the dissolution of the Sovereign Council, a body set up to share power between the military and civilians.

"The whole country was deadlocked due to political rivalries," Gen. Burhan said on Tuesday. "The experience during the past two years has proven that the participation of political



In turmoil: A boy draped in the national flag standing by burning tyres during a protest in Khartoum on Tuesday. ■ AFP

forces in the transitional period is flawed and stirs up strife."

Monday's military takeover brought a halt to Sudan's transition to democracy two years after a popular uprising toppled long-serving autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

Seven killed

An official at the Health Ministry said seven people were killed in clashes between protesters and the security forces on Monday. On Tuesday, life was halted in Khartoum and its twin city Omdurman across the Nile, with shops shut and plumes

of smoke rising from where protesters were burning tyres.

Gen. Burhan said the military's action did not amount to a coup, as the Army was trying to rectify the path of the political transition.

Shortly after Gen. Burhan spoke, Mr. Hamdok's office issued a statement, voicing concerns about the safety of the premier and other detained officials. It did not say where the politician was being held.

The statement accused the military leaders of acting in concert with Islamists, who have argued for a mili-

tary government, and other politicians linked to al-Bashir's National Congress Party, which was dissolved in 2019.

Western countries and the UN have condemned the coup and called for the release of Mr. Hamdok and other senior officials. U.S. President Joe Biden's administration announced the suspension of \$700 million in emergency assistance to Sudan.

Mariam al-Mahdi, the Foreign Minister in the government that the military dissolved, was defiant on Tuesday, declaring that she and other members of Mr. Hamdok's administration remained the legitimate authority in Sudan.

"We are still in our positions. We reject such coup and such unconstitutional measures," she said. "We will continue our peaceful and resistance."

The country and the world are now braced to see if more violence will unfold in the nation, which saw a bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests in 2019.

Iran blames cyberattack as fuel supply affected

Source of attack under investigation

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iranian authorities on Tuesday blamed a mysterious cyberattack for unprecedented disruption to the country's fuel distribution network.

Iran is a major oil producer and the country's motorists, used to cheap petrol, were surprised to see filling stations inexplicably closing one after the other and queues growing longer.

"The Supreme National Security Council confirmed that there has been a cyber-attack against the petrol distribution computer system," state television said. It had earlier reported that the interruption was due to "disruptions to the computer system".

"Details of the attack and its source are under investigation," state TV added, without giving further details.

The conservative Fars news agency linked the breakdown to opponents ahead of the second anniversary of deadly protests sparked by a hike in petrol prices.

Tuesday's disruption had an unprecedented impact because it blocked the IT system that allows Iranians to fill their tanks for free or at subsidised prices with a digital card issued by authorities.

In Tehran, technicians from the Oil Ministry took IT systems offline in a number of petrol stations to distribute fuel manually.



Japan Princess Mako marries commoner

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO

Japanese Princess Mako quietly married a commoner without traditional wedding celebrations on Tuesday and said their marriage - delayed three years and opposed by some - "was a necessary choice to live while cherishing our hearts".

The marriage to Kei Komuro cost Ms. Mako her royal status. She received her husband's surname - the first time she has had a family name. Most Japanese women must abandon their own family names upon marriage due to a law requiring only one surname per married couple.

There was no wedding banquet or other marriage rituals for the couple.

Germany's Parliament elects new Speaker

Bas is third woman to head Bundestag

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN

Germany's newly elected Parliament held its first meeting on Tuesday and elected a lawmaker from the centre-left Social Democratic Party as Speaker of the 736-member Lower House, or Bundestag.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel attended the session although she is no longer a lawmaker. She sat in the visitor stands of Parliament. Ms. Merkel's Union bloc finished behind the Social Democrats in Germany's federal election last month.

"The citizens are looking to us, and their expectations of Parliament are rightly high," Wolfgang Schaeuble, the previous Speaker, said. "We all should continue to do everything we can to meet their expectations."

Mr. Schaeuble, 79, a conservative veteran and former Finance and Interior Minister, is the longest-serving member of Parliament. He has been a lawmaker since 1972.

The new Speaker, Baer-

bel Bas, has been a member of the Bundestag since 2009.

Women's representation

She told fellow lawmakers on Tuesday that she would work for fairer representation of women in Parliament. Ms. Bas is only the third woman to head the Bundestag since its creation in 1949. "The responsibility has by far not been spread fairly on all shoulders," she said.

While the Bundestag has more women members following last month's election, women are still a long way from reaching parity in the national legislature. More than a third, or 34.7%, of the new lawmakers are women compared with the 31.4% in the previous Parliament, according to German news agency dpa.

Ms. Bas emphasised that even though Parliament does not yet reflect the full diversity of German society, the new Bundestag has become more diverse, with more immigrant lawmakers and younger members, too.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU - PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Building Organisation - Form of Contract : Lumpsum
Tender Notice No.4 / VLR - CLE / 2021 - 2022 / Dated : 25.10.2021

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu Sealed Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Vellore -1 for the following work from the eligible Contractors registered in Public works Department of Government of Tamil Nadu, upto 3.00 pm as per office clock on 01.12.2021 under Two cover system (Pre qualification and Price tender). The Prequalification cover (Cover I) alone will be opened on 01.12.2021 at 3.30 PM by the Superintending Engineer in presence of the Tenderers or their authorised agents.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of work including GST (Rs.in lakhs)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (in Rupees)	Period of Completion (including monsoon period)
1.	Construction of Integrated Chief Educational Officer Office and Godown buildings in the Master Plan Complex at Thiruvannamalai in Thiruvannamalai District.	1847.35	9,35,000/-	12 Months

The E.M.D. remittance and other details can also be available from the Govt. designated website (<http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in>) and Office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Building (C&M) Circle, Vellore - 632 001. The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the above website, upto 30.11.2021 - 5.45 pm.

Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Vellore-1.
DIPR/3106/TENDER/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN,
AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ

Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 15 /21-22 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

i.	Name of Work	Excavation of Dahisahi Distributary from RD 00M to RD 4600M with its system (Dhansul S/M, Handihanga S/M - I & II, Juallibhanga Minor and Kundi S/M) including Cement concrete lining, Service road and its Structures.
ii.	Estimated Cost	Rs.2610.84 Lakh
iii.	Period of Completion	24 (Twenty four) Calendar Months
iv.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	29.10.2021 at 10.00 AM
v.	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	25.11.2021 up to 5.00 PM
vi.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj.
cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
A-535: OIPR-32074/11/0016/2122

ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
R-127, Second Main Road, TNHB, Ayapakkam, Chennai - 600077.

WALK-IN INTERVIEW / ONLINE INTERVIEW
Candidates are invited for Walk-in Interview / Online Interview / Skill Test for the Post of Project Scientist-C (Non-Medical), Project Scientist-B (Medical), Project Scientist-B (Non-Medical), Project Senior Research Fellow, Project Technical Officer (Lab), Project Assistant (Field Investigator), Project Technical Assistant, Project Technician III (Lab), Project Data Entry Operator, Project Staff Nurse, Project Junior Nurse, Project MTS, Project Semi-skilled Worker on contract basis under various projects.

For application proforma and other details regarding location, qualification and experience, etc., please refer to www.nie.gov.in Director

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN,
AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ

Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 17 /21-22 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

i.	Name of Works	Construction of Pariakuli Sub-minor from RD 593M to 2730M including all Structures and Trough wall (Balance work).
ii.	Estimated Cost	Rs.257.50 Lakh
iii.	Period of Completion	6 (Six) Calendar Months
iv.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	28.10.2021 at 10.00 AM
v.	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	11.11.2021 up to 5.00 PM
vi.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".
Sd/- Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj, cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
A-535: OIPR-32074/11/0014/2122

MARKET WATCH

	26-10-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,350	0.63
US Dollar	74.96	0.15
Gold	47,153	0.27
Brent oil	86.15	-0.46

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	749.90	-2.15
Asian Paints	2969.80	51.75
Axis Bank	841.90	-3.20
Bajaj Auto	3791.75	28.00
Bajaj Finserv	18353.35	266.20
Bajaj Finance	7855.65	209.00
Bharti Airtel	696.20	5.10
BPCIL	431.05	-0.65
Britannia Ind	3692.80	61.75
Cipla	907.50	5.65
Coal India	175.05	0.95
Divis Lab	5018.90	22.95
E.R. Reddy's Lab	4666.20	-9.95
Eicher Motors	2590.25	28.50
Grasim Ind	1739.40	28.75
HCL Tech	1166.80	1.40
HDFC	2911.65	15.50
HDFC Bank	1652.75	-4.25
HDFC Life	690.05	6.80
Hero MotoCorp	2700.50	13.70
Hindalco	486.05	12.80
Hind Unilever	2436.85	-19.00
ICICI Bank	829.40	-12.30
Indusind Bank	1154.90	-22.85
Infosys	1703.70	-3.85
Indian Oil Corp	131.50	1.05
ITC	236.70	3.30
JSW Steel	694.35	20.10
Kotak Bank	2210.95	56.45
L&T	1796.25	12.10
M&M	894.55	3.95
Maruti Suzuki	7297.35	36.75
Nestle India Ltd.	19217.60	521.35
NTPC	143.20	-0.70
ONGC	163.10	1.70
PowerGrid Corp	190.40	-2.25
Reliance Ind	2661.05	59.25
SBI Life	1172.05	42.35
State Bank	512.55	6.05
Shree Cement	2777.90	502.90
Sun Pharma	813.50	0.30
Tata Consumer	808.90	19.95
Tata Motors	508.65	28.75
Tata Steel	1343.65	50.35
TCS	3482.60	-10.35
Tech Mahindra	1563.30	39.20
Titan	2454.75	75.60
UltraTech Cement	7269.10	119.30
UPL	713.25	17.95
Wipro	668.15	0.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.76	75.08
Euro	86.87	87.24
British Pound	103.34	103.79
Japanese Yen (100)	65.59	65.87
Chinese Yuan	11.72	11.77
Swiss Franc	81.30	81.66
Singapore Dollar	55.57	55.81
Canadian Dollar	60.51	60.77
Malaysian Ringgit	18.02	18.11

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Reliance-BP JV unveils first fuel outlet

MUMBAI
Reliance BP Mobility Ltd., a JV of Reliance Industries Ltd. and BP, on Tuesday, opened its first Jio-bp branded mobility station at Navde, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, offering multiple fuelling choices to customers. The existing network of more than 1,400 pumps earlier with RIL would be rebranded as Jio-bp.

Fino announces ₹1,200-crore IPO

MUMBAI
Fino Payments Bank on Tuesday announced a ₹1,200-crore initial public offering, which will include fresh issue of shares worth ₹300 crore. The firm, which will emerge as the first payments bank to list on the bourses, has set a price band of ₹560-₹577 per share for the issue which will be open for subscription between October 29 and November 2. It will raise up to ₹300 crore from the fresh issue. PTI

Central Bank profit surges to ₹250 crore

MUMBAI
Central Bank of India has registered a 55.3% growth in Q2 net profit to ₹250 crore. Operating profit improved 1.08% y-o-y to ₹1,401 crore. Net NPAs dropped from 5.6% to 4.51%, an improvement of 109 bps, the bank said in a filing. Provision coverage ratio improved from 82.24% to 85.86%, registering an improvement of 362 bps. Net interest income rose almost 6% to ₹2,495 crore.

Govt. seeks applications for CEA replacement

NEW DELHI
The Centre has invited applications for the post of chief economic adviser (CEA) to replace K.V. Subramanian, who will complete his three-year tenure next month. Mr. Subramanian was named CEA on December 7, 2018. As per the notice issued by Department of Economic Affairs, officers of central and State governments, the RBI and PSBs, holding analogous post on regular basis are eligible to apply. PTI

'Tax revenue set to beat forecast'

Strong recovery to help tax take surpass budget estimates by 10%, say officials

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India's government expects tax revenues for the current fiscal year to be 10% above budget, beating forecasts for the first time in four years, two officials said, as the economy powers back towards pre-pandemic levels.

Tax revenues, budgeted at ₹15.45 lakh crore for the year to March 31, have been below projections ever since 2017-18 as the economy lost momentum even before COVID-19 and then slipped into a deep recession.

But now retail sales have picked up and exports are surging at a record rate, suggesting it is rebounding faster than anticipated after a devastating second wave.

India's economy grew 20.1% between April and June, versus a 24.4% contrac-



Belied expectations: Tax revenues had been below estimates since FY18 as the economy lost momentum. - G.R.N. SOMASHEKAR

tion during the same period last year.

"Activity levels have improved a lot. All indicators are showing a faster-than-anticipated recovery, we are set to beat our own [tax] estimates this year if all remains well," one of the officials said.

The finance ministry did

not immediately reply to e-mails and messages seeking comment on tax revenues.

If tax payments remain strong and the government is able to hit the 2021-22 target for revenues from its ongoing privatisation programme, then it will be able to beat its fiscal deficit projection of 6.8% by as much as

30-40 basis points, the second official said.

Air India, LIC boost

India aims to raise ₹1.75 lakh crore in the current fiscal year through sales of stakes in state-run companies and is hoping the sale of Air India to the Tata Group will provide an impetus.

The listing of state-owned Life Insurance Corp. could fetch up to a further ₹1 lakh crore, according to another official. "We are working very hard to complete the listing of LIC and we should be able to do it by March," the third official said.

Rating agency Moody's Investors Service this month upgraded its outlook on India to stable from negative, saying downside risks in the country and its financial institutions had eased.

Apex body for cybersecurity missing: Pant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

There are cybersecurity organisations in the country but no central body responsible for safety in the online space, a top cybersecurity official said.

National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) Rajesh Pant also said the proposed national cybersecurity strategy will address this gap in the security framework.

He said India has excellent organisations and there has been 'fantastic' transformation in the cybersecurity space in the last one year. "By and large, a framework is in place but there is no central apex organisation today in terms of allocation of business rules," he added.



Climate focus: The Bank aims to finance infra projects to mitigate climate change worth \$50 bn by 2030. - REUTERS

India needs to bolster its health infrastructure: Jin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India should strike a balance between ramping up physical infrastructure and the social infrastructure such as healthcare systems, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) president Jin Liqun said on Tuesday.

Stressing that the country faces a 'huge need' to strengthen its healthcare infrastructure, the AIIB president said that the multilateral lender would look to fund both social as well as climate-resilient infrastructure in India in the coming years.

The AIIB will align its operations with the goals of the Paris Agreement to cope with climate change by July 2023, and expects to finance infrastructure projects to mitigate and adapt to climate change worth \$50 billion by 2030, Mr. Jin said at a press conference ahead of the governors' board meet.

"Supplementing efforts" Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her interventions, emphasised the importance of multilateral banks in supplementing countries' efforts to cope with the COVID-19 crisis and the looming climate crisis.

"She highlighted some of the expectations from the Bank, including the need to explore investment oppor-

tunities in the creation and development of assets in social infrastructure sectors; to further intensify private sector capital mobilisation for inclusive and green development; and to set up a Resident Board and Regional Offices to ensure accountability, transparency and quality of operations and investments," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Mr. Jin said that India needed to develop modern infrastructure and when the Bank screened proposals, it worked with the government to ensure that priority was given to infrastructure projects which could deal with climate change.

"Making key progress" "I can assure you that we are making very much important progress in this regard. Second, we financed the projects to deal with the pandemic in India and, at this moment, I can see the projects we financed are already working. I am very glad to see the Indian government is quickly containing the pandemic," the AIIB president said.

"What we are looking forward to is when we can quickly go back to normal infrastructure investment operations... which can also help the healthcare systems and social infrastructure."

Axis Bank Q2 net jumps 86% to ₹3,133 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Axis Bank Ltd. reported second quarter standalone net profit jumped 86% to ₹3,133 crore.

Net Interest Income (NII) grew 8% yoy to ₹7,900 crore. Specific loan-loss provisions stood at ₹927 crore (₹2,865 crore).

As on September 30, the bank's reported gross NPA and net NPA levels stood at 3.53% and 1.08% respectively as against 3.85% and 1.20% as on June 30.

MD & CEO Amitabh Chaudhry said, "We continue to focus on SMEs and mid corporates and on retail, we see better disbursements and growth driven by secured products."

'Chip scarcity to cap growth of passenger vehicles at 11-13%'

Supply issue impact on growth may be 400-600 bps: Crisil

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Hit by the global shortage of semiconductors, sales growth for India's passenger vehicle (PV) segment will be limited to 11-13% this fiscal, according to Crisil Ratings.

But for the supply issue, growth forecasts could have been 400-600 basis points (bps) higher, it said. Conclusions are from Crisil's analysis of India's top three PV makers with combined market share of about 71%.

"Since the pandemic began, preference for personal mobility has increased, leading to more-than-expected demand for PVs... The up-



shot of the chip shortage has been PV production cuts, which will [reflect in] the ongoing festive season, when sales are typically higher... we foresee tempered overall growth for PVs this fiscal," senior director Anuj Sethi said. Semiconductors, or chips, are crucial for features such as navigation, in-

tetainment and traction control. For customers, the waiting period for some models has risen from 2-3 months to 6-9 months, Crisil noted. Pandemic-induced uncertainties had led to sharp swings in orders by OEMs, which account for 10-12% of global chip demand.

"Poor inventory planning by OEMs, chip hoarding by Chinese firms, and natural disasters affecting major chip factories further exacerbated the problem," it added. Shortages are expected to continue into the first quarter of next fiscal with capacity addition not keeping pace with demand.

Adani eyes infrastructure ventures in Sri Lanka

Gautam Adani meets President, PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COLOMBO

The Adani Group will explore infrastructure partnerships in Sri Lanka, apart from developing a Colombo Port terminal, chairman Gautam Adani said following meetings with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and PM Mahinda Rajapaksa.

"Privileged to meet President @GotabayaR and PM @PresRajapaksa. In addition to developing Colombo Port's Western Container Terminal, the Adani Group will explore other infrastructure partnerships. India's strong bonds with Sri Lanka are anchored to centuries' old historic ties," Mr. Adani tweeted on Tuesday, referring to the eponymous group's \$700 million port-terminal deal, with a local partner and the Sri Lanka



Ports Authority. Mr. Adani, who had a private meeting with President Gotabaya on Monday, called on PM Mahinda on Tuesday, sources in Colombo said.

A team from the Indian group visited the northern Mannar district to inspect a wind-power farm, officials of the Ceylon Electricity Board were quoted as saying in local media.

Canara Bank Q2 net jumps to ₹1,333 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Canara Bank on Tuesday reported a threefold jump in Q2 net profit to ₹1,333 crore on the back of treasury and non-interest income besides higher cash recovery. Net interest income was a tad lower at ₹6,273 crore (₹6,305 crore) while total income rose 2.6% to ₹21,331 crore.

Addressing a virtual media conference, MD and CEO L. V. Prabhakar said operating profit grew 22% to ₹5,604 crore as against Rs 4,597 crore in the year-earlier period.

Treasury income surged 95% to ₹1,754 crore while non-interest income rose 37.5% to ₹4,268 crore. NPA provision declined by 24% to ₹2,678 crore with an improvement in recovery of loans, Mr. Prabhakar said.

HC restrains Invesco from calling Zee shareholders' meet

U.S. investment firm flagged corporate governance issues

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

An Indian court on Tuesday temporarily restrained Zee Entertainment Enterprises' top investor Invesco from calling a shareholder meeting, in a win for the TV network that sent its shares higher.

U.S. investment firm Invesco, which owns almost 18% of Zee via two funds, wanted an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of shareholders in a bid to oust the Indian company's CEO Punit Goenka and suggested that six new independent board members be appointed.

The nomination of individuals for the board does not speak well of their independence, Justice G.S. Patel of



the Bombay High Court observed, adding that Invesco's notice to remove Mr. Goenka "without proposing a replacement puts Zee into a statutory black hole."

"Sometimes, it happens that a company must be saved from its own shareholders, however well-intentioned," Justice Patel said.

Zee's shares ended 4.3% higher after the Bombay

High Court's order.

Zee and Invesco did not respond to requests for comment. The court last week proposed that Zee call a shareholder meeting, but ruled in favour of the Indian TV network on Tuesday following arguments by its lawyer.

Invesco's calls for a shake up at Zee over corporate governance comes as the firm is planning a merger with the local unit of Japan's Sony Group.

That move is set to create India's biggest broadcaster but Invesco has raised concerns about options given to Zee's founding family, that includes its CEO Goenka, to raise their stake in the merged entity to 20%. The founding family of Zee currently owns 4% of its shares.

COCHIN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (CSEZA)
Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India,
CSEZ Administration Building, Kakkanad, Kochin - 682 037.

NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Applications in prescribed proforma are invited by the Chairman, Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority (CSEZA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India from eligible, reputed and experienced Central or State Public Works Organisations/Public Sector Enterprises registered in India meeting the qualification and eligibility criteria for rendering services of operation, maintenance & management and project management consultancy of Estate and IWMS in CSEZ, covering the scope of services specified/detailed in the EOI. Applicants can view/download the EOI document from www.csezaauthority.in or <https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> (Tender ID 2021_CSEZA_629309_1) from 09.00hrs IST on 21st October, 2021 to 1500 hrs IST on 26th November, 2021. Response to EOI must be submitted under two bid system and shall be addressed to the Chairman, Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority, CSEZ Administration Building, Kakkanad, Kochi - 682 037 so as to reach this office before 1500hrs IST on 26th November 2021.

Sd/- Secretary-in-Charge, CSEZA
Kakkanad
26th October 2021
Tel.No.0484-2413111 (ext.204)

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स) भुवनेश्वर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR
Sijua, Post : Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar - 751019

AIIMS/BBSR/ENG/ELE-2021/BURN UNIT/120 Dated: 25th Oct 2021

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar invites e-Tender for "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning for Intercom System of New Constructed Burn Unit building at Hospital Complex, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar." Detailed description, terms & conditions and document for processing e-Tender along with last date of submission can be viewed and downloaded from e-Tender portal of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar website www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(An autonomous Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)
P.O. NEW FOREST, DEHRADUN - 248 006

Notice calling for EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for carrying out Studies for Centre For Forest Policy Research

ICFRE invites expression of interest from prospective Individuals/Organizations/NGOs for undertaking Policy Research Studies on 06 areas/topics. The Individuals/Organizations/NGOs may opt for one or more policy research studies based on their expertise and submit proposals. The details of Policy Research Studies on the 06 subjects alongwith format for submission of proposal, Terms of Reference (ToR) is available at ICFRE website www.icfre.org. The application in prescribed format should be accompanied with a Demand Draft for Rs. 500/- drawn in favor of Account Officer, Policy Research Studies, ICFRE and should be delivered at the address below latest by 15.30 hrs on 30.11.2021.

Assistant Director General (Education & RB)
Indian council of Forestry Research & Education,
P.O. New Forest, Dehra Dun - 248 006
Telephone: 0135-2758348, E-mail : adg_edu@icfre.org

Project Management Unit
Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project
91, Race Course, Near Police Line, Dehradun-248001
Phone: 0135-4079338, 419358119541 Email: ukufm@pmu.gov.in

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Application for Individual Consultant)
(Open Competitive selection of individual consultant)

The Government of Uttarakhand is being financed the World Bank toward the cost of Public Financial Management Strengthening Project in Uttarakhand and intends to apply part of the proceeds for following consultancy services-

S. No.	Individual Consultants	Method of Procurement	Last date of Submission
1	Application for the following Individual Consultants are invited for Project Management Unit (PMU) Uttarakhand Development Directorate, Dehradun of the Government of Uttarakhand (GoUK): 1. Program Manager (Implementation) 2. Project Manager (Technology) 3. MIS Expert 4. Municipal Account Expert	Open Competitive selection of individual consultant	16 Nov 2021 by 17:00 Hrs IST

The Term of Reference (TOR) for these assignments can be found at Audit Department Website <http://www.uttarakhandaudit.gov.in>. Further information can be obtained during office hours from 10:00-17:00 hrs IST. Application must be delivered in a document form (hard copy or electronic pdf) at the address or e-mail id given above (in person, by post or by e-mail).

*Candidate who have applied against previous advertisement dated 16th June 2021, need not to apply again.

PROJECT DIRECTOR

RE-E-TENDER NOTICE

Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation Ltd. (KEPCO) invites eTenders for the **Supply, Installation and Commissioning of "REEFER CONTAINER WITH PCM TYPE REFRIGERATION SYSTEM"** for the use of the Corporation. eTender No. 031/2021-22/KSPDC/RC-PCM-RS. Last Date for Bid Submission: 10.11.2021. For more details please logon to www.kepco.co.in / www.kepconews.blogspot.com

Sd/- MD, KEPCO

COCHIN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (CSEZA)
Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India,
CSEZ Administration Building, Kakkanad, Kochin - 682 037.

NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Applications in prescribed proforma are invited by the Chairman, Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority (CSEZA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India from eligible, reputed and experienced Central or State Public Works Organisations/Public Sector Enterprises registered in India meeting the qualification and eligibility criteria for rendering services of operation, maintenance & management and project management consultancy of PDS in CSEZ, covering the scope of services specified/detailed in the EOI. Applicants can view/download the EOI document from www.csezaauthority.in or <https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> (Tender ID: 2021_CSEZA_629328_1) from 18.00hrs IST on 20th October, 2021 to 1500 hrs IST on 25th November, 2021. Response to EOI must be submitted under two bid system and shall be addressed to the Chairman, Cochin Special Economic Zone Authority, CSEZ Administration Building, Kakkanad, Kochi - 682 037 so as to reach this office before 1500hrs IST on 25th November 2021.

Kakkanad
Sd/- Secretary-in-Charge, CSEZA
26th October 2021
Tel.No.0484-2413111 (ext.204)

Government of Kerala
TENDER
FOREST & WILD LIFE DEPARTMENT

Window No:iprd 21/e 181 • Tender No.R-1603/2020(November 2021)•Divisional Forest Officer, Timber Sales Division, Kozhikode, vanasree, Mathottam, Arakinar P.O-673028, Phone-0495-2414702• E-auction sales of timber at Chaliyam, Parappa, Kannothe & Kuppady dumping depots on 03/11/21&22/11/21.03/11/21,12/11/21&22/11/21,12/11/21&22/11/21 respectively. PAC: 7 Crore.

Window No:iprd 20/e 182 • Tender No. E-4552/2021• Divisional Forest Officer, Sandal Division, Marayoor P.O, Idukki-685620, Phone-04865-252988• E-auction of sandalwood oil kept at Forest headquarters Thiruvananthapuram on 24/11/21 from sandal division, Marayoor EMD: 50,000/- PAC: 2.35 Crore

Window No:iprd 20/e 183 • Tender No. E-4091/2021 • Divisional Forest Officer, Sandal Division, Marayoor P.O, Idukki-685620, Phone-04865-252988• E-auction sale of sandalwood on 08/12/09/12/2021 from Govt.Sandal depot, Marayoor EMD:50,000/- PAC:50 Crore

Window No:iprd 21/e 184 • Tender No.A-2103/2020 • Divisional Forest Officer, Timber Sales Division, Perumbavoor, Mudikkal P.O-683547, Phone-0484-2522219 • E-auction of timber on 01/11/21,18/11/26/11/2021 from Chalukudy, veettoor, Mudikkal, Chettikulam & Varapuzha depots of Timber sales division, Perumbavoor • PAC : 2 Crore.

Full details on Tender advertisement appeared above are available before the Office from which the tender originates. For Details on all Tenders above please visit www.kerala.gov.tender/index.htm. Please put in search the Window No for getting the advertisement of your choice.

South Africa proves too strong for WI

Markram scores unbeaten half-century in eight-wicket win after Nortje and Pretorius bowl well



Stemming the flow: Nortje proved difficult to get away for the West Indies batters. ■ AP

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES

Lendl Simmons b Rabada 16 (35b), Evin Lewis c Rabada b Maharaj 56 (35b, 3x4, 6x6), Nicholas Pooran c Miller b Maharaj 12 (7b, 2x4), Chris Gayle c Klaasen b Pretorius 12 (12b, 1x6), Kieron Pollard c van der Dussen b Pretorius 26 (20b, 2x4, 1x6), Andre Russell b Nortje 5 (4b, 1x4), Shimron Hetmyer run out 1 (2b), Dwayne Bravo (not out) 8 (5b, 1x4), Hayden Walsh c Hendricks b Pretorius 0 (1b), Akeal Hosen (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-2, w-4, nb-1): 7; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 143.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-73 (Lewis, 10.3 overs), 2-87 (Pooran, 12.2), 3-89 (Simmons, 13.2), 4-121 (Gayle, 17.1), 5-132 (Russell, 18.2), 6-133 (Hetmyer, 18.4), 7-137 (Pollard, 19.2), 8-137 (Walsh, 19.3).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Markram 3-1-22-0, Rabada 4-0-27-1, Nortje 4-0-14-1, Maharaj 4-0-24-2, Shamsi 3-0-37-0, Pretorius 2-0-17-3.

SOUTH AFRICA

Temba Bavuma run out 2 (3b), Reeza Hendricks c Hetmyer b Hosen 39 (30b, 4x4, 1x6), Rassie van der Dussen (not out) 43 (51b, 3x4), Aiden Markram (not out) 51 (26b, 2x4, 4x6); Extras (lb-1, w-8): 9; Total (for two wkts. in 18.2 overs): 144.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Bavuma, 0.6), 2-61 (Hendricks, 9.2).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Hosen 4-0-27-1, Rampaul 3-0-22-0, Russell 3.2-0-36-0, Walsh 3-0-26-0, Bravo 4-0-23-0, Pollard 1-0-9-0.

Toss: South Africa; MoM: Nortje.

South Africa won by eight wickets with 10 balls to spare.

ICC T20 WC

AYAN ACHARYA
DUBAI

Defending champion West Indies suffered its second successive defeat at the ICC Twenty20 World Cup as its bowlers failed to defend 143 in a Super 12 match against South Africa here on Tuesday. South Africa won with eight wickets and 10 balls to spare.

South Africa lost captain Temba Bavuma to a run-out in the first over of the run chase. Reeza Hendricks – opening in Quinton de Kock's absence – and Rassie van der Dussen then added 57 for the second wicket before Shimron Hetmyer's diving catch at deep square removed Hen-

dricks. But that didn't deter Aiden Markram, who hit an unbeaten 51 off just 26 balls with two boundaries and four sixes, to not only deny West Indies a whiff of a comeback but also become his team's highest run-scorer in men's T20Is in 2021. Van der Dussen finished unbeaten on 43.

Earlier, South Africa chose to field. Off-spinner Markram and Kagiso Rabada shared the new ball and kept the West Indies openers quiet before Evin Lewis finally broke the shackles in the fourth over.

He clubbed Rabada for a four and a six before hammering two more sixes and a four off Markram in the next over. Markram, who had

gone for only four in his first two, conceded 18 in his third over.

At the other end, Lendl Simmons, struggling to get going, was dropped on four by stand-in wicketkeeper Heinrich Klaasen off Anrich Nortje.

Meanwhile, Lewis didn't let the tempo drop, slog sweeping Tabraiz Shamsi over deep-square to bring up his 50 off 32 balls as West Indies got to 65 without loss at the halfway mark.

But with Simmons unable to find gaps or go aerial, the pressure to keep up the scoring rate got to Lewis, who holed out to Rabada on the deep midwicket rope for a 35-ball 56.

Nicholas Pooran, sent in at

No. 3, was caught at long-off cheaply.

Simmons followed suit when he was put out of his misery by a slower ball from Rabada that crashed into his stumps.

Gayle falls

West Indies was 95 for three in 15 overs when Chris Gayle – batting at No. 4 for the first time in T20Is – and Kieron Pollard took 16 off Shamsi's third over; both hitting a six each. But Gayle was caught behind before he could inflict more damage.

Pollard fell for a 20-ball 26, picking up van der Dussen at a very straight mid-off. Nortje and Pretorius then mixed up their pace to finish with four wickets for 12 runs in the last

Innings scan

West Indies	Dots	South Africa
56	9	34
9	8	9
8	43/0	5
7.15	7.85	42/1

Next assignment

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

South Africa: Oct. 30 vs Sri Lanka, Sharjah, 3.30 p.m. IST

two overs.

In the end, West Indies was left to rue the handy runs it left behind on the field.

de Kock refuses to play WI match

AYAN ACHARYA
DUBAI

Quinton de Kock made himself unavailable for South Africa's ICC Twenty20 World Cup match against the West Indies in Dubai on Tuesday in the wake of Cricket South Africa's directive that all players should take a knee before matches.

The team had said last year that the players could kneel, raise a fist, or stand to attention to show their support in the fight for social justice. de Kock has refrained from engaging in any expression of support.

Cricket South Africa on Tuesday issued a statement on de Kock's withdrawal: "Cricket South Africa (CSA)



Quinton de Kock. ■ AFP

has noted the personal decision by South African wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock not to 'take the knee' ahead of Tuesday's game against the West Indies. All players had been required,

in line with a directive of the CSA Board on Monday evening, to 'take the knee' in a united and consistent stance against racism.

"After considering all relevant issues, including the freedom of choice of players, the Board had made it clear it was imperative for the team to be seen taking a stand against racism, especially given SA's history. The Board's view was that while diversity can and should find expression in many facets of daily lives, this did not apply when it came to taking a stand against racism. The Board will await a report from the team management before deciding on the next step."

'We respect Quinton's decision'

Bavuma says there has been no time to discuss the issue

AYAN ACHARYA
DUBAI

South African skipper Temba Bavuma was measured in his response when asked about Quinton de Kock's withdrawal from the match against the West Indies. "Quinton is an adult. We respect his decision. We respect his convictions," said Bavuma.

"I don't know how far it's going to develop. I mean, the decision that he (de Kock) has taken is only today, so I can only speak about what has happened today."

Asked if de Kock had explained the reason behind not taking the knee to him or anyone in the management,

Bavuma said, "I think you've got to appreciate the fact that the instruction came this morning from the board, and there wasn't a great deal of time for us to thoroughly discuss the matter."

West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard said he was unaware of any South African player refusing to take a knee.

"For me, personally, I don't know of any player who didn't want to take it. I'm not aware of that. So this is news to me," said Pollard.

When told that the player who refused to take the knee was his Mumbai Indians teammate de Kock, Pollard



Bavuma. ■ REUTERS

said, "I can't speak about something I don't know. I don't want to speculate. I have a lot on my plate."

Rauf, Malik and Asif star in Pakistan's win over New Zealand

The fast bowler's four-for limits the Kiwis to 134 before the two batters power Babar's men to their second straight victory

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHARJAH

Fast bowler Haris Rauf took a career-best four for 22 to help Pakistan defeat New Zealand by five wickets and record its second successive win in the ICC T20 World Cup on Tuesday.

Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell both scored 27 for New Zealand, while skipper Kane Williamson made a laborious 25 off 26 balls as New Zealand was limited to 134 for eight.

Veteran Shoaib Malik (27) and Asif Ali (26) came together with Pakistan wobbling at 87 for five and took the team to victory with eight balls to spare.

Pakistan had lost skipper Babar Azam to Tim Southee – bowled for nine in the sixth over – as the pacer took his 100th wicket in his 84th T20I. Southee is only the third bowler, after Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan (117, 92 T20Is) and Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga (107, 84) to take 100 in the format.

Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi trapped both Fakhar Zaman



Leap of success: Rauf is over the moon after castling Guptill. ■ GETTY IMAGES

(11) and Mohammad Rizwan leg-before to leave Pakistan reeling at 69 for four. In between those dismissals, Conway took a brilliant diving catch at wide long-off to dismiss Mohammad Hafeez off left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner. When Imad Wasim fell for 11, Pakistan needed 47

off 31 deliveries.

It was left to Asif, who smashed two consecutive sixes off Southee in the 17th over, to bring down the target to 24 off 18. Malik hit a four and a six off Santner in the next over before Asif's six off Boult settled the issue. Earlier, Rauf did most of

the damage as the Kiwis struggled on a sluggish pitch after being asked to bat. He provided the breakthrough by getting rid of Martin Guptill. Rauf also accounted for Conway and Glenn Phillips in one over before castling Santner off the final delivery of the innings.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND

Martin Guptill b Rauf 17 (20b, 3x4), Daryl Mitchell c Fakhar b Imad 27 (20b, 1x4, 2x6), Kane Williamson run out 25 (26b, 2x4, 1x6), James Neesham c Fakhar b Hafeez 1 (2b), Devon Conway c Babar b Rauf 27 (24b, 3x4), Glenn Phillips c Hasan b Rauf 13 (15b, 1x4), Tim Seifert c Hafeez b Afridi 8 (8b, 1x4), Mitchell Santner b Rauf 6 (5b, 1x4), Ish Sodhi (not out) 2 (2b); Extras (b-1, lb-5, nb-2): 8; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 134.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-36 (Guptill, 5.2 overs), 2-54 (Mitchell, 8.2), 3-56 (Neesham, 9.1), 4-90 (Williamson, 13.1), 5-116 (Conway, 17.1), 6-116 (Phillips, 17.3), 7-125 (Seifert, 18.6), 8-134 (Santner, 19.6).

PAKISTAN BOWLING

Afridi 4-1-21-1, Imad 4-0-24-1, Hasan 3-0-26-0, Rauf 4-0-22-4, Shadab 3-0-19-0, Hafeez 2-0-16-1.

PAKISTAN

Mohammad Rizwan lbw b Sodhi 33 (34b, 5x4), Babar Azam b Southee 9 (11b, 1x4), Fakhar Zaman lbw b Sodhi 11 (17b, 1x6), Mohammad Hafeez c Conway b Santner 11 (6b, 1x6), Shoaib Malik (not out) 26 (20b, 2x4, 1x6),

Imad Wasim lbw b Boult 11 (12b, 1x4), Asif Ali (not out) 27 (12b, 1x4, 3x6); Extras (lb-2, w-5): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 18.4 overs): 135

FALL OF WICKETS

1-28 (Babar, 5.1), 2-47 (Fakhar, 8.6), 3-63 (Hafeez, 10.6), 4-69 (Rizwan, 11.4), 5-87 (Imad, 14.5).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Santner 4-0-33-1, Southee 4-0-25-1, Boult 3.4-0-29-1, Neesham 3-0-18-0, Sodhi 4-0-28-2.

Toss: Pakistan; MoM: Rauf.

Pakistan won by five wickets with eight balls to spare.

Innings scan

New Zealand	Dots	Pakistan
53	12	50
12	3	10
3	42/1	6
6.70	7.23	30/1

Next assignment

Pakistan: Oct. 29 vs Afghanistan, Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

New Zealand: Oct. 31 vs India, Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

Should India play Shardul for Bhuvneshwar?

AMOL KARHADKAR
DUBAI

Hardik Pandya's inclusion solely as the finisher may have emerged the biggest talking point during India's opening loss to Pakistan in its opening T20 World Cup game. But given Hardik's inability to bowl, India's decision to utilise Bhuvneshwar Kumar as the third pacer ahead of Shardul Thakur was a surprise.

As the Indian contingent opted against training for the second day in succession, it has more to ponder over the Bhuvneshwar conundrum.

Notwithstanding the fact that the move didn't work – he was hit for a four and a six in the first over of Pakistan's chase – preferring Bhuvneshwar over Shardul appeared to be based on reputation than current form or conditions.

Extremely useful

Historically, Bhuvneshwar has been extremely useful in the PowerPlay, be it in the



Lacking fizz: Bhuvneshwar has been going for plenty in the death overs in recent years. ■ TWITTER/BCCI

IPL or T20Is. His economy rate of 5.72 in his T20I career is a testament to his utility at the start of the innings. However, over the last decade, Bhuvneshwar hasn't been as effective at the death.

More than lack of pace, the main reason for Bhuvneshwar going for plenty in the final overs is the absence of swing in the latter half of the innings. His ability to move the ball has made him

a potent weapon, especially at the start. But in the United Arab Emirates, where a seamer seldom gets assistance either in the air or off the surface, it's the use of a bowler's wrist combined with his pace that becomes crucial.

Take Shaheen Afridi, for example. Not only did he bowl at 140-plus kmph consistently but also managed to move the ball appreciably –

quite exceptional given the conditions – that helped him trouble the Indian batters.

Bhuvneshwar, on the other hand, hasn't been a consistent wicket-taker in PowerPlays even in the IPL over the last couple of years. Add to it the fact that Bhuvneshwar isn't of great use in the middle and at the death in T20Is, and India surely needs to deliberate on giving Shardul a go in these conditions.

Shardul's uncanny ability to strike against the odds in the middle overs, thanks to his cross-seam bowling and change of pace, has come in handy for his IPL franchise. Add to that his utility of bowling his four overs at any stage of the innings – and having emerged as an effective hitter lower down the order – and Shardul becomes a better option.

Virat Kohli had backed Bhuvneshwar ahead of the tournament, citing the last over he bowled to AB de Villiers in the IPL.

Dravid applies for coach's post

Laxman could be approached to helm NCA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Rahul Dravid is all but certain to be the Indian cricket team's next head coach after he formally applied for the position on Tuesday.

With Dravid applying, the job for the Cricket Advisory Committee becomes easier as there aren't any big names in fray who can match the batting great's stature.

It is reliably learnt that he is the choice of BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah.

"Yes, Rahul has formally applied today as it's the last day of the deadline. His team at the NCA, bowling coach Paras (Mhambrey) and fielding coach Abhay (Sharma) have already applied. His application was just a formality," a senior BCCI official told PTI on Tuesday.

V.V.S. Laxman could again be back in the fray to head



Synergy: The combination of Dravid and Laxman can give new direction to Indian cricket. ■ FILE PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

the National Cricket Academy when the post falls vacant.

If selected, it is learnt from sources, that Laxman would not be able to continue as the mentor of Sunrisers Hyderabad and also has to leave his media commitments.

As the National coach and the NCA head are expected to work in close coordination, Dravid and Laxman, who have had a close bond

since the time they played for South Zone and subsequently for India for close to a decade and half, it could be a perfect choice.

Laxman, it is learnt, was reluctant to take up NCA offer but BCCI would once again approach him. In case he again turns down the offer, Anil Kumble is an option but it remains to be seen whether the BCCI would approach the former India captain.

Sameer third time lucky against Keun

FRENCH OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PARIS

India's Sameer Verma progressed to the second round of the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament with a straight game win over Lee Dong Keun here on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old from Madhya Pradesh, who had won three titles to qualify for the 2018 World Tour finals, defeated the Korean 21-14, 21-12 in 54 minutes in the men's singles opening round.

This was Sameer's first win over the Korean, having lost to him twice in the past.

In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapil and Sikki Reddy put up a gallant fight before losing 19-21, 19-21 to the fifth-seeded Malaysian combination of Chan Peng Soon and Goh Liu Ying in their opening match.

TV PICKS

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

IN BRIEF



Princepal picked by Stockton Kings

BENGALURU
Basketball player Princepal Singh has been selected by the Stockton Kings in the 2021 G League draft. He was the fifth pick in the third round of the draft. Stockton Kings is the G League affiliate of NBA team Sacramento Kings. Princepal, a graduate of the NBA Academy India, was part of the Sacramento Kings Summer League roster this year. Sacramento Kings is owned by Indian-American businessman Vivek Ranadive. The G League is the NBA's official minor league.

Celta Vigo beats Getafe

MADRID
Celta Vigo defeated last-placed Getafe 3-0 in the LaLiga on Monday.
The result: Getafe 0 lost to Celta Vigo 3 (Mina 55, 73, Aspas 58). PTI

Bopanna and Shapovalov advance

ST. PETERSBURG
Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov knocked out second seeded Raven Klaasen and Ben McLachlan 7-5, 6-4 in the first round of the \$932,370 ATP tennis tournament here.
Other results: WTA, **Courmayeur, Italy:** Allyson Riske (USA) bt Anika Zaima 6-1, 6-1. **Doubles:** Eri Hozumi (Jpn) & Shuai Zhang (Chn) bt Rosalie van der Hoek (Ned) & Anika 6-3, 1-1 (retired).

Quarterfinalists spotted in DGC league

NEW DELHI
After under two weeks of action, the quarterfinalists are ready to clash in a knockout format in the inaugural Delhi Golf Club league here.
The quarterfinals are scheduled on Wednesday, semifinals on Friday and final on Sunday at the Delhi Golf Club course.
In the league stage, 18 teams were divided into four groups and two from each group qualified for the quarterfinals. In the playoffs, each team will field seven pairs (14 players) in a match. The team with higher match-points wins.
Quarterfinal line-up: Delhi Tigers-Tee Birds; Bajaj Foundation-K Devils; Coca Cola-BMW; Baale Golf-Athletic Drive.

Antetokounmpo shines as Bucks down Pacers

LOS ANGELES
Giannis Antetokounmpo finished with 30 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as Milwaukee Bucks made the most of Indiana Pacers' errors to win 119-109 in an NBA match-up on Monday.
The results: Hornets 129 lost to Celtics 140 (OT); Pacers 109 lost to Bucks 119; Hawks 122 bt Pistons 104; Nets 104 bt Wizards 90; Heat 107 bt Orlando Magic 90; Raptors 108 lost to Bulls 111; Timberwolves 98 lost to Pelicans 107 Nuggets 87 lost to Cavaliers 99; Clippers 116 bt Trail Blazers 86. AFP

Kushagra and Srihari rewrite National records

14-year-old Ridhima beats Olympian Maana for women's 100m backstroke gold

AQUATICS

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

Kushagra Rawat and Srihari Nataraj opened their campaigns at the 74th senior National aquatic championships in style, rewriting the National records in 400m freestyle and 100m backstroke events respectively, at the Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre on Tuesday.

Delhi's Kushagra beat his nearest rival, Aneesh Gowda of Karnataka, by nearly six seconds, touching the pad in 3:53.68, and in the process shaved 1.25 off Sajan Prakash's previous record mark. Olympian and Karnataka's lead swimmer Srihari lowered his own previous best from the 2019 Nationals by just over half a second, coming home in 55.10.

One more mark

Srihari later joined his teammates R. Sambhav, Aneesh and Tanish George Mathew to erase the 4x200m freestyle record set in 2016 by Railways, as Karnataka emerged victorious with a timing of 7:37.65, nearly eight seconds faster than Railways' time.

In the day's much-anticipated race, the women's 100m backstroke, Karnataka's Ridhima Veerendra Kumar, all of 14, beat Olympian Maana Patel by nearly one second, taking the gold in 1:04.40.

Jaismine stuns Simranjit; Renu bests Jamuna

BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI
HISAR

Young Asian championships bronze medallist Jaismine Lamboria shocked World championships medallist Simranjit Kaur in one of the biggest upsets of the National women's boxing championships at the St. Joseph's International School here on Tuesday.

The Bhiwani girl recorded a 3-2 win over her Olympian opponent in a 60kg semifinal bout to set up a title clash with seasoned Railways boxer Meena Rani.

The lanky Jaismine used her long reach to deliver punches and stay out of Simranjit's grasp. She moved nicely to minimize the damage from her experienced rival's precise combinations. Simranjit's protest over the result was not accepted. "I did not get overawed by



Commanding win: Kushagra Rawat beat his nearest rival by nearly six seconds in the 400m freestyle. *K. MURALI KUMAR

Jaismine, right, used a long reach to her advantage against Simranjit. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Simranjit's stature. I just focused on giving my 100 percent," said Jaismine, who had recovered from a bout of COVID-19 to reach the final in her first competition in 60kg.

Rookie boxer Renu stunned Worlds medallist Jamuna Boro 5-0 in a 54kg contest. Renu boxed from a distance and relied on her counter-attacks to keep Ja-



Cashing in: Jaismine, right, used a long reach to her advantage against Simranjit. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

munna at bay and reach the final on her debut.
The results (semifinals): 48kg: Manju Rani (RSPB) bt S. Kalaivani (TN) 5-0, Nitu (Har) bt Laxmi (Del) 5-0.
50kg: Komal (Pun) bt Neha Bai (Jha) 3-2, Anamika (RSPB) bt Puja Bishnoi (Raj) RSC-R2.
52kg: Nikhat Zareen (Tel) bt Rashi Sharma (UP) 5-0, Minakshi (RSPB) bt Jyoti Gulia (RSPB) 3-2.
54kg: Renu (Har) bt Jamuna



Improved timing: Srihari lowered his own previous best in the 100m backstroke. *K. MURALI KUMAR

beating the current National record holder and a swimmer six years her senior, would feel special.

"I was not scared as such and took it as a challenge," said Ridhima after the win.

"I just swam my race and thought only of bettering my own time.

jury, took the gold in men's 50m butterfly with a timing of 24.90.

The results:

Men: 400m freestyle: Kushagra Rawat (Del), 3:53.68 (NMR; OR: 3:54.93, Sajan Prakash, 2018); **100m backstroke:** Srihari Nataraj (Kar), 55:10 (NMR; OR: 55.63, Srihari Nataraj, 2019).

200m breaststroke: M. Lohit (RSPB), 2:19.00; **50m butterfly:** Sajan Prakash (Police), 24:90; **4x200m freestyle:** Karnataka, 7:37.65 (NMR; OR: 7:45.24, RSPB, 2016).

Women: 400m freestyle: Shivangi Sarma (Asm), 4:31.86; **100m backstroke:** Ridhima Veerendra Kumar (Kar), 1:04.40. **200m breaststroke:** Apaksha Fernandes (Mah), 2:45.97; **50m butterfly:** Rujuta Khade (Mah), 28.38; **4x200m freestyle:** Karnataka, 9:08.02.

Water polo: Men: Punjab 18 bt Assam 0; Kerala 14 bt Manipur 2; Maharashtra 24 bt Karnataka 9; RSPB 22 bt Police 5; Bengal 17 bt Haryana 1; Women: Karnataka 19 bt Manipur 1; Police 9 bt Kerala 7; Maharashtra 15 bt Manipur 0.

"I am a sprinter, so my first 50m is always faster. I have seen her (Maana) races and she is experienced and is a lot faster in the second 50m. So, I knew that I had to push myself more."

Elsewhere, the seasoned Sajan Prakash, who is coming back from a shoulder in-

Harikrishna, Harika lead Indian challenge

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

P. Harikrishna leads a 10-man Indian squad in the year's richest Swiss League event – the \$425,000 FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss – beginning at Riga, Latvia on Wednesday.

In the women's section, which offers \$125,000 in prize money, D. Harika spearheads the five-member Indian team.

The creamy layer of the event is formed by World No. 2 Fabiano Caruana (USA), Levon Aronian (Armenia), Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (both France).

Besides the seventh seed Harikrishna, other members of the Indian squad are, B. Adhiban, Nihal Sarin, D.

Gukesh, K. Sasikiran, Arjun Erigaisi, S.P. Sethuraman, R. Praggnanandhaa, Surya Shekhar Ganguly and R. Praggnanandhaa, Surya Shekhar Ganguly and R. Praggnanandhaa, Surya Shekhar Ganguly and R. Praggnanandhaa.

Among the women, apart from fourth seed Harika, the other Indians are R. Vaishali, Padmini Rout, Vantika Agarwal and Divya Deshmukh.

From this elite competition, the top two finishers qualify for the 2022 Candidates tournament while the rest from the top-eight will get to play in the 2022 FIDE Grand Prix.

The winner receives \$70,000 while even those finishing between the 31st and 40th places will get \$2,000. In the women's section, the winner gets \$20,000 and those occupying between 16th and 20th places receive \$2,000.

Indian pugilists notch up facile wins at the Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BELGRADE

Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) entered the second round, while debutant Deepak Bohria (51kg) advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of the AIBA World boxing championships after dominating victories in their opening bouts on Tuesday.

Five-time Asian medallist Thapa produced a fine tactical performance to prevail 5-0 against Kenya's Victor Nyadera, while Asian silver-medallist Bohria was equally dominant against Kyrgyzstan's Azat Usenaliev, notching up a 5-0 win.

Thapa, who won a bronze at the showpiece event in 2015, will face Sierra Leone's John Brown on October 30 in the round of 32.

Bohria has a tougher task

at hand on November 1 as he will be up against Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov, an Olympic and World championships bronze-medallist.

Easy beginning

Meanwhile on Monday night, debutant Akash Sangwan (67kg) sailed into the second round with a comprehensive 5-0 victory over Turkey's Furkan Adem to set up a bout with Germany's Deniel Krotter.

Another debutant Rohit Mor (57kg) gave India a winning start by out-punching Ecuador's Jean Caicedo 5-0 in a confident opening-round performance. Next up for him is Bosnia and Herzegovina's Alen Rahimic

Asian champion Sanjeet (92kg), along with Sachin Kumar (80kg), received a first-round bye.

Paras Dahiya rallies well to get past Karan Singh

Vanshita Pathania rallies to beat four-time champion Prerna Bhambri

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Paras Dahiya overcame an energetic Karan Singh, scripting a 6-2, 7-5 victory in the men's first round of the Fenesta National tennis championship at the DLTA Complex here on Tuesday.

A trainee of the Altevol Academy in Ahmedabad, fourth seeded Dahiya had spent the last few weeks in Germany to develop his game. He was sharp to bounce back in both the sets, after Karan had taken the initiative with early breaks.

Dahiya recovered his touch to win the first set after being down 2-0, even as Singh lost his focus to a string of questionable line calls, most of which went against him.



Battling on: Dahiya was sharp to bounce back in both the sets after Karan took early breaks. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the second set, Singh, the national junior champion, looked to have regained his rhythm, but lost his grip after being up 4-0.

Quite remarkably, Dahiya won three games without dropping a point to reach

3-4, and dropped only five points in winning the last four games of the match.

A wiry left-hander who whips his shots and serves with a relish, former national champion Siddharth Vishwakarma broke little sweat in knocking out second seed Ishaque Eqbal for the loss of four games.

Another former national champion, Vishnu Vardhan got past Adil Kalyanpur, who had been out of the circuit in recent weeks. Vishnu will face third seed Nitin Kumar Sinha in the second round.

In the women's event, Vanshita Pathania rallied with her forceful game to beat four-time National champion Prerna Bhambri in three sets.

Smriti Bhasin was equally resilient in prevailing over sixth seed Mihika Yadav in

Asiad: Four Indians qualify for show jumping

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

Four Indians qualified for show jumping equestrian event of next year's Asian Games after winning the first selection trials here on Tuesday.

Pranay Khare, Kaevaan Setalvad, Zahan Setalvad and Yashaan Khambatta are the four and they will be accompanied by five horses – Vanilla Sky, Alasdair, Quintus Z, Lorenzo and El Capitan – in the 2022 Games.

The Setalvad brothers – Kaevaan and Zahan – had represented India in the 2018 Asian Games.

Jr. hockey WC to be held behind closed doors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR

The FIH men's junior hockey World Cup, beginning here on November 24, will be held behind closed doors as the organisers feel it will be difficult to enforce COVID-19 protocols if spectators turn up in large numbers.

The tournament will be played at the Kalinga Stadium from Nov. 24 to Dec. 5 and host India is the defending champion.

Peter emerges champion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

Peter Anand and Nimmy A. George did India proud at the World amateur chess championship at Rhodes Island, Greece.

Peter emerged the champion in the under-2000 (FIDE rating) category, while Nimmy finished runner-up among women in the under-2300.

Diplomatic coup gives England chance to square series

The intriguing issue is how ECB managed to put one over on the BCCI



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

There is something ridiculous (and pointless) about playing the fifth Test of a series nearly 300 days after the end of the fourth Test. There is, of course, the small matter of losing some £30 million otherwise. The call of television is strong. Authorities seldom care about the organic growth of a series; a match is a match is a match is about as subtle as they can get.

However, the intriguing issue is how the England and Wales Cricket Board

(ECB) managed to put one over on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The BCCI started off keen that the series be left as is, decided 2-1 in India's favour with the 'fifth' Test to be treated as a one-off. In September when India pulled out, ECB chief executive Tom Harrison had said he expected any rearranged fixture to be a "standalone situation".

Losing the plot

It had been a tough, hard-fought series fiercely competitive and with moments of great heroism and exceptional comebacks. Both teams threw everything they had into it, and at the end of the fourth Test, one team had emerged clearly superior. That is what a Test series is about. It is not a collection of loosely-bound matches, but an opera which evolves while feeding on its own

emotions and finding new ways of expression. A one-off is just that; without context, without any narrative build-up.

The outcome off-field can be read in two ways: as a success for ECB diplomacy (or arm-twisting, which is the same thing) encouraged by the fact that India were on shaky ground legally, having been the team to pull out owing to a "fear of Covid" which, as any first year law student will tell you is not the Covid itself. Or it can be seen as a failure of the BCCI to throw its weight around and get its way in international cricket in the manner it has been accustomed to in recent years.

The kindest way to look at it would be to see it as a favour which England might have to return sometime soon when India need it. Unless this was a way of the BCCI saying 'Thank You' for

England returning to India to play Test matches following the Mumbai terrorist attacks of 2008. That was a wonderful gesture from the Englishmen; perhaps this can be seen as one even if not quite as wonderful, by the Indians.

Money, television and diplomacy apart, this is, in real terms no fifth Test. Imagine an athletics meet where something happens off field and the 100m run is called off halfway. It will be no one's argument that when everything resumes after a week or a year that only the last 50m be run to decide the fastest man of the meet. As I wrote in this column when the issue first arose, don't artificially tag on a Test to the series. The tension of a developing series is lost, the build-up dissipated, teams change. Playing the final Test next year is as ridiculous as deciding to play the washed out fifth day's play of the first

Test later.

Advantage England

From this distance, England hold the advantage on the field too. India will have to start their preparations, both physical and mental, all over again. Both teams will struggle to rediscover the intensity that marked the first four-fifths of the series. India could have returned to play a white-ball series (which wasn't in the original itinerary), but to mix it with a single red-ball match in a bid for continuity is strange.

For a series that was abandoned in September 2021 after four of five Tests, to be resumed in July 2022 indicates that the team leading at the break go into it with everything to lose and nothing to gain. England have given themselves the best chance to level the series following their diplomatic coup.

It has meant there is no need for arbitration or for the International Cricket Council to come into it. India might have felt they were not standing on firm enough legal ground, and were thus susceptible to a compromise that didn't give them much.

Worst-case scenario

What was the worst-case scenario? England being declared winners without a ball being bowled? In that case the series score of 2-2 would always appear in the record books with an asterisk to indicate that one of the Tests hadn't actually been played on the field.

The only 'positive' to take from this (as losing captains say at the end-of-match interview) is that the BCCI can lose the odd argument now and then. Perhaps it is good for cricket. We will have to await payback time...

For more information, scan



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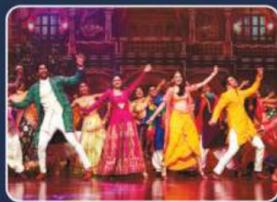
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